

Cantate Youth Choir Trustees' report for 2015

Charity Number: 1039369

CANTATE

UNIT 5

HADHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATES LTD

WARE

SG11 2DY

info@cantate.co.uk

www.cantate.co.uk

Chairman – Chris Forster cmaforster@talk21.com

Cantate exists to develop and promote choral singing and other musical ability to the highest standards by young people between the ages of eight and eighteen years. It currently comprises Trainers (Under 8), Training Choir, Youth Choir and Senior Choir sections. Its main centre of operation and rehearsals is Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and its members are drawn from the Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Essex. It consists of up to 130 singers, drawn from a wide range of schools across this region.

Constitution: The charity is governed by the Cantate Youth Choir constitution, drawn up in February 1994, which has the following objective:

'The objective of the Society shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education and appreciation of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society, through its Committee, shall determine from time to time.'

The management of the Society is in the hands of a committee consisting of an Honorary Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, together with no fewer than three other members. The officers and other committee members are elected by, and out of, the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting. They hold office for one year and are eligible for re-election.

The members of the Cantate committee are regarded *de facto* as the Trustees of the charity, and the responsibilities of Trustees are made clear to all committee members on election and with regard to business conducted in committee meetings. The General Manager, and one or more Music Directors are *ex-officio* members of the committee.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commissions's guidance on public benefit.

Trustees/elected committee members receive no remuneration from the charity.

A list of Trustees for 2015 is given below.

Bank: Santander, Saffron Walden Branch

Independent Examiner: PRICE BAILEY LLP, Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford CM23 3BT

Tel 01279 755888

Solicitors: Nockolds, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3UZ. 01279 755777.

Management: Day to day organisation and management of Cantate is carried out by the General Manager, who reports to the Committee via the Honorary Chairman. Terms and conditions for this post are set by a sub-committee of the Trustees. A job description, together with annual and longer term objectives for the General Manager is set out by the Trustees. The services of the music staff, including the Music Directors, are provided on a freelance basis.

All other positions and responsibilities within Cantate are filled by volunteer members of the Society, who are most often parents of members. These roles include office support, music librarian, choir managers, transport and staging, catering, event management, costumes, tour leaders, first aid, pastoral care, etc.

Cantate has a policy of securing enhanced CRB checks for all volunteers and staff who come into contact with members of the choirs.

Subscription fees are charged per term to members of the choirs. The Trustees have due regard to maintaining these at an affordable level, to ensure that the choirs can be as inclusive in membership as possible. A bursary fund is maintained for the support of members in lower-income families.

Cantate has clear regard to the public benefit of its charitable status:

- Entry to Cantate Training Choir and Youth choir is entirely open and free of audition requirements, and is limited only by the viability of choir sizes. (Membership of the Senior Choir requires an adequate musical standard to have been reached.)
- Cantate exists to develop and promote singing and musical ability in young people, and has a strong educational, social and community ethos.
- Cantate performs to a wide range of audiences, including local communities, and at national and international level.
- Cantate has participated in the Sing Up project, performing alongside school choirs in a mentoring and exemplar role.
- Cantate holds Fun Sing events every year, which are open to local young people who are new to singing.
- Cantate participates with other local youth choirs and musicians in joint events where the experience of its singers can benefit other groups.
- Membership of Cantate is diverse in terms of social background and abilities.
- Musical objectives for Cantate choirs are set by the Music Directors, working with the General Manager and by agreement with the Trustees.

In January 2010 Nicholas Shaw and Graham Instrall took over the role of joint Music Directors, following on from Michael Kibblewhite, who started the choir in 1994 and became Founder Music Director in 2010.

Cantate Trustees from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2015:

<p>Chris Forster (Hon. Chair) Ward Cottage Duddenhoe End Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4UU Mob. 07867 796198 Email: cmaforster@talk21.com</p>	<p>Kevin Hinken (Hon Treasurer) The Old Dairy Farm Gaunts End Elsenham, Essex CM22 6DR Mob: 07968 444335 Khinken78@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Siobhan Nundram (Hon. Secretary) 79 Havers Lane, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 3PE Tel: 01279 504231 Mob: 07810 550443 Email: Siobhan.Nundram@hertspartsft.nhs.uk</p>	<p>Oliver Pocknell 43 Sunnyside Stansted Mountfitchet Essex CM24 8AX Mob. 07875 391701 Email: ollypocknell@btopenworld.com</p>
<p>Sarah-Jane Franklin Unit 5, Hadham Industrial Estates Ltd Ware SG11 2DY Mob. 07760 220578 Email: Sarah-Jane.franklin@hoganlovells.com</p>	<p>Sheena Leimon The Clock House, The Street, Takeley Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM22 6QS Tel: 01279 871661 Email: sheena.leimon@dwp.gsi.gov.uk</p>
<p>Katie Scanlon 76 Redwing Rise Royston Herts SG87XE Tel: 01763 247322</p>	

Chris Forster, Honorary Chairman, Cantate, January 2016