



# Goldsmiths Choral Union

Music Director: Brian Wright

## Statement of Public Benefit

### Objectives as set out in Memorandum and Articles of Association of Goldsmiths Choral Union (GCU)

“The objectives for which the Association is established are to promote the study, practice and performance of choral works and other music including contemporary and little known works and to foster and broaden the knowledge and appreciation of such music among the members of the Association and the public at large by the means of public performance and other activities.”

### Overall statement of Public Benefit derived from GCU’s activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, our Directors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, its supplementary benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee-charging.

GCU is committed to enabling as many people as possible to benefit through choir membership, participation in workshops, our ‘Friends’ network and concert attendance. To this end a varied programme of music is undertaken to appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

### Detailed statement of public benefit derived from GCU’s activities

#### 1 To promote the study, practice and performance of choral works and other music, including contemporary and little-known works

##### *Concerts*

GCU draws its musical programmes from a wide range of choral styles and music, ranging from large-scale oratorios such as Berlioz’ Grande Messe des Morts, Walton’s Belshazzar’s Feast, Verdi’s Requiem, Britten’s War Requiem and Vaughan Williams’ Sea Symphony to smaller more intimate works such as Schubert and

Haydn Masses, Schoenberg's Friede Auf Erde, Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes and Faure's Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine.

As well as mainstream and well-known classical works, we also perform modern and less well-known works such as Peter Skellern's 'Weathers', written especially for the choir, Vaughan Williams' 'Epithalamium', Honegger's 'Le Roi David', Schumann's 'Requiem Fur Mignon', Liszt's 'Christus' and 'Missa Solemnis (the first ever London performance) and Sir Michael Tippetts 'A Child of Our Time' and 'The Mask of Time'.

### *Membership*

The Association provides free assessment of potential new members to ascertain whether they meet the required standard for membership. This assessment is to ensure that members have the necessary level of ability and knowledge to benefit fully from the tuition offered.

There is a range of concessionary membership subscriptions for beneficiaries unable to meet the full membership fee. These include low rates for students and those who are unemployed and, in special cases, free membership. In addition all members have the option to pay their fees on a staggered basis instead of as a single payment.

There are no restrictions on membership in terms of total numbers, age or geography.

One of the main benefits of membership is the provision of training for public performance, which takes place at a Central London venue to maximise access.

Non-members of the Association are invited to participate in some concerts where the resources required are greater than can be provided by GCU members alone. These concerts are usually of major works in large prestigious London venues, including The Royal Albert Hall.

For some of these large scale concerts the Association also joins with other choirs to defray the not inconsiderable costs.

## **2. To foster and broaden the knowledge and appreciation of the Association and the public at large by means of public performance and other activities.**

GCU offers a wide range of musical styles to appeal to a wide membership and audience, often coupling a well-known work with one less well-known, for example recently, Rossini's Petite Messe Solenelle with Skellern's 'Weathers'.

The choir performs in major London concert venues, but also in churches and church halls to enable the cost of tickets to be kept down. There are concessions for young people, and children are often admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

In some concert venues we encourage young people and others to act as ushers and programme and ticket sellers in return for attending the concert which they might otherwise not be able to afford.

Discounts are offered to people who make multiple ticket purchases and we operate a network of 'Friends' of the choir who receive a top-price ticket free of charge for all the concerts which GCU promotes.

GCU also promotes an annual carol concert which is largely of well-known Christmas music to appeal to a wider public audience. This includes carols in which the audience can participate.

For all our concerts detailed notes are provided in the programme which give information about the composers and the works being performed, to increase the audience's knowledge and musical appreciation.

GCU also promotes at least two public workshops each year which are open to the general public with no audition requirements and which enable those attending to sing through one or more complete works in an evening or a full day. These are not only beneficial in themselves, but are also beneficial in introducing people to singing, choral works and the choir. Many of our members came initially to one of these workshops.

GCU undertakes its own fundraising activities which enable the choir to fund subsidised access and provide further opportunities of benefit.

We also work in collaboration with other charities, including other choirs and orchestras to widen benefit.

10 July 2009