

CANTATA DRAMATICA

CHAIRMAN:
Nicholas Pitts Tucker
Old Hunt House
Paulerspury
Towcester
Northants
NN12 7NA

SECRETARY and TREASURER:
Julia Stutfield
Red Hill Barn
Church Hill
Forest Hill
Oxford
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Trustees' Annual Report

for the period 1 February to 31 December 2012

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Cantata Dramatica

Registered charity number

Cantata Dramatica is established under the Charities Aid Foundation, Registered Charity Number 268369.

Charity's principal address

Red Hill Barn, Church Hill, Forest Hill, Oxford OX33 1EG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Nick Pitts-Tucker	Chairman	
Julia Stutfield	Treasurer and Secretary	

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution, adopted 1 February 2012

How the charity is constituted

All activities are managed by the trustees.

Trustee selection methods

Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the annual general meeting.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the commissioning of new works and presentation of public concerts and recitals;
2. to further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

In planning our activities for the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The focus of our activities is to commission accessible new music, particularly music that tells a story. We aim to present the music in such a way that it can be readily appreciated by an audience hearing it for the first time. This involves putting on related activities such as previews, lectures or other educational activities in association with the first performance of a new piece of music. Although it is our policy to use mainly professional performers, we also provide opportunities for amateur musicians and students to perform alongside the professionals. This gives them access to standards of music making that they would not usually experience.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Commissions

This year saw the completion of our first commission. It tells the story of Perpetua, a young widow and mother living in Carthage (now Tunisia) in 203 AD, who found herself standing up for personal beliefs and freedom against the might of the Roman Empire.

The production draws on contemporary sources, including Perpetua's own diary, an astonishing survival from the ancient world, which brings her personal journey to life with startling immediacy. Dramatised by Nick Pitts-Tucker, in a mix of original Greek and Latin together with modern English, the music was commissioned from Nick Bicat, whose imaginative response to the text ranges from lyrical and transcendent to dramatic and confrontational.

Performances

The first full première of Nick Bicat's *Perpetua* was performed in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on 22 November 2012. This was preceded by a preview of selected scenes at the Church of St John The Baptist in Burford on 9 March, and a number of smaller scale performances leading up to the première, including one at Yarnton Manor near Oxford on 1 November, and one at Boas House in London on 8 November. The events at Burford and Christ Church were conducted by Andrew Parrot and directed by Peter Champness, who also filmed the Christ Church performance with the objective of producing a DVD for use in promoting the future work of Cantata Dramatica. The production was semi-staged with a backdrop of images projected onto a large screen suspended between two pillars (a

significant challenge in Christ Church Cathedral!). The aim of the projections was to support the telling of the story and to introduce an additional dimension, including the linkage between Perpetua's struggle against Roman domination and recent political events in the same geographical area.

Performers

The solo performers at Burford and Christ Church were almost all professionals but the chorus were amateurs, recruited from local choirs, who paid a small subscription. At Burford, the chorus also performed Nick Bicât's *Requiem* (another première), for which they were conducted by Sarah Tenant-Flowers. The need for a boy treble to sing the role of Dinocrates enabled us to offer opportunities to two schoolboys (Ethan Clarke and Tom Wellesley) to join the productions at Burford and Christ Church respectively. At Christ Church, we also provided work experience to a schoolboy percussionist (Mikey Young) who rehearsed and performed alongside the professional instrumental players.

During the year Cantata Dramatica established a relationship with Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in Greenwich, through Linda Hirst, the Head of Vocal Studies, who was introduced to us by Nick Bicât. This enabled us to provide opportunities to current students and alumni for performing new music as part of a professional ensemble and in close contact with the composer. We hope to develop this relationship further in 2013.

It should be noted that Andrew Parrott is a very distinguished conductor who rarely performs in UK and all the musicians felt very privileged to have the opportunity to work with him. Andrew has been extremely generous with his time and he also provided advice to Nick Bicât on the development of the score in addition to doing much valuable preparation with the solo performers.

Supporting Events

As part of an attempt to reach a wider audience, we also organised a number of supporting events leading up to the performance in Christ Church Cathedral. These included:

- previews at Yarnton Manor, organised in conjunction with the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, and at the prestigious Boas House in London. The preview events featured brief introductory talks by the Director, Librettist and Composer followed by extracts of the music.
- A lecture at Oxford University's Ertegun House by Professor Tom Heffernan, an expert on Perpetua's 'diary', who came to Oxford from the USA specially for the occasion, with the support of his university and Oxford University Press.
- A 'Behind the Scenes' event at Christ Church, aimed at undergraduates (unfortunately this event was very poorly attended)

Marketing and Promotion

Given the ages of the Trustees, Director and Conductor it was decided to engage a younger person to provide marketing expertise, with particular reference to promoting *Perpetua* on social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Sam Bromley was engaged on a fixed price

contract and proved to have seemingly boundless energy and valuable experience, together with some useful contacts. As a result, Cantata Dramatica now has a presence on Facebook and Twitter and a useful and informative website. Sam also arranged interviews with local media and worked with Peter Champness on the filming of the DVD.

Financial review

Assets and depreciation

Two major assets were acquired during this financial year, being the score of *Perpetua* and a DVD of the *Perpetua* performance at Christ Church, together with slides and other visual materials. The DVD will be used for promotional and educational purposes only and will not be sold commercially. These assets have been depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years on the basis that we expect to make use of them again during that time.

Reserves

Cash at Bank on 31 December 2012 was £9,848 of which £7,898 was reserved for invoices included in the Income and Expenditure account that had not been paid by the end of December 2012. The surplus funds are held in order to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur, for example an unbudgeted loss on a concert or recital. We aim to hold at least £1,000 and no more than £5,000 in reserves at the year end.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Nick Pitts-Tucker	Julia Stutfield
Position (eg secretary, chair etc)	Chair	Treasurer and Secretary
Date	10 April 2014	