

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
OX33 1EG

Trustees' Annual Report

for the period 1 January to 31 December 2013

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, (with one minor revision, dated 10 April 2014)

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 also aim to present the music in such a way that it can be appreciated by an audience hearing it for the first time.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Commissions

Two commissions were completed in 2013, namely *Missa Aedes Christi* and *Cantata Eliensis*.

Missa Aedes Christi, commissioned in 2012, is the result of an artistic collaboration between the composer Francis Grier, Stephen Darlington, Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral since 1985, and Ross McKim, Director of the Cathedral Dance Research Project and Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. The project was co-funded by Cantata Dramatica (using a donation from the JPT Family Trust) and the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral. The music turned out to be terrifyingly virtuosic but the Cathedral Choir grew to like it very much and it is likely to become an established piece in their repertoire.

The *Cantata Eliensis* tells the story of the founding and building of the great cathedral at Ely over a period of four centuries or more. The libretto, by Nick Pitts-Tucker, is derived from original material as much as possible, with the chief source being the *Liber Eliensis*, a contemporary account written by the monks at Ely Abbey. The three acts of the Cantata Eliensis were commissioned from three composers – Anna Krause, Toby Young and Louis Mander – who each worked independently within the framework of the libretto and some broad stylistic guidelines. This was a brave experiment but the result is that each act of the cantata has an individual character within a coherent whole.

Performances

The first performance of the *Missa Aedes Christi* with dance took place in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford during the 6pm Eucharist on Wednesday 19 June 2013. This was followed by a concert performance, again with dance, on Friday 21 June. Cantata Dramatica dealt with ticket sales and publicity for the concert performance and took a share of the income. One of our objectives was to attract people into the Cathedral who would not otherwise be

likely to enter the building or hear music of this type and to this end we provided highly subsidised tickets to approximately 30 dance students from local schools.

Cantata Dramatica organised a workshop on the *Cantata Eliensis* in the Holywell Music Room, Oxford on Saturday 9 November 2013 to rehearse and perform it with solo singers, small amateur chorus, and a selection of instruments. The day ended with an informal performance to an invited audience of friends and sponsors and this was professionally recorded. The workshop was attended by all three composers (two of whom conducted their own pieces) and the work was well received. As a result we are actively pursuing opportunities to put on a full concert performance, with the ultimate aim of a performance in Ely Cathedral itself, probably in June 2016.

Performers

The *Missa Aedes Christi* was performed by the Christ Church Cathedral Choir with dancers and choreographers from the Rambert School of Ballet & Contemporary Dance. It was a privilege for Cantata Dramatica to collaborate with these excellent musicians and dancers and we learned a lot from them. We particularly appreciated the opportunity to work with Stephen Darlington and we are now in discussion with him about possible future projects.

For the *Cantata Eliensis* workshop we made use of our artistic collaboration with Trinity Laban Conservatoire who provided us with a selection of alumni and current students, all of whom were paid a small fee plus expenses. The amateur chorus was recruited via our existing mailing list of experienced amateur singers, but this will need to be extended in future as the take-up was not as high as expected (possibly due to clashes with other musical events).

Marketing and Promotion

Julia Stutfield took advantage of experience gained last year to create a new version of the Cantata Dramatica website with a streamlined structure, designed to cope with the demands of multiple projects.

Cantata Dramatica commissioned a 10 minute film by Matt Pitts-Tucker and Mike Pettyt to tell the story behind the *Missa Aedes Christi* through interviews with people involved in the project. This was published on our website and was also made available to the composer, Christ Church Cathedral and the Rambert School to use for promotional purposes.

Arrangements were also made to film the *Cantata Eliensis* workshop and we are hoping that this will result in a similar film next year.

Financial review

Assets and depreciation

Two major assets were acquired during this financial year, being *Missa Aedes Christi*, together with a short film for publication on our website, and *Cantata Eliensis*. However, the musical score of the *Missa Aedes Christi* has been treated as a direct expense rather than an asset, on the basis that the project is now complete and the score has been published by Cathedral Music. The film will continue to be used for promotional purposes and has been depreciated over 3 years. The musical score of *Cantata Eliensis* has been depreciated over 4

years on the basis that we are in discussion with Ely Cathedral about a performance in 2016. All depreciation is on a straight line basis.

The Income and Expenditure account shows a surplus for the year of £9,132 which translates to a loss of £1,254 after depreciation. The majority of the depreciation charge relates to assets purchased in 2012 so the apparent loss for 2013 should be viewed in the context of the Balance Sheet which shows a healthy overall surplus of £16,950 to carry forward to 2014.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Cash at Bank on 31 December 2013 was £2,409. 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		