

ANNUAL REPORT

01/09/2018 - 31/08/2019

ELTHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Charity number: 1023904

Trustee names

Roderick Tutt
David Williams
Fiona Gardiner
Martin North
Valerie Seaton
Maggie Watson
Sue Quirk
Sheila Thompson
Chris Savage

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by its constitution which was adopted in April 1997.

It is an unincorporated association.

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting which is convened within twelve weeks of the end of the financial year.

The management of The Society shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of a minimum of eight and maximum of 12 members elected by and out of the members of The Society at the AGM. Members of the committee shall serve for a period not exceeding three years, one third in number of the members of the committee retiring at each AGM by rotation, and being eligible for re-election for a further term.

The following officers shall be elected by, and out of, the committee: - Honorary Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer. A quorum for a Committee meeting shall consist of four members of the committee. Any member of the Committee may resign at any time on presentation of at least 21 days' notice to the committee. All arrangements for concerts and other events and the control of finance and other ancillary matters shall be in the hands of the committee. A meeting of the committee shall be convened, when deemed necessary, with a minimum of one per academic term. The Committee shall have the power to:- (a) Co-opt members when necessary, to serve until the next AGM, (b) Remove or replace any member of the committee where the majority of the members considers such action to be in the best interests of the society as a whole, (c) Inspect, after reasonable notice has been given, any of the records of The Society and to check and verify independently the existence and value of any cash or other assets being maintained for and on behalf of The Society, (d) Appoint a professional Musical Director, who is not eligible to be a member of The Society, to advise on musical matters and oversee musical activities. The Musical Director will be required to attend committee meetings in an advisory capacity, (e) Deal with any matter not otherwise referred to in this Constitution in the best interests of The Society.

Activities and Objectives

The object of the Society shall be to promote, 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

choral concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.

The following special summary covers the twenty-two years the outgoing chairman, who retires this year, has been in office.

As I reflect on those years, I recall that I was asked at the very beginning of my tenure as Chairman in 1997, how I would like to see ECS develop and I responded with three suggestions. Firstly, to continue to co-operate with other music groups in joint music-making. Over the years our joint ventures have led to some wonderful performances of a number of major choral works in the Royal Naval College Chapel in Greenwich, in Blackheath Halls , in St. John's Smith Square , and most recently at Southwark Cathedral , and we now look forward to continuing this tradition next year when we perform the St. John Passion in Blackheath Halls .

Secondly, I suggested that we take music-making by ECS abroad to a wider audience . This has led to regular tours to many parts of Europe and the opportunity to sing in many magnificent cathedrals and churches in beautiful cities and attractive smaller venues. It's good to see this tour tradition continuing next year with a planned trip to Prague this Spring.

Thirdly, I suggested we investigate the feasibility of commissioning new musical works. This was achieved initially in 2000 with Edmund Jolyffe's hugely challenging *Mass to celebrate the new Millennium*, followed later by Peter Maxwell Davies' *The Kestrel Road*, a joint commission with several other choral societies. In 2008, mainly thanks to the enormous generosity of a friend of ECS, we performed the World Premiere of our newly commissioned *Aesop's Fables*, a delightful work by Bob Chilcott, and more recently in 2017, thanks to similar generosity, the World Premiere of the evocative *In Flanders Fields* by Gareth Treseder.

Another highlight was in 2012 when John Rutter came to judge our Young Composer of the Olympic Year competition, a venture aimed in part to encourage the involvement of young people in music-making, indeed a continuing important concern in which we have to be proactive to ensure the longer term future of ECS.

Involvement in and with the local community is also vital, demonstrated for instance by our carol singing in the High Street, shopping centres, Eltham Palace, Eltham Leisure Centre and Eltham Tudor Barn and Pleasaunce, all in support of local charities.

These twenty odd years have been immensely enjoyable, very challenging at times but always hugely rewarding - ECS has been and remains an important part of my life. To have worked with the calibre of Musical Directors such as Miriam Coe, Nick Jenkins, Thomas Wilson (in whose brief tenure was facilitated an opportunity to sing in Westminster Cathedral), Peter Asprey , and currently Max Barley , together with the richly talented accompanists Tony Baldwin, Chris Eastwood , Charles Andrews and Andrew Lenon , has been an enormous privilege . Thank you for the support of all those who have been on the Committee during this time and from the wider membership

Financial review

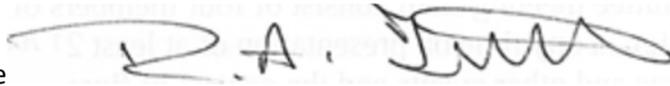
We ended the year with £17,997.33 in our reserve fund, which was an increase of £558.95 on the reserves held at 31/08/17. The main financial risk to the charity would be an unexpected loss on one or more of our concerts. Our concerts are financed by a mix of ticket sales and members' subscriptions, which are our major sources of income. However, our reserves are sufficient that any losses would be sustainable and we can be adventurous to some degree in our programming. We do

not own any property which could be subject to damage and we hold insurance to protect us from unforeseen claims upon our organisation. Our current policy is that we aim to hold £10,000 in reserve, which we comfortably exceed at the moment.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.A. Tutt', written over a faint, repeating watermark of the text 'NO COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT INTENDED'.

Full name: Roderick Tutt

Position: Chairman

Date: **18/4/20**