

QUEENS PARK SINGERS

Registered Charity 1094265

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1st APRIL 2007 TO 31st MARCH 2008

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Signed on behalf of the Committee

Monica Healy
Chair



I Musical Director's report

In the 2007-08 season we followed our normal pattern of two major concerts, plus workshops. All events took place at the church of St Anne and St Andrew, 125 Salusbury Road, London NW6.

- **Gospel Workshop: Sunday 7th October 2007:** the workshop was led by Andrea Encinas of British Gospel Arts, together with an excellent accompanist. She taught us some spirituals by ear, a new idea for many of us, and gradually persuaded us to loosen up, rhythmically and indeed physically. She also filled in the historical background to the music in an illuminating and rather moving way. I think this experience was much enjoyed by all who took part.
- **Messiah: 25th November 2007:** this was a major enterprise with an extended rehearsal schedule and an expanded choir, and a band of strings, oboes and trumpets. I felt we produced a very enjoyable performance: it was the first time I had conducted the work, though I had of course sung it many times (as a boy soprano, as an alto, and as a bass), and also played in the orchestra. So for me it was a new and exciting perspective on a much loved work.
- **Opera Workshop; Sundays 24th February and 2nd March 2008:** another workshop led by Peter Burt-Jones, this time focussing on sections of Gluck's Orpheus and Euridice. Peter took a very ambitious approach considering the short time scale involved; not only were we asked to memorise the music but we also had to act out the scenes! This was much enjoyed and very satisfying: our thanks are due to Peter.
- **Spring Concert: 18th May 2008:** another concert with orchestra, which accompanied not only the major choral item, *Spring* from Haydn's *The Seasons*, but also a Mozart piano concerto played by Geoff Dancer on the new piano.

The concerts were given to capacity audiences, and feedback seems to indicate that they were much enjoyed by listeners and participants alike. For the *Messiah* concert one family was represented by three generations, a child in the Juniors, and mother and grandmother in the adult choir.

The Junior Singers

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

- **Messiah:** the Juniors sang some of the Angel recitatives and joined in a couple of choruses.
- **Spring Concert:** again the Juniors joined in some of the choruses at suitable points, and they also sang some songs of their own on the theme of Spring.

They also performed in the tea garden at the Queens Park Open Gardens day in June: they sang for almost an hour, giving us not only the songs they had learnt for the occasion, but also a review of much of their repertoire over recent years, which was much enjoyed by all.

Mary asked me to say “how well the children had sung all year, and how quick they all are to pick up new ideas”.

Our thanks are due to Katherine Lawson, who has taken over the organisation of the Junior Singers from Jane Cox.

Some general remarks

I noted last year that there was a new spirit in the choir, with more participation in the running of events on the part of committee members and other members. I also noted that the level of choral singing experience in the choir had changed over the years, necessitating a different rehearsal pattern and some shift of emphasis within rehearsals in the direction of more help with the learning of notes and more vocal coaching. Note-learning sessions have been better attended this year: indeed, especially for *Messiah*, it was clear that people had been doing some serious work on the notes at home and sometimes little groups had met together spontaneously to work on the music – great! This taking of responsibility by those who feel less confident is important, even essential, if we are to continue to perform challenging music (and you can guess that I would not want to dumb down).

There remains the perennial problem of the shortage of male voices: for *Messiah* we did in fact have almost enough tenors and basses, partly as a result of publicity on Queens Park Day 2007, and also no doubt the attraction of singing this particular work. There is probably no other work with the same force of attraction, and indeed several of the tenors and basses who joined us on that occasion have not returned. So we still need to work on this problem.

Looking to the future

As I intimated earlier, the two concerts this year (involving as they did an orchestra in each case) took a huge amount of my time to bring to fruition. The committee does now take on some of the work, but I am still left with a lot of time-consuming detail to fill in. Perhaps I should not have attempted to put on two concerts of this kind in the same session, but with fewer really experienced singers it is now increasingly difficult for us to perform unaccompanied works, so inevitably it will be necessary to organise a band of instrumentalists for most of our concerts.

So I have reached the point where I feel the need for a break from the role of Musical Director. Assuming that the membership is willing to re-elect me for the coming session I am happy to continue for one more season, but intend to stand down at the end of the 2008/9 season.

Now, from what I can tell there are several people who would like the choir to continue. But, since it is very unlikely that any future Musical Director will be willing or able to devote the amount of time that I have, it will be necessary for the committee and the membership in general to take on much more of the detailed organisation. In the coming session, Peter Burtt-Jones has offered to take on the direction of a Christmas concert, and he will need the support of the committee to make this happen. This can serve as a training exercise and feasibility test. I expect to take on the spring concert – when we shall celebrate “big-O” anniversaries of Purcell, Handel, and Haydn – and perhaps a concert of polyphonic music in February.

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 and with the adult choir, Liz for making sure we had copies to sing from, Glyn for his imaginative art work for publicity materials, Peter for leading the Opera Workshop, and all those who have helped with refreshments, logistics and clearing up on the day of events. And of course thanks to all of the members 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 5 to 7 below.

The bulk of the Society's **income** is from subscriptions from members, which have increased this year (in part due to the large choir for the Messiah concert). Members can choose from a number of options to suit their individual preferences and circumstances (see note 2 on page 6). As a registered charity, the Society was also able to claim back £301 of tax from HM Revenue & Customs, in respect of both donations and subscriptions. Ticket sales (nearly £1,400) were higher than last year, again reflecting the very full house for the Messiah concert.

The detailed **costs** of running the society are shown in note 3 on page 6. We spent a significant sum on visiting soloists and instrumentalists, and on various coaching activities for the choir. We are also now paying the normal rental to St Anne's and Andrew's, following the end of our rental holiday (which helped us raising money for the new piano).

Taking income and expenditure together (page 5), we made a healthy surplus (some £1,300) during the year. Our accumulated surplus is now nearly £3,500, predominantly in the form of cash in our bank account with HSBC (see the balance sheet, also on page 5, and notes 5 and 6 on page 7). 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 7. 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

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QUEENS PARK SINGERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

	<i>Note</i>	2008	2007
INCOMING RESOURCES		Total Funds	Total Funds
Subscriptions and donations	2	3,252	2,789
Advertising and ticket sales		1,391	1,157
Interest on bank deposits		-	0
(A) TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		4,643	3,946
RESOURCES USED			
Costs of running the society	3	2,675	1,367
Transfer to St Anne's and St Andrew's piano fund		3	2,281
Donations		662	335
(B) TOTAL RESOURCES USED		3,340	3,983
(C) NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES (A - B)		1,303	(37)
(D) OPENING RESERVES		2,160	2,197
(E) CLOSING RESERVES (C + D)		3,463	2,160

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2008

	<i>Note</i>	2008	2007
A: FIXED ASSETS	<i>1d</i>	-	-
B: CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors (amounts receivable)	4	299	749
Cash at bank and in hand	5	3,164	3,692
		3,463	4,441
C: CURRENT LIABILITIES	6	-	(2,281)
D: NET ASSETS (A + B + C)		3,463	2,160

QUEENS PARK SINGERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2008

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- (a) These accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis.
- (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.
- (e) The Trustees of the Society, and members of the Committee, are not remunerated. Reasonable expenses that they incur are paid by the Society.

	2008	2007
	£	£
2 Subscriptions and donations		
Class A subscriptions (full year, includes all concerts)	1,270	900
Class B subs (reduced rate for concessions)	-	20
Class C subs (mailing list only, extra for concerts)	475	105
Queens Park Junior Singers subscriptions	499	256
Piano fund collections and donations	-	825
Other donations	707	336
Gift Aid tax relief claimed as appropriate	301	347
TOTAL	3,252	2,789
3 Costs of running the society		
Room hire	760	170
Music hire and postage	57	119
Music purchase	148	22
Publicity	269	-
Making Music subscription	146	177
Soloists and instrumentalists	901	550
Workshops for the choir	310	120
Refreshments etc	20	22
Other administrative expenses	64	187
TOTAL	2,675	1,367

QUEENS PARK SINGERS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31
MARCH 2008

	2008	2007
	£	£
4 DEBTORS (amounts receivable) AND ACCRUED INCOME		
Prepayment - rent for May 2007 concert	-	350
HM Revenue & Customs (2007-08)	299	-
HM Revenue & Customs (earlier years)	-	399
TOTAL	299	749
5 CASH AT BANK AND TO HAND		
HSBC Bank account (as per statement)	3,264	4,122
Uncleared credits less uncleared debits	(100)	(430)
TOTAL	3,164	3,692
6 CREDITORS (amounts payable)		
St Anne's and St Andrew's - donation to new piano fund	-	2,281
TOTAL	-	2,281

Approved by the Committee of the Society

Monica Healy
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 2008, summarised in pages 5-7 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 24th 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.

Public benefit

In response to recent Charity Commission guidance, the committee has considered whether its charitable objects are of public benefit. The above report describes our charitable activities during the year. The committee considers that access to the benefits we provide is open to all, is not unreasonably restricted by the level of membership fees or ticket prices that are charged, and that our activities are therefore of public benefit.

Officers and Trustees of the Society

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

Principal address of the Society:

c/o 62 Teignmouth Road
LONDON NW2 4DX

Scrutineer of the Society's Accounts

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

Bankers to the Society:

HSBC
50-52 Kilburn High Road
LONDON NW5 4HJ

Other contact details

www.queensparksingers.org.uk (includes details of past and future events, and the formal constitution of the society)

Email: info@queensparksingers.org.uk

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