



Annual Review 2022

voces8.foundation

VOCES 8
FOUNDATION



WHO WE ARE

THE VOCES8 FOUNDATION is a vocal music education charity that brings the power of singing to communities around the world.

Our professional performers bring live music to tens of thousands of audience members each year while our innovative and wide-reaching programmes and resources inspire singers and teachers of all ages and abilities.

We bring music to our local community at our home, the VOCES8 Centre, in the heart of the City of London, throughout the UK and around the world.



FROM OUR CEO

What a year! Time feels like it has been playing games over the last couple of years. Maybe you feel like that too? From the darkness and solitude of the pandemic, we seem to have emerged into the chaos of a world that had been trying to wake – and, upon doing so, has burst into life but been so dazzled by the light that it's difficult to see where we are going.

Amid scenes of travel chaos, political unease and challenges across the arts and education sectors, we can survey the landscape of the choral world and observe so much that needs to be done, not to help us climb into a new and exciting future, but to rebuild, much as we might do after a tornado has swept through our town. Witnessing one such tornado-struck town in Florida in the aftermath of the storm last year reminded me that we live in a world which can challenge our very existence. For so many, life is so hard right now.

But how hard are things in the choral world? Well, anecdotally, I would estimate more than 80% of choir leaders I spoke with last year said their choirs were still more than 40% below pre-pandemic membership, and I'd say over 60% of concert promoters told me their audience numbers for their seasons were still not up to 50% of their pre-pandemic averages. However you look at it, these numbers are savage, and in many cases, debilitating for arts organisations trying to rebuild. We've been so grateful that almost all of our concerts have been sold out and that audiences were willing to return. In addition to those challenges, perhaps we might also reflect on the recent round of cuts to arts funding in the UK. It's hard to work out why organisations would be offered support through the pandemic to then have their funding cut while the world still isn't really providing an easy enough environment to survive. These are not our decisions to make, but know that against this policy backdrop, we are more grateful than ever to have an amazing community of donors and friends around us.

Amid all of these challenges, this year I'm still able to write (with genuine joy in my heart!) that our VOCES8 Foundation team of singers, educationalists, recording artists, composers, arrangers, fundraisers, operations managers, venue directors, social media experts (and so much more!) have once again excelled. Hard work, passion, and an incredible desire to support our industry and communities around the world, coupled with truly world class concerts, recordings and education projects

is a recipe we believe in, and to which we continue to dedicate ourselves. Whether online or in real life, we are reaching more people than ever before and, I would suggest, this work has never been more important to so many. I thank everyone in the Foundation from my core. I am so inspired and energised by you every day.

This Annual Review is a celebration of both survival and, I hope, as with my latest album title, of renewal. My album title came with a question mark attached, and so does this review. The question is a simple one – what can you do to be a part of what we do? Our determination to make the world a better place with the gifts we have at our disposal is greater than ever, and we would love you to be a part of our mission and our community. Wherever you are, and whatever you feel inspired to do, I ask you to join us to help make sure our art form is still alive long into the future and that our schools and communities are offering music making opportunities for as many people as possible.

If you're reading this review, you already care about the work we are doing, and for that, let me finish by thanking you too.



Paul Smith
CEO and co-founder
VOCES8 Foundation



FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The 2021/22 season was artistically enriching, and chock full of exciting challenges. With the world of a touring vocal ensemble beginning to return to some sort of post-pandemic normality, there was all the joy of engaging with audiences live in a room again, traveling to far-flung corners of the globe and seeing friends of old, as well as feeling what it was like to be back in the rhythm of life as a group.

In addition, we were now also striving to maintain the momentum of the significant digital legacy created during the previous 18 months. Our LIVE From London schedule was busier than ever; shows included hefty productions such as The Christmas Cracker, Messiah, Requiem Novum, The Sacred Veil, The Lost Birds, Vaughan Williams 150 and the Bach Motets – a collection which when you look back on it, is really quite an achievement.

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do and strive to achieve, whether that be with communities where we engage in fostering singing, with our audiences at concerts, with students of all ages and abilities, indeed with each other as a tight-knit artistic team, or with external artistic collaborators.

The 2021/22 season yielded enriching, shared artistic experiences, growth opportunities for the ensemble and beautiful music. The CD recording and filming of Christopher Tin's 'The Lost Birds' with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Eric Whitacre's 'Sacred Veil', conducted by Eric himself, and Paul Simon's 'Seven Psalms' provided three unique and differing challenges.

Whether standing star-struck working with Paul, beaming with pride at our Grammy® nomination with Christopher, or shedding a tear with Eric over his heart-wrenching score, memories were made, CDs were created, and the year marked itself as one which may well stand above others for a long time to come.

The season in numbers:

Concerts	118
Countries visited	14
YouTube views	16 million
Spotify streams	28 million

Looking forward, we are proud to be welcoming Dominic as our new Bass in the 2022/23 season, continuing to build our education and scholarship programme on both sides of the Atlantic, reaching a larger audience than ever before in person and online, developing our digital offerings with VOCES8 Studios, and above all else trying to bring about positive change with our music. A heartfelt thanks to everyone at The VOCES8 Foundation, our management companies and partners around the globe, and of course all those people who so generously support our endeavours.

Barnaby Smith
Artistic Director
VOCES8 Foundation



FROM APOLLO5

I am grateful to say that this has been an encouraging and rewarding year not just for Apollo5 but also for other performers and for those who appreciate live music. Despite the post-pandemic climate, renewed enthusiasm for attending concerts has been palpable from the audiences we have encountered throughout our busy year. Both they and we are so grateful to be back doing what we all love – making and enjoying music together. A few highlights of our year...

Here at home in the UK we've encountered appreciative audiences around the country from Devon to Yorkshire, Dorset and Hampshire, and from Kent to Cumbria, sometimes in the space of 24 hours! Highlights for us include performing at the world's biggest gallery for contemporary art, Gagosian, where we opened a ground-breaking and challenging London debut show for emerging star Titus Kaphar, whose work has become some of the most coveted in the USA. We created an immersive aural experience in conjunction with the artwork for those attending *New Alters: Reworking Devotion*.

At Milton Abbey, during the VOCES8 International Festival, we welcomed our new bass, Gus, for his first concert with Apollo5, a fitting place for him to begin his Apollo5 adventure! Another memorable performance was in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, where we premiered a work written for us by Ukrainian composer Anna Kuzina-Rozhdestvenska. This expansive work included tubular bells which were played by Teena Lyle. Anna wrote the work in the midst of shelling in Kyiv in memory of those who have died in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We also performed works by another Ukrainian composer, Victoria Poleva, who was able to attend the concert. The concert was part of Ukrainian Culture Weeks, a multidisciplinary festival of Ukrainian culture and heritage in Oxford.

We've had some great trips over to Europe this season in France, Belgium, and in Germany. Highlights in France included performing the opening concert of the international Festival La Folle Journée. We were also fortunate to perform in April and then again in November at the twelfth-century Abbey of Eleanor of Aquitaine and Richard the Lionheart, l'Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud. In Belgium we returned to Brussels and to St Hubert in the heart of the beautiful Ardennes Forest. In Germany we performed sold out concerts in Dresden, Lörrach and Bonn.

Further afield we had a 'first' for Apollo5, visiting Serbia for the Singing Bridges Festival in Novi Sad, a fascinating city where western and eastern cultures create a vibrant melting pot. We gave our long-serving bass and great friend, Greg, a wonderful send-off here, which was fitting as he loves to explore new destinations!

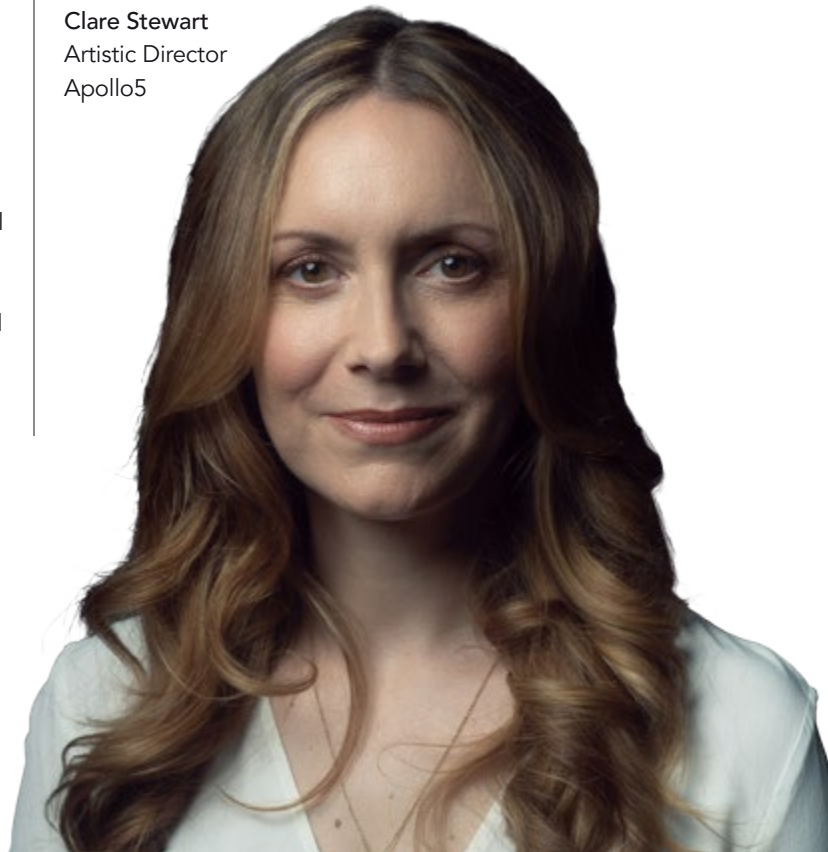
Apollo5 also visited the USA for two fantastic tours during 2022. During our spring and December visits we performed and led learning and participation workshops and masterclasses in seven states as part of the US Foundation's Hub programmes. We look forward to more activity in the States with further tours planned throughout 2023.

Our UK and French education programmes have also kept us busy. One highlight was the culmination of the Spitalfields Education Singing Project, which was hosted at the VOCES8 Centre. We were also thrilled to be able to return to the Albert Hall in Nottingham for the Music Hub's 'Big Sing', the first since lockdown. This was our sixth year leading this fantastic singing event for hundreds of students. In Soissons, Epau, Brive and Pornic we were involved with leading some of the first project culminations for our French Foundation, Association Sing'in.

It was also a busy year for us on the recording front, where we finished recording for our next album release, 'Invocations', the culmination of Apollo5's work with its Associate Composer and pianist, Fraser Wilson, and began recording new material for the future album, 'Haven', based around the Mass for Five Voices by William Byrd. Both albums will be released in 2023. We were also involved in recording and filming for LIVE from London broadcasts, with a particular highlight being some wonderful festive arrangements by Taylor Scott Davis!



Clare Stewart
Artistic Director
Apollo5

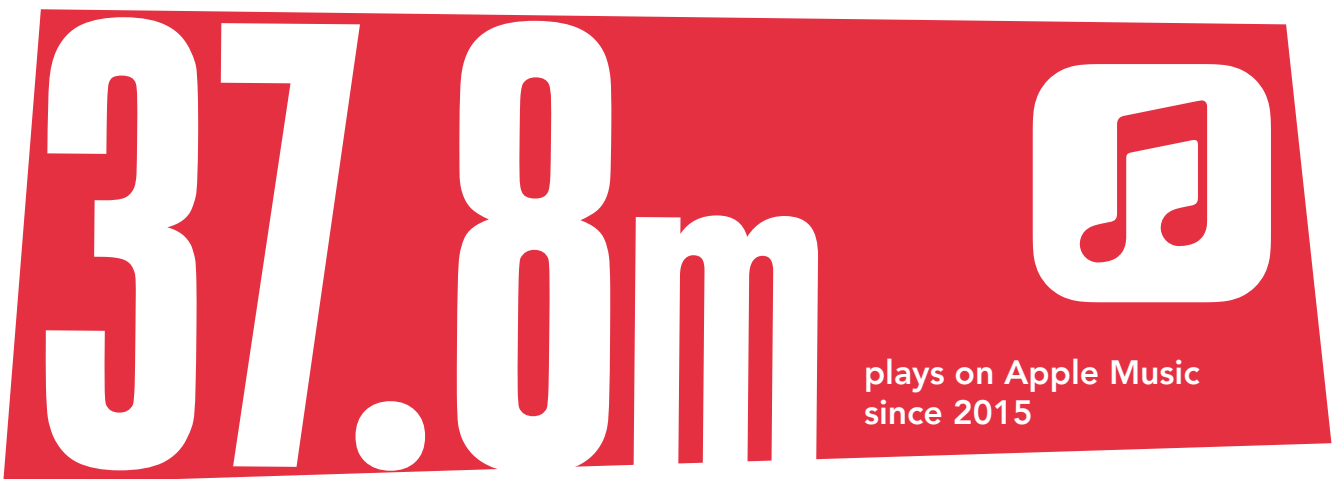








THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



Funding Music Education: Friends of The VOCES8 Foundation

Since VOCES8 and The VOCES8 Foundation were founded, our music education programmes have been a vital part of our mission. VOCES8 and Apollo5 continue to train and educate singers all over the world, whilst our freelance education team – including many current and former members of the VOCES8 Scholars programme – continues to grow.

Before the Covid pandemic we were working in-person with 50,000 students of all ages each year around the world, and many more online via our Digital Academy and other electronic means. This work has now assumed even more importance as children continue to come to terms with the loss of schooling during the pandemic. The past year has seen us further develop our plans for teaching programmes around the US, while our established work in the UK and France has returned fully to in-person teaching.

To fund this critical music education work, we rely on donations from the Friends of The VOCES8 Foundation in the UK and US – especially to enable us to employ and train our freelance team. As well as giving students access to music, our Friends also help us to give work and mentoring to young professionals at the start of their careers.

Friends of The VOCES8 Foundation have access to a range of benefits to bring them closer to VOCES8 and Apollo5, including regular newsletters, priority access to events, exclusive content, and opportunities to meet the singers.

Find out more, and become a Friend in the UK or US, at: voces8.foundation/friends

Remember Us in Your Will: The Aeterna Society

The Aeterna Society recognises Friends and supporters of The VOCES8 Foundation who have made a legacy commitment to organisation's mission to bring the power of singing to communities around the world. Aeterna Society members have generously demonstrated their dedication to assuring the future of The VOCES8 Foundation and its work by including the UK charity or US nonprofit organisation in their philanthropic plans.

To become a member of the Aeterna Society, friends may designate The VOCES8 Foundation as a beneficiary in their will or estate plan by a bequest; by naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of an IRA, retirement plan or life insurance policy; by transferring ownership of a life insurance policy; or by making a gift of securities including stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Aeterna Society members have the option to be recognised on The VOCES8 Foundation website and other Foundation publications that recognise legacy giving.

Find out more about the Aeterna Society at: voces8.foundation/the-aeterna-society





VOCES8 & VOCES8 Scholars UK 2021.2022



EDUCATION

3,000 Primary School Children we worked with in the UK

500 Secondary School Students we worked with in the UK

4,000 Elementary, Middle, and High School students we worked with in the US

Each education project brings with it a host of wonderful moments alongside a set of challenges. In a recent primary school workshop, I sat beside a child with attention deficit disorder. Not only does this child struggle to focus, but she also struggles to connect with her peers and follow class procedures. School days for her involve a good deal of being told off, pulled aside for bad behaviour and often, struggling to learn. She was initially not happy to have me beside her, but with encouragement she began to engage with one of the songs and soon a lovely voice emerged followed by a smile.

Too often the pressures at school mean children who struggle or who do not shine in core subjects such as Maths and English are left feeling unhappy, lacking in confidence across other subjects and indeed overall. Singing together can bring them joy and confidence. So too for children who have learning difficulties or are learning English as their second language.

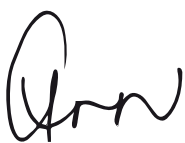
I am always moved to see feedback from teachers, teaching assistants and students pointing to how singing together or learning to lead singing has helped them or the children develop their confidence.

“The children have gained a lot of confidence, team cohesion and singing helps them enjoy school.”

—*Teaching assistant, Year 3 class*

“A child with speech and language difficulties finds it difficult to communicate his thoughts. He loves the songs and even leads the class when we are practising them”.

—*Year 2 class teacher*



ANN WRIGHT
Director of Education

Autumn saw our first project with Bradford Cathedral and primary schools in Bradford. Ann, Greg and Lydia worked with the primary schools on three occasions preparing them for a workshop and concert by VOCES8 at the Cathedral. VOCES8 also worked with the Cathedral choir before both performed for a large and very welcoming audience.

“Thank you so much for coming to Bradford to work with our schools and cathedral choir, and to lead a magnificent concert. This has been one of the most enriching experiences of my time here, and it has given the choir a major boost. We are so grateful to you for a musical experience that showed the choir real quality wrapped up with encouragement and kindness.”

—*Alex Berry, Organist and Director of Music,
Bradford Cathedral*

Our Young Leader Programme grew, with schools in London, Leeds and Cambridgeshire participating.

99% of our 2022 young leaders reported that the programme helped them develop their leadership skills;

94% reported the programme was successful in helping them become a music leader;

92% felt the programme helped build their confidence.

“It was an absolute pleasure having the VOCES8 Foundation Singers and aspiring young leaders who were providing the workshops. They were brilliant and such an experience for all our young learners. Lots of raving compliments from the staff and pupils.”

—*Evelyn Chua, Headteacher at Hampden Gurney
Primary School*

SING TOGETHER ALBUQUERQUE AND LONDON

Sing Together began as a pilot project connecting one London primary school with one elementary school in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It has grown to four London primary schools and four Albuquerque elementary schools with children in each sharing songs, writing pen-pal letters, creating virtual performances and meeting online.



USA

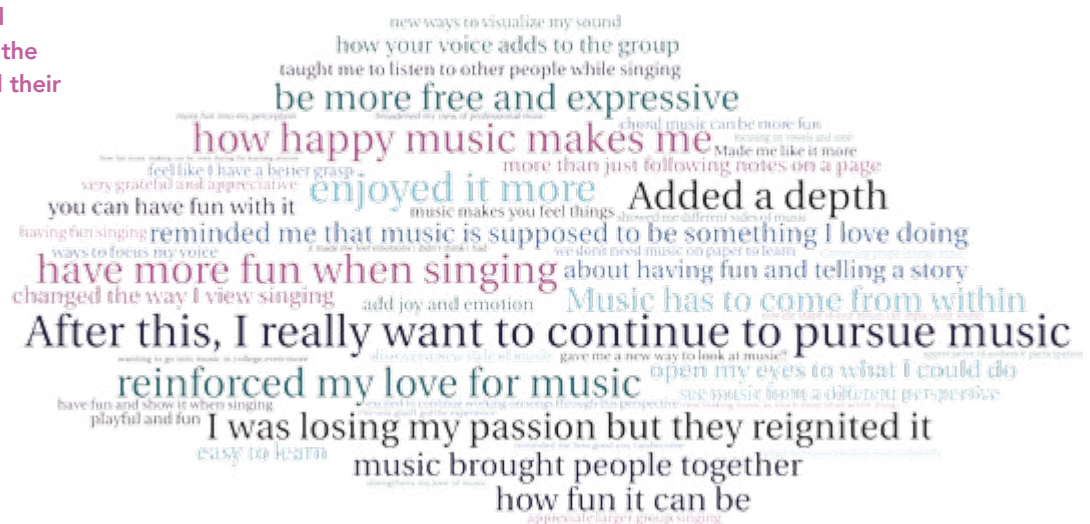
The VOCES8 Foundation's educational programmes in the US have been in an exciting time of expansion over the past few years. 2022 saw us reach more students through workshops and collaborative performances, as well as impact student learning more deeply through multiple touch points and return visits rather than one-time workshops.

The Foundation successfully launched our educational hub programme, building music communities in four

geographic areas and eight specific cities across America. Teaching Artists planned and ran over 40 days of workshops with students of all ages throughout the year.

One of the first educational hub programmes took place in Texas, where five high schools across Plano and Grapevine participated in workshops with Paul, the US Scholars and VOCES8. The programme culminated in a concert with VOCES8 and the students at St. Andrew Methodist Church in Plano.

Students were asked how participating in the workshops impacted their view of music...



SING'IN FRANCE

This project involved 1,800 participants across six regions – Île de France, Guebwiller, Sarthe, Aisne, Reims and Corrèze.

100% of teachers felt the project had a positive impact;

81% said it helped their students' self-confidence;

81% said it had a positive impact on students' respect for others;

65% saw the spirit of group work and cohesion evolve;

76% said the project had a positive impact on students' listening skills.

“My teaching is much more dynamic, fun and above all practical. I have clearly gained confidence in my way of teaching. I am more and more interested in the question of concentration, well-being and self-esteem and I am convinced that this can be worked through music.”

—*Music teacher in France*

“It was a great pride for these families from sensitive neighbourhoods to see their children perform on stage alongside international artists.” —*Teacher in France*

“There are artists from London who come to see us, just for us!” —*French student*

“They made us feel like artists and not like students!”

—*French student*

“When I came on stage, my heart was beating at 100 an hour, my hands were shaking, I was very scared. I closed my eyes then when I opened them, I heard the applause. As soon as I started singing, I saw my mum in the audience and she was crying with joy.” —*French student*

“The *Sing'in* project has been developed for 6 years and it is a wonderful human adventure around a partnership between professionals from National Education, socio-cultural centres, conservatories, and the Festival de la Vézère with VOCES8 and Apollo5. It is a story shared around pleasure, self-confidence, fulfillment, mastery of languages and of course the pleasure of singing on stage. So it's a great adventure because over the years we have seen this partnership become more complex, denser for the benefit of young people who are discovering what it is to be a professional artist but who are also discovering that excellence and work pays off and makes it possible to achieve a superb collective result, so it is also a translation of the taste for effort, the pleasure of singing together and, for me who is the head of the establishment, it is always an intense moment of pride in seeing the quality we can achieve.”

—*Sylvie Plas, Head of the Jean Moulin College in Brive*







VOCES8 FUTURE TALENT AWARD

During the 2020-21 season we launched a joint initiative with fellow music charity Future Talent to provide opportunities for talented young singers from low-income backgrounds. The VOCES8 Future Talent award provides bespoke training and performing opportunities for up to eight young singers ages 13 to 18. Singers receive mentoring, career and general musical development advice alongside practical music training. The programme culminates in fully funded places at the VOCES8 International Festival and Summer School.

“I’m really thankful to The VOCES8 Foundation; you’ve set me up in a really good place, and if not for all of you, I don’t know if I would’ve found a love for choral music. So thank you so much Ann, I hope you know how much you and the team have impacted my life.”

—*Ruth Tounkam, VOCES8 Future Talent Award Holder 2020.22*

“I wanted to thank you so, SO much for this evening. I really enjoyed meeting up with everyone again and singing such wonderful music; I still have ‘Morir non puo’ and ‘Only You’ going round my head! I really don’t want this to be my last concert – I hope it won’t be! Thank you so much for everything.”

—*Alexander Fenn, VOCES8 Future Talent Award Holder 2021.22*



2021.22 VOCES8 FUTURE TALENT AWARD HOLDERS

Rosanna Fenn, Olivia Harrison, Kimberley Falkenthal-Smith, Macy Jager, Ruth Tounkam, Dylan Hirst and Alexander Fenn.

2022.23 VOCES8 FUTURE TALENT AWARD HOLDERS

Adrianna Forbes, Suraya Hall, Mary Prenga, Macy Jagger, Sebastian Carrington and Felix Cha-Kent.

VOCES8 SCHOLARS

The VOCES8 Scholar programme is comprised of twenty annual choral scholarships (eight in the UK and 12 in the US) awarded to promising young singers with an interest in choral and small ensemble singing. Set up in 2015, the aim of the initiative is to develop versatile and well-rounded young artists, equipped with the skills they need to succeed at the beginning of their professional careers. With tutoring from current and former members of VOCES8, the programme offers training in performing, recording and workshop leading.

In the UK, concert opportunities with the Foundation alongside recording and filming mean the Scholars are building their work portfolio and contacts. Former Scholars have gone on to perform with professional choirs across the UK and in Europe, including recent tours with Apollo5 and the Monteverdi Choir. In the US, Scholars have gained national attention through the Foundation's recording collaboration with MPR Recording Studios and scholar graduates are now regularly finding success on professional choral rosters around the country.

With both current and past scholars now leading workshops in the UK, France and the US, we are also training and supporting the next generation of singing leaders.

“To make music with you lot is an experience that will influence everything I do in the future. Horizons have been pushed; bars raised. The standard of every musical element is awe inspiring but the positivity and shared ambition are probably the bits that will stay with me the longest.” —*Sam Poppleton, VOCES8 UK Scholar 2021-2022*



UK SCHOLARS 2021-2022

Lily Allen-Dodd
Lydia Wonham
Sarah Luttrell
Elizabeth Nurse

Jack Harberd
Owen Elsley
Ross Cumming
Sam Poppleton

UK SCHOLARS 2022-2023

Ailsa Campbell
Clover Willis
Katie Macdonald
Will Prior

Joseph Hancock
David Walsh
Daniel Gilchrist
George Vines

US SCHOLARS 2021-2022

Emily Wood
Lauren Lestage
Jess Huetteman
Jenna Hernandez
Grace Kiver
Michael Skarke

Maxwell Ary
Aaron Cates
Logan Combs
Adrien Redford
Christopher Short

US SCHOLARS 2022-2023

Carley DeFranco
Caroline LeGrand
Motomi Tanaka
Ingrid Johnson
Sandy Sharis
Veronica Roan

Aaron Cates
Maximillian Macias
Michael Martin
Christopher Short
Peter Schoellkopff
Cameron J Rolling



Bach
Barnaby Smith



Invocations
Apollo5



The Lost Birds
Christopher Tin, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, VOCES8



The Lark Ascending
Jack Liebeck and VOCES8



Renewal?
Paul Smith

V O C E S 8



R E C O R D S

Thank You!

We are enormously grateful for the support of the following organisations, VCM100 members and Friends of the Foundation.



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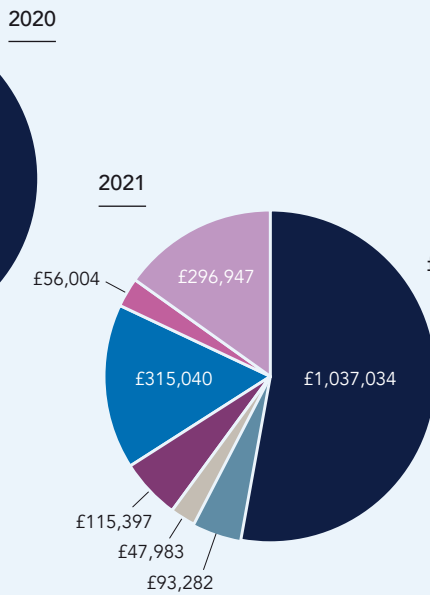
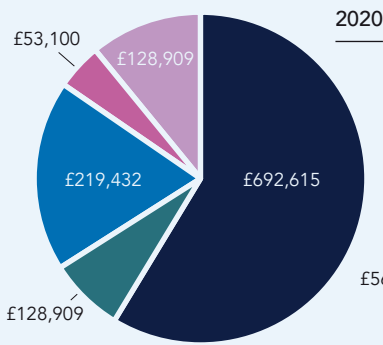
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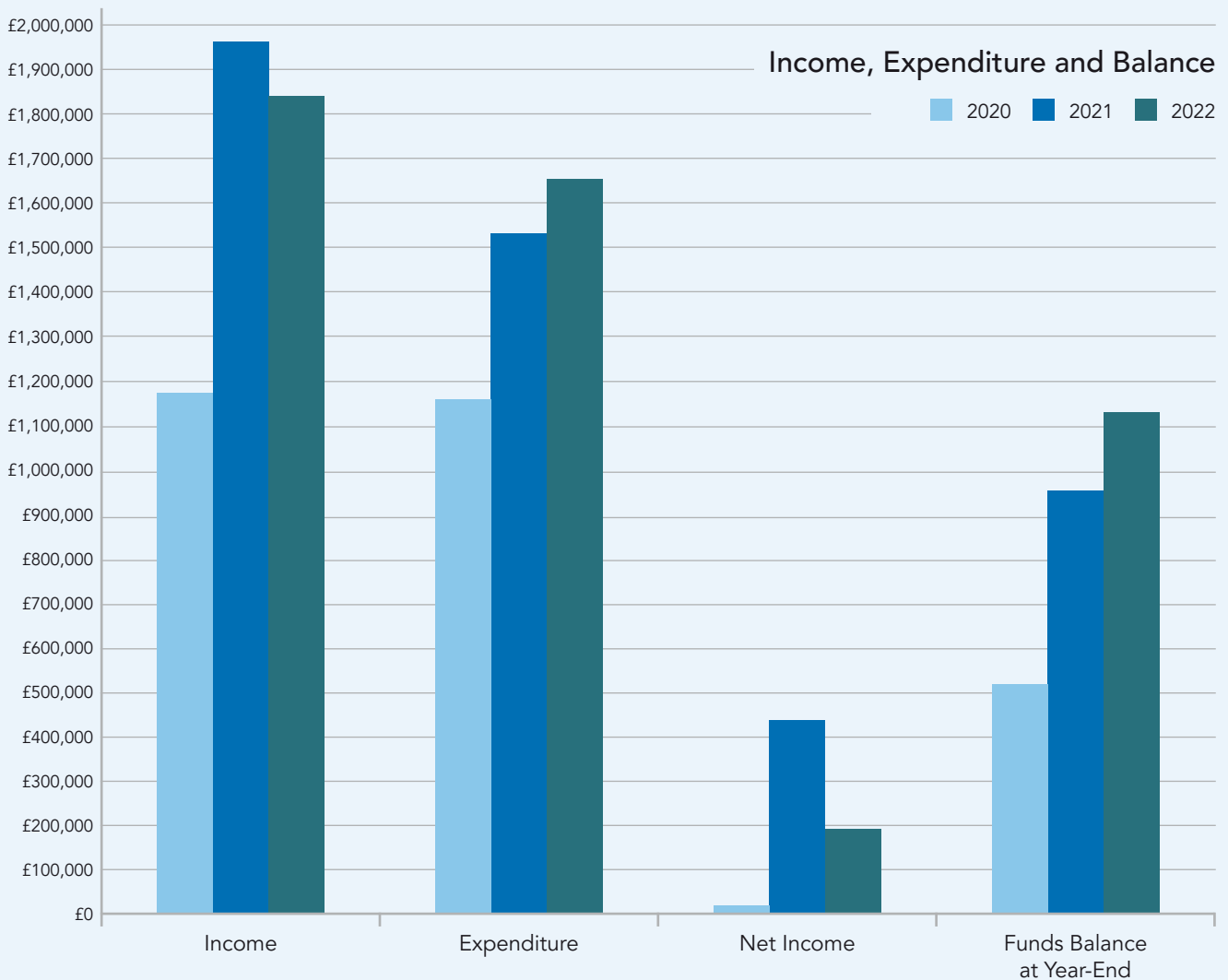
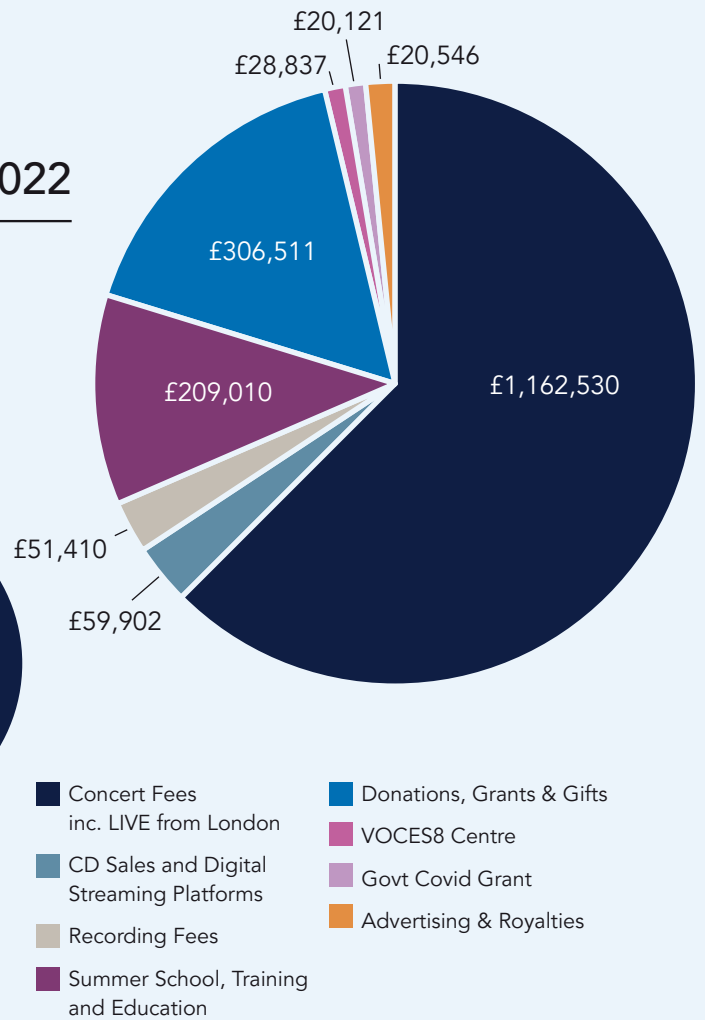


Accounts Summary – UK

Income Sources



2022

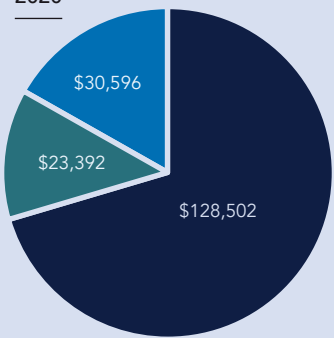


Accounts Summary – US

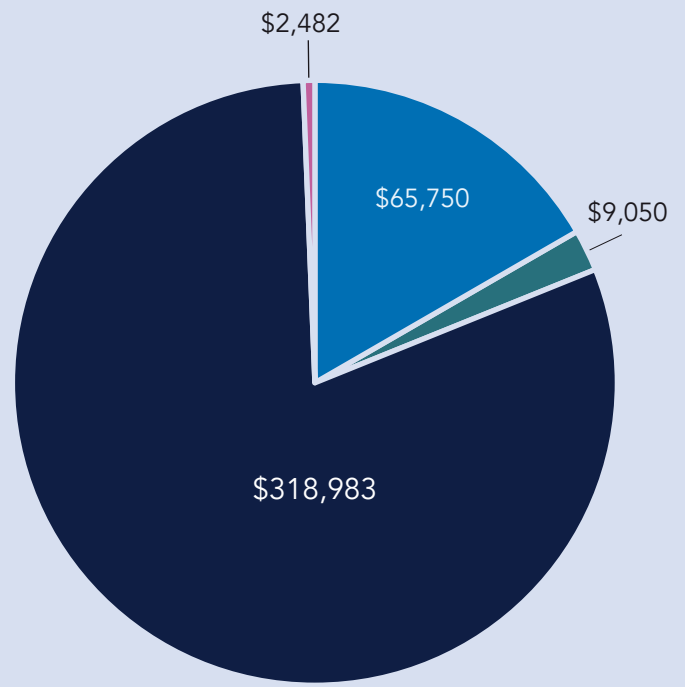
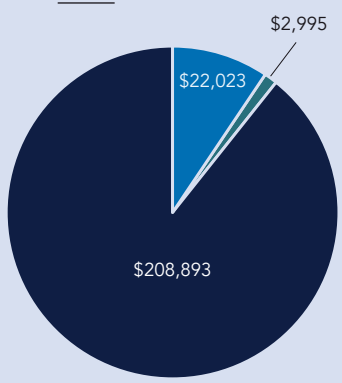
Income Sources

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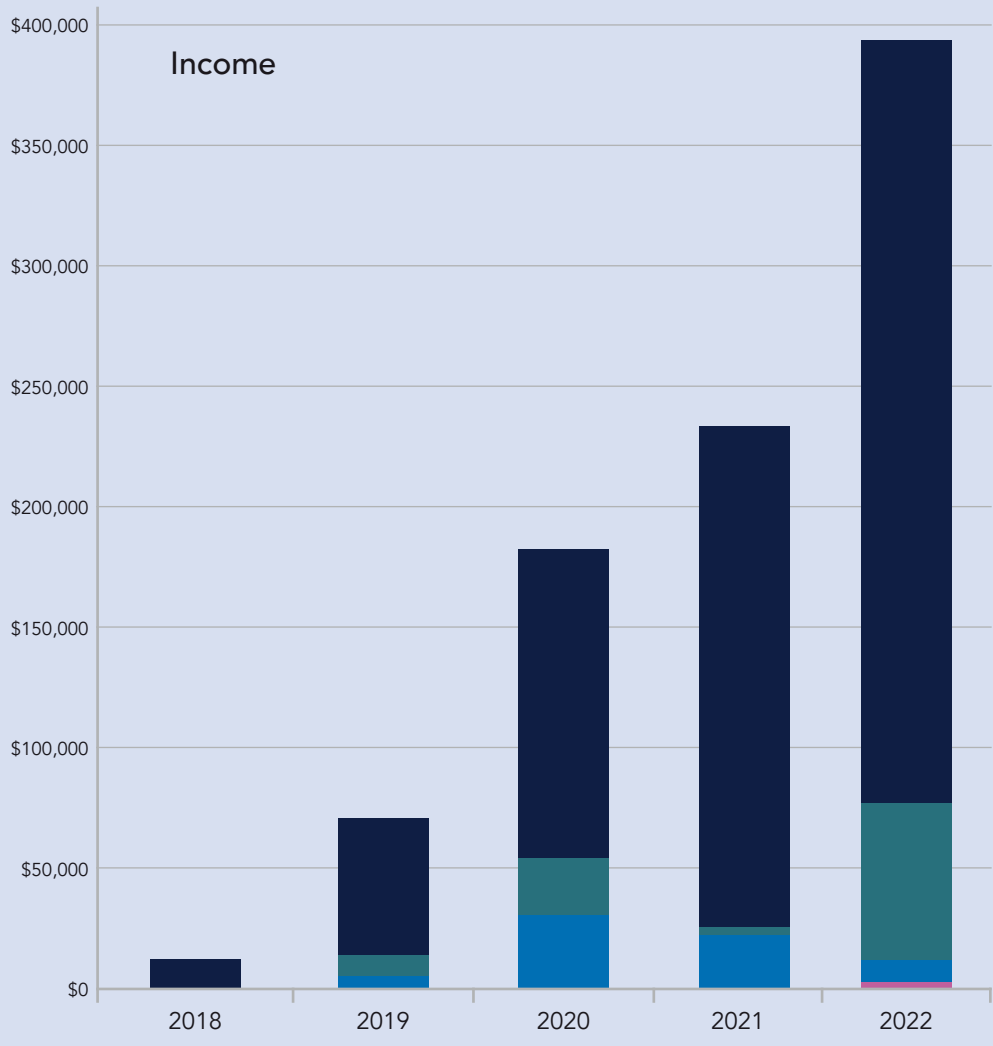
2020



2021



- Donations
- Ticket Sales & Merchandise
- Concert & Workshop Fees
- Other Income







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VCM100

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