

# QUEENS PARK SINGERS

Registered Charity 1094265

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2006 TO 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2007

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Signed on behalf of the Committee

Monica Healy  
Chair



# I Musical Director's report

## Main events during the year

This season we followed our normal pattern of two major concerts plus a workshop. All events took place at the church of St Anne's and St Andrew's, 125 Salusbury Road, London NW6.

- **Above the stars - Sunday 27th November 2006.** This programme celebrated 350 years since the death of Thomas Tomkins, and included madrigals and two of his verse anthems – accompanied by a consort of viols whose members included Alison Crum and Roy Marks of the Rose Consort of Viols, and also Ibbby Aziz who led a consort for us some years ago when we performed the *Victoria Requiem*. The concert also included starchy songs performed by Mary Phillips, Peter Burt-Jones, Gill Hallifax and David Till, and consort music by Byrd and Purcell.
- **Opera Workshop - 18th March 2007.** Led by Peter Burt-Jones, we worked on three opera choruses, by Wagner, Handel and Mozart. This was a most enjoyable occasion, and we might well want to hold a similar event again. Peter's love of the operatic repertoire was communicated to all who took part.
- **All creatures now... - Sunday 20th May 2007.** This concert had a creatures theme. The main pieces were *The Carnival of the Animals* by Saint Saens, *Rejoice in the Lamb* by Britten and *The Lamb* by Tavener. It also included madrigals and part songs performed by Quintabile (making their world debut).

The concerts were very well attended and feedback suggests they were very much enjoyed by adults and children alike. We had a good group of singers for the Opera Workshop, including quite a few new singers.

## The Junior Singers

Mary Phillips continues to conduct the Juniors, and I occasionally act as back-up conductor and/or accompanist. The Juniors contributed as follows to each of the concerts:

- **Above the stars:** the children sang a couple of songs specially written for them by Mary Phillips, and one by Michael Hurd, all with a Christmas theme.
- **All creatures now...:** the main contribution was to *The Carnival of the Animals*; there is a published adaptation of the work with amusing words added, and the Juniors performed four sections from this version. I decided that we should perform the whole work with and for the children, so I adapted the other sections for a small string band plus piano for four hands – I thought this worked out rather well. The children also contributed *Inchworm* by Danny Kaye and a traditional American nonsense song, set by Aaron Copland.

Mary asked me to add that the children seem very enthusiastic in their participation, and that we are always looking for new recruits.

This last year, after Jane Cox resigned as coordinator for the Juniors, the organisation has been rather hand to mouth. This arose because the person who was to take over from Jane had unforeseen family commitments. I can now report that Katherine Lawson has offered to take on this role, for which many thanks in advance.

### **Some general remarks**

Many of my remarks below have been made before in my reports on earlier years, but they are worth reiterating. The choir has seen a lot of change in the last few years, in terms of its membership and the way it runs. We now have a committee of somewhat younger people rather than a committee made up mostly of my friends of 30 or 40 years standing. This is good, because it means that new energy is being brought into the choir, as it is by the influx of younger singers which has also taken place. The choir in general, not just the committee, used to consist in great measure of friends from when we first moved into the area 35 years ago, and friends with whom I have sung in other choirs over the past 40 years.

A significant difference now is that the average level of choral experience of singers is rather lower than it used to be, and this requires a different pattern of rehearsals. We have always had a spread of ability within the choir, but this has widened. A balance has to be struck whereby the more experienced singers are kept interested but the less experienced are not daunted. For recent concerts we have adopted the strategy of plenary rehearsals, plus extra note-learning rehearsals for the less confident sight readers, and this seems to be helpful. It does sometimes happen that these extra rehearsals are poorly attended, and I would stress that they are essential rather than optional for those who know they will not be able to pick up the notes readily in plenary rehearsals. This will be especially true for the forthcoming *Messiah* concert – there will be a lot of notes to learn for anyone who doesn't already know the work well. It is also usually possible to provide MIDI files, indeed they can often be downloaded from the Web: this is another useful resource that less confident singers should try to exploit fully.

I feel that the running of the choir over this last couple of year has been much better dispersed amongst the committee and the membership at large. This is good, and we need to continue in this direction. I still end up with a huge amount of thinking and organising to do, much of which can hardly be delegated, so the more that can be taken on by others the better. For example, even now in the middle of the summer I am thinking about the autumn events, and there are lots of details which need to be firmed up urgently.

There remains the perennial problem of the shortage of male voices – actually it's mainly tenors now, since we have had a few basses join us. It is worth recording here that our recent efforts at Queens Park Day seem to have borne some fruit – thanks to all those involved in preparing the publicity materials and manning the stand.

Perhaps I should say something about the longer term future of the choir, and my association with it. It has been very encouraging over these recent seasons to see the new spirit in the choir: more singers are making contact with a view to joining the choir and more people are willing to take on responsibility for making things happen. As I said earlier, this takes some load off me, which is most welcome, but I still find myself committing a huge amount of time to the activities of the choir. I am not getting any younger and I will not be able to do this indefinitely – I state the obvious – so I hope that we can reach a point where the running of the choir, apart from the actual programme planning and musical direction, is in such good form that when the time comes the choir might be an attractive proposition to hand over to a successor Musical Director.

## **Piano Fund**

Early in 2007 we wound up the Piano Fund having reached our target of £5,000 – with the help of a generous contribution on behalf of the Joint Council (see full details on page 5). The new piano arrived in time for the *Creatures* concert and was duly inaugurated; Susan Clark and Nicholas Murray played four hands as part of the band for *The Carnival of the Animals*. Many thanks to all who contributed to the fund and/or helped to run the fundraising campaign.

## **Further thanks**

I would like to thank all those who have taken on major and minor responsibilities for the running of the choir, and of the events themselves. Thanks of course to the members of the committee, but also special thanks to Mary for her work with the Juniors, to Liz for making sure we had copies to sing from, to Glyn for his imaginative art work for publicity materials, to Peter for leading the Opera Workshop, and to all those who have helped with refreshments, logistics and clearing up on the day of events. And of course thanks to all of you for taking part in our events.

As ever, thanks are due to Fr Fergus for his continued encouragement of our musical endeavours and for allowing us to use the building for events and rehearsals.

**David Till**  
**Musical Director**

## II Treasurer's report

The detailed accounts are set out on pages 6 to 8 below. Last year the accounts covered a 11 month period, from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. This year we revert to the usual 12 month financial year, running from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

The bulk of the Society's **income** is from subscriptions from members, which have held up well this year. Members can choose from a number of options to suit their individual preferences (see note 2 on page 7). We have also received a number of donations this year towards the piano fund. As a registered charity, the Society was also able to claim back £347 of tax from HM Revenue & Customs, in respect of both donations and subscriptions. Ticket sales again accounted for around £1,150 this year.

The detailed **costs** of running the society are shown in Note 3 on page 7. We have continued to spend a significant sum on visiting soloists and instrumentalists, and on various coaching activities for the choir. In order to enable us to concentrate on raising funds for the piano, St Anne's and Andrew's did not charge us rental in respect of some of our concerts this year.

We have continued to raise funds for the **piano fund** set up by St Anne's and St Andrew's, our usual performance venue, enabling us to donate a further £2,281 during the year. In summary, the total cost of the piano was raised as follows, over the last four years:

Ticket sales at selected QPS concerts	£1,325
Donations as a result of QPS activities *	£1,505
Contribution from QPS general funds	£ 425
Contribution from St Anne's and St Andrew's	<u>£2,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,255</b>

\* A total of eleven sponsors donated £50 each, and so have an individual key named after them.

Taking income and expenditure together (page 6), we made a very small loss (some £37) during the year. Our accumulated surplus is now nearly £2,200, predominantly in the form of cash in our bank account with HSBC (see the balance sheet, also on page 6, and notes 5 and 6 on page 8: the liability to the Joint Council has been cleared since the balance sheet date). This is a strong position, given the overall size of the society's operations.

I am very grateful to Nick Sharman for conducting the independent scrutiny of the accounts, as required by the Society's constitution. His report is on page 8. We are not required, by the Charity Commission's rules or our own constitution, to subject the accounts to a full and formal audit.

I would be happy to answer questions on the accounts at the AGM, or at any time. It would be helpful to have advance notice of any questions to be raised at the AGM.

Simon Judge  
Hon Treasurer

Telephone: 020 8452 2290  
Email: [money@queensparksingers.org.uk](mailto:money@queensparksingers.org.uk)

# QUEENS PARK SINGERS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

	Note	2007	2006
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
Subscriptions and donations	2	2,789	2,207
Advertising and ticket sales		1,157	1,128
Interest on bank deposits		0	2
Contributions for refreshments		-	-
<b>(A) TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>3,946</b>	<b>3,337</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>			
Costs of running the society	3	1,367	1,991
Transfer to St Anne's and St Andrew's piano fund		2,281	800
Donations		335	200
<b>(B) TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>3,983</b>	<b>2,991</b>
<b>(C) NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES (A - B)</b>		<b>(37)</b>	<b>346</b>
f			
<b>(D) OPENING BALANCE</b>		<b>2,197</b>	<b>1,851</b>
<b>(E) CLOSING BALANCE (C)+(D)</b>		<b>2,160</b>	<b>2,197</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2007	2006
<b>A: FIXED ASSETS</b>	<i>1d</i>	-	-
<b>B: CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	4	749	52
Cash at hand	5	3,692	2,145
		<b>4,441</b>	<b>2,197</b>
<b>C: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	6	<b>(2,281)</b>	-
<b>D: NET CURRENT ASSETS (A+B+C)</b>		<b>2,160</b>	<b>2,197</b>

# QUEENS PARK SINGERS

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2007

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, with accounting periods ending on 30 April 2005, 31st March 2006, and 31st March 2007. A non-standard accounting year-end was used in 2005, and so the prior year shown below covers a period of only 11 months..

(b) The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which Queens Park Singers (QPS) is responsible in law. Transactions are recorded when they fall due. Tax recoverable on covenants and gift aid is recorded in the same accounting period as the covenant or gift.

(c) Figures in these accounts are rounded to the nearest £1.

(d) There are currently no tangible assets.

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>2 Subscriptions and donations</b>		
Class A subscriptions (full year, includes all concerts)	900	960
Class B subs (reduced rate for concessions)	20	-
Class C subs (mailing list only, extra for concerts)	105	295
Queens Park Junior Singers subscriptions	256	187
Piano fund collections and donations	825	473
Other donations	336	-
Gift Aid tax relief claimed as appropriate	347	292
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,789</b>	<b>2,207</b>
<b>3 Costs of running the society</b>		
Room hire	170	690
Music hire and postage	119	10
Music purchase	22	202
Publicity	-	65
Making Music subscription	177	117
Soloists and instrumentalists	550	585
Conducting course for music director, singing workshop for choir	120	75
Refreshments etc	22	60
Other administrative expenses	187	188
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,991</b>

**QUEENS PARK SINGERS**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31**  
**MARCH 2007**

	2007	2006
	£	£
<b>4 DEBTORS AND ACCRUED INCOME</b>		
Prepayment - rent for May 2007 concert	350	-
HM Revenue & Customs (2006-07)	347	-
HM Revenue & Customs (2005-06)	52	52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>5 CASH AT HAND</b>		
HSBC Bank account (as per statement)	4,122	2,145
Uncleared credits less uncleared debits	(430)	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,692</b>	<b>2,145</b>
<b>6 CREDITORS</b>		
St Anne's and St Andrew's - donation to new piano fund	2,281	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>-</b>

**Approved by the Committee of the Society**

**Monica Healey**  
**Chair**

**Simon Judge**  
**Treasurer**

**Scrutiny report required by clause 13 of the Constitution of the Society**

1. I have scrutinized the financial records of the Society for the 12 months ending 31 March 2007, summarised in pages 6-8 of these accounts. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view of the society's affairs expressed in these accounts.

2. No matter has come to my attention which:

a) would give me reasonable cause to believe that accounting records are not being kept in accordance with the 1993 Charities Act; or

b) should in my opinion be drawn to the attention of the members of the Society in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

3. I confirm that I am a person who is independent of the Committee.

**Nick Sharman**  
**Scrutineer**

## **IV Factual information required by the Charity Commission**

### Constitution and objects of the Society:

As adopted at the inaugural meeting of the Society on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2002, the objects of the Society shall be to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and workshops, and for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the committee may from time to time decide.

### Principal address of the Society:

c/o 62 Teignmouth Road  
LONDON NW2 4DX

### Bankers to the Society:

HSBC  
50-52 Kilburn High Road  
LONDON NW5 4HJ

### Officers and Trustees of the Society for 2006-07

Chair	Monica Healy
Secretary	Rachel Robbins
Membership Secretary	Maggie Turp
Musical Director	David Till
Treasurer	Simon Judge
Librarian	Liz Till

### Scrutineer of the Society's Accounts

Nick Sharman Esq  
c/o Simon Judge  
62 Teignmouth Road  
LONDON NW2 4DX

### Other contact details

Website: [www.queensparksingers.org.uk](http://www.queensparksingers.org.uk) (includes details of past and future events, and the formal constitution of the society)  
Email: [info@queensparksingers.org.uk](mailto:info@queensparksingers.org.uk)

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