

Section 3 About Your Organisation

Name of Organisation Berwick Arts Choir

What type of organisation are you (please tick)

Registered Charity / Unregistered Community Group/Club/Society

Other (please state):

Do you have a set of rules or a constitution (please tick)?
(please supply a copy if this is your first application to BTC)

Yes

/

No

Where does your organisation work (please tick)?

Just in the Berwick, Tweedmouth and/or
Spittal area

/

Regionally in the North East and/or
Southern Scotland

Throughout Northumberland

Nationally

For the most recent financial year please state:

Income £5471

Expenditure £8370

Year end balance £2336

What does your organisation do?

Berwick Arts Choir is one of the foremost amateur choirs in the area and its two concerts each year provide a rare opportunity to hear large scale classical music live in Berwick. We are asking for a grant of £450 to cover the fees of one of the soloists at our 75th anniversary concert in April 2023, featuring Puccini's 'Messa di Gloria', and publicity for the concert.

The choir comprises 40-50 singers of a range of ages from across North Northumberland and the Scottish Borders, some of whom live alone and have suffered from isolation during lockdown. Their physical and mental health benefits from rehearsing together for performance.

An audience of c. 100 people in and around Berwick upon Tweed, including visitors to the town, enjoy hearing large scale choral works in live performance.

Soloists from the region, including young people who are embarking on professional singing careers, have the experience of performing live for an audience, after three challenging years in which such opportunities were severely limited.

A group of c. 20 instrumentalists from across the region have the opportunity to play live in accompanying the choir.

How many people take part in your activities each year?

60-70 performers and 100 audience members at each of 2 concerts (see above)

How many people are involved in your organisation?

Committee & Volunteers Committee of 6.
Most of the 40 members also assist with fundraising, preparation of venue etc.

Paid Staff (FTE) No employed staff.
The musical director and accompanist are paid to conduct and accompany rehearsals and concerts. For concerts soloists are paid professional fees and orchestra members may be paid expenses or fees.

Section 4 Your Project

Describe your project [Continue on a separate sheet as necessary; include any drawings or plans of your project that will help explain what it is about]

The project is a special concert in Berwick Parish Church to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the choir. The main item will be a performance of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*. The concert will benefit singers, soloists, instrumentalists in the accompanying orchestra, and the audience for whom opportunities to hear large scale classical music in Berwick are rare. Ticket prices will be held to £10, and admission will be free for under 18s. Anyone who wishes to rehearse and perform with the choir will be able to do so, whether or not they can afford the normal subscription of £50 per term.

Why is it needed? (include details of any research you have carried out to identify the need and describe any specific benefits for the people of Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal).

There are few opportunities to perform and listen to live classical music in Berwick. COVID had a serious impact on live music generally and specifically on the finances of Berwick Arts Choir. There was no income in 2020/21 and much reduced income in 2021/22. Numbers of singers and audiences are rising again, but financial reserves have been depleted and without outside funding it will not be possible to realise the ambitions we have for a concert in April 2023 celebrating the 75th anniversary of the choir.

How will you measure the success of your project?

Success of publicity will be measured in numbers attending. An audience of over a hundred would be an excellent result, showing that the appetite for live choral music in Berwick is recovering after the pandemic. Success of the sponsored soloist will be in the audience response to the performance.

What is the total cost of your project? £1950

Please provide a project budget

Have you asked any other organisation for help to fund the project?

If yes, please give details below

Yes

/

No

Organisation	Amount requested	Outcome
Hadrian Trust	£500	granted
Joicey Trust	£300	Not yet known

Section 4 Your Project (continued)

What will the Town Council grant be used for?

Here you should list either individual items you want the Town Council to help pay for e.g. Toilets or insurance or areas of expenditure you want help with e.g. printing or publicity.

Do Not provide a list of unrelated items and a single cost for them all.

Item	Cost	Purchased or hired?	Town Council Contribution
Fee for one of the soloists	£300		£300
Publicity and programmes	£150		£150
Total requested from Town Council			£450
This box must be filled in and not exceed £2500			

How will you publicise the Town Council's assistance (for example at the event and/or in publicity or other material)?

Support of Berwick Town Council will be acknowledged on the posters to publicise the event, and on the printed programmes for the concert.

What will happen if you are not given funding at this time?

The event will go ahead with limited publicity and therefore a smaller audience. The choir's own reserves, drawn down during the pandemic, will be depleted further, making it difficult to carry out plans for future activities, including an ambition to provide more opportunities for young people in Berwick to take part in large scale classical music performance.