

CANTATA DRAMATICA

CHAIRMAN:
Nicholas Pitts Tucker
Old Hunt House
Paulerspury
Towcester
Northants
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TREASURER:
Julia Stutfield
Red Hill Barn
Church Hill
Forest Hill
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Trustees' Annual Report

for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Cantata Dramatica

Registered charity number

Cantata Dramatica was registered as a charity on 28 July 2014 with registered charity number 1158027.

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	
Virginia Goode	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

Introduction

The highlight of the year was a performance in St George's, Bristol of our 2016 commission, Solfa Carlile's *Between Sea and Sky* together with Nick Bicât's *Requiem* and *Greek Wedding Songs*, a new commission from Toby Young.

In May we did a professional recording of our 2017 commission, Solfa Carlile's *Life of Cuthbert*. This was part of our preparation for a major project in February 2019 involving the Durham County Music Service and the Music, English and History departments of Durham University. The recording has been made available to the prospective performers for rehearsal and promotional purposes.

In June we also contributed to the cost of a live recording of James Burton's *Cuthbert and the Otters*, another 2017 commission for the Durham project.

Commissions

Our major commission for 2018 is *Akathistos*, the 'Standing Hymn', translated from the Greek by Nick Pitts-Tucker and Tony Bicât. The hymn was sung in procession on the walls of Constantinople during a barbarian attack in 626AD and was credited with saving the city when a thunderstorm blew up and destroyed the enemy fleet. The piece is scored for a trio of female soloists, a small chorus and nine instrumentalists, including an oud, a bouzouki and a battery of interesting percussion. The music is dramatic and slightly oriental in flavour.

Akathistos will be premiered at St Stephen Walbrook in January 2019, along with a further performance of Solfa Carlile's *Between Sea and Sky*.

Performances

'Glories of Byzantium'

Our only live performance this year was the result of a collaboration with Bristol-based Exultate Singers conducted by David Ogden. The performance was devised and promoted by Exultate Singers with sponsorship from Cantata Dramatica. It took place in St George's, Bristol on 18 November 2018 and was very well attended. The programme, entitled 'Glories of Byzantium', included our 2016 commission, Solfa Carlile's *Between Sea and Sky*, Nick Bicât's *Requiem*, and *Greek Wedding Songs*, a new co-commission (by Cantata Dramatica and Exultate Singers) from Toby Young. The 50-strong amateur choir embraced this challenging programme with great enthusiasm and Nick Bicât and Toby Young were both present at the performance. Toby Young's piece is due for publication in the near future and *Between Sea and Sky* will be performed again by Cantata Dramatica in January 2019.

Life of Cuthbert Recording

Our professional recording of [most of] Solfa Carlile's *Life of Cuthbert* took place in All Saints Church, Headington on 24 May 2018. The composer was unable to be present because she is currently living in Australia but we were in touch with her as much as possible. Budget constraints meant that we were unable to record every movement in the piece but the recording has proved very useful to as an introducing to the piece for prospective collaborators and performers.

Cuthbert and the Otters recording

The opportunity to record *Cuthbert and the Otters* came about by a very lucky chance when we were approached by professional recording engineer John Leonard who previously recorded *Beslan* and *Red Dragon* for us. John needed to test a new type of surround microphone and we were delighted to be able to oblige. James Burton was Conductor of Schola Cantorum of Oxford from 2002 – 2017 and the recording took place as part of a Schola Alumni Event on 16 June 2018.

Performers

'Glories of Byzantium'

The 'Glories of Byzantium' programme was performed by Exultate Singers, an accomplished chamber choir of around 45 singers based in Bristol, founded in September 2002 by its conductor, David Ogden. The soloists for the Bicât *Requiem*, all came from within the choir but they also engaged a professional tenor soloist, who was well known to them. Unusually, the choir commissions and sings a lot of new music and this was not their first commission from Toby Young. Working with a choir of this size was a new experience for Cantata Dramatica.

Life of Cuthbert recording

The Musical Director for our recording of the major part of *Life of Cuthbert* was James Potter, a young conductor who had previously worked with us as a singer in 2012 and as a conductor in 2017. The singers were all young professionals from Oxford and London and

the players were local professionals. The recording was engineered and produced by Peter Champness of Boxwood Productions, a longstanding friend and supporter of Cantata Dramatica.

Cuthbert and the Otters recording

The Musical Director for our live recording of *Cuthbert and the Otters* was Steven Grahl, who recently over from James Burton as conductor of Schola Cantorum of Oxford, Oxford University's premiere chamber choir. The singers were current and former members of Schola. The recording was engineered by John Leonard (see above).

Marketing and Promotion

Marketing and promotion for our only concert this year was all done by Exultate Singers, but we did produce a new set of printed scores for the Bicat and Carlile pieces, using smart new cover designs by Miranda Latham-Jackson, who continues to do work for us 'pro bono'. Miranda is expecting a baby at the end of 2018 so we will have to manage without her for our upcoming events in 2019.

We had some very sad news in November that Paul Edson, who has done all of our printing since 2012, had suddenly died. He will be greatly missed.

Financial review

Assets and depreciation

The scores of our two Cuthbert projects were both completed in early 2018 so they have been added to the asset register, along with the two Cuthbert recordings and the *Greek Wedding Songs*. We also purchased an A3 printer in 2018 to replace the one owned by Julia Stutfield, which had finally died of exhaustion. All these assets have been depreciated over 4 years, apart from the *Greek Wedding Songs* which are due to be published soon, (possibly by Faber).

The major asset commissioned during this financial year, was the score of *Akathistos*, which features in the accounts as 'Work in Progress'.

The Income and Expenditure account shows a surplus for the year of £8,946 which translates to a profit of £1,483 after depreciation. The Balance Sheet shows a healthy overall surplus of £27,296 to carry forward to 2019.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Cash at Bank on 31 December 2018 was £6,810. The surplus is held in order to meet planned costs for an event early in 2019. We generally aim to hold at least £1,000 and no more than £5,000 in reserves at the year end. However, the situation at the end of 2018 is unusual in that we have two major events in early 2019.

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

Full name(s)	Nick Pitts-Tucker Chair	<i>N.A. Pitts-Tucker</i>
	Virginia Goode Secretary	<i>Virginia Goode</i>
Position (e.g. secretary, chair etc.)	Julia Stutfield Treasurer	<i>Julie Stutfield</i>
Date	<i>14 May 2019</i>	