

QUEENS PARK SINGERS

Registered Charity 1094265

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1st APRIL 2008 TO 31st MARCH 2009

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Signed on behalf of the Committee

Monica Healy
Chair



I Musical Director's report

This season we followed our normal pattern of two major concerts plus workshops. The following events took place at the church of St Anne and St Andrew, 125 Salusbury Road, London NW6.

- **Polyphony Workshop: Sunday 12th October 2008.** We started the new season with a Polyphony Workshop (alongside our AGM); we studied sections of a Mass by Josquin des Pres and a motet by William Byrd, and this seems to have whetted the appetite for more music from the Renaissance period; as a result we began to plan a concert to include more polyphony, coming to fruition in the concert listed below, on 22nd February 2009.
- ***The Christmas Story: Sunday 14th December 2008.*** This was a demi-semi-staged presentation of Schutz's *Christmas Story*; this was directed by Peter Burt-Jones and Mary Phillips with help from Julia Dollimore and Tania Spooner in the costume department. This was a very satisfying event – actually we gave two performances so that more people were able to enjoy it – and for a first venture of this kind went extremely well. The enthusiastic reception for this event strongly encourages us to think of planning similar events in the future.
- **Poetry and Polyphony: Sunday 22nd February 2009.** This started out as a concert to include music from the Renaissance, of which we had had a taster in the Polyphony Workshop in October, but we needed some complementary items to make a full length event and I thought that we might have readings of poems related to the time of year, specifically to that moment in the year when the coming of spring is felt to be imminent. The season of Lent was also just about to begin, so the music focussed on that whilst the poems focussed on the events of the natural world; based on feedback from audience and participants, I feel that this was a particularly interesting and uplifting combination.
- **Midsummer Concert: Sunday 14th June 2009.** We celebrated the major anniversaries of four composers: Purcell, Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn. Motets by Purcell, a Chandos anthem by Handel, an early symphony by Haydn and sections of the *Midsummer Night's Dream* music by Mendelssohn. We needed quite a large orchestra for the Mendelssohn so this turned out quite expensive, both in terms of fees to instrumentalists and time taken to organise; probably slightly excessive in both respects, but richly rewarding on the day.

There was also a rather unusual event that took place at Tate Modern on 25th May 2009, when twenty of us – QPS and friends -- joined in a shout with around 1000 other people in the Turbine Hall as part of a larger event at the gallery. This also brought in a donation of £300 to choir funds.

The Junior Singers

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

- ***The Christmas Story:*** the children took a major part in both the musical and dramatic aspects of the performance, singing some of the solo sections and acting as angels.

- **Midsummer Concert:** the Juniors sang some items of their own, sang the two sections of the Midsummer Night's Dream music and acted as Titania and her train of elves.

Thanks to Mary once again for all her work with the Juniors, and to all those who helped with costume and staging. Thanks also to Katherine Lawson for her work on the general organisation of the Junior Singers.

Some general remarks

This has been a transitional year in some ways. The Christmas Story event was directed by Peter Burt Jones and Mary Phillips with minimal input from me, and although I directed the Midsummer concert there were major contributions from several others. For the Poetry and Polyphony concert Catherine Fried helped us to present the poems convincingly and generally oversaw all things poetical.

I shall step down as Musical Director at the AGM in October 2009, as I said I would last year, but I feel sure that the choir will continue to flourish under new directorship with the help of the committee and the membership. I will of course remain a member of the choir and if called upon to do so will be happy to lead a workshop from time to time or to contribute in other ways to future events.

I spoke last year of the perennial problem of the shortage of male voices in the choir, and note that there has been some improvement on this front, but we still need to continue our efforts to attract more tenors and basses. In the soprano dept we have quite a large pool of singers but many of them are none too confident and when certain key singers are missing from a rehearsal then the soprano line is weak. So I urge both the more and the less confident sopranos to make every effort to come to rehearsals when they have signed up for a concert – the more confident so that they can encourage the less confident and the less confident because they need to take advantage of all the help that is available.

I can't emphasise too strongly that it will be necessary for the committee and the membership to give their full support to the incoming Musical Director. Specifically, the new Director should be able to concentrate on the musical decisions and the musical aspects of the process of preparing the events, whilst the logistics are dealt with by the committee and membership.

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 the adult choir, Liz for making sure we had copies to sing from, Glyn for his imaginative art work for publicity materials, Peter for directing the Christmas Story, Catherine for her input to the Poetry and Polyphony concert, and 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 5 to 7 below.

The bulk of the Society's **income** is from subscriptions from members, which fell back a little this year (in part due a large number of extra subscriptions received in the previous year for our 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 £240 of tax from HM Revenue & Customs, in respect of both donations and subscriptions. Ticket sales (over £2,100) were again significantly higher than in the previous year.

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.

Taking income and expenditure together (page 5), we made a small loss (some £233) during the year. Our accumulated surplus is now over £3,230, 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. Nevertheless, the Committee consider that it would be prudent to increase subscriptions – for the first time since the Society was formally constituted in 2002, and a motion to this effect will be submitted to the AGM.

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

Telephone: 020 8452 2290

Email: money@queensparksingers.org.uk

QUEENS PARK SINGERS

III STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

	Note	2009	2008
INCOMING RESOURCES		Total Funds	Total Funds
Subscriptions and donations	2	1,821	2,591
Collections from Christmas carols		661	661
Advertising and ticket sales		2,113	1,391
A: TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		4,596	4,643
RESOURCES USED			
Costs of running the society	3	4,158	2,675
Transfer to St Anne's and St Andrew's piano fund		-	3
Donations		670	662
B: TOTAL RESOURCES USED		4,828	3,340
C: NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES (A - B)		(233)	1,303
D: OPENING RESERVES		3,463	2,160
E: CLOSING RESERVES (C + D)		3,230	3,463

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2009

	Note	2009	2008
A: FIXED ASSETS	<i>1d</i>	-	-
B: CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors (amounts receivable)	4	240	299
Cash at bank and in hand	5	2,991	3,164
		3,230	3,463
C: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors (amounts payable)		-	-
D: NET ASSETS (A + B + C)		3,230	3,463

QUEENS PARK SINGERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2009

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.

	2009	2008
	£	£
2 Subscriptions and donations		
Class A subscriptions (full year, includes all concerts)	1,095	1,270
Class B subs (reduced rate for concessions)	20	-
Class C subs (mailing list only, extra for concerts)	180	475
Queens Park Junior Singers subscriptions	286	499
Other donations	-	46
Gift Aid tax relief claimed as appropriate	240	301
TOTAL	1,821	2,591
3 Costs of running the society		
Room hire	900	760
Music hire and postage	234	57
Music purchase	180	148
Publicity	405	269
Making Music subscription	123	146
Soloists and instrumentalists	2,028	901
Workshops for the choir	-	310
Refreshments etc	-	20
Other administrative expenses	288	64
TOTAL	4,158	2,675

QUEENS PARK SINGERS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31
MARCH 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
4 DEBTORS (amounts receivable) AND ACCRUED INCOME		
HM Revenue & Customs	240	299
TOTAL	240	299
5 CASH AT BANK AND TO HAND		
HSBC Bank account (as per statement)	3,261	3,264
Uncleared credits less uncleared debits	(270)	(100)
TOTAL	2,991	3,164

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 2009, 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 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
Musical Director	David Till
Treasurer	Simon Judge

Other committee members

Membership Secretary	Maggie Turp
Librarian	Liz Till
Publicity Officer	Glyn Jones

.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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