

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: **£7593**

Expenditure: **£7096**

Year End Balance: **£3686**

What does your organisation do:

Berwick Arts Choir, currently in its 77th year of operation, 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. The spring concert usually features one or two major choral works, while the event before Christmas is rather lighter, including alongside serious pieces an opportunity for audience participation in carols.

The costs of the weekly Thursday evening rehearsals are met from the subscriptions of the choir's 40-50 members. The Christmas concert aims to break even from ticket sales, but the spring concert has higher costs and outside sponsorship is therefore being sought this year to enable the choir to engage professional soloists and a professional organ accompanist.

How many people take part in your activities each year?

The choir comprises 40-50 singers of a range of ages from across North Northumberland and the Scottish Borders. The concert before Christmas 2024 attracted an audience of over 120 people, including visitors.

How many people are involved in your organisation? (Committee, volunteers, paid staff)

The Choir is a charity managed by a committee of 5-6 people. All regular participants are volunteers, but The Musical Director and the rehearsal accompanist are professional musicians, paid for their services.

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)

We are asking for a grant of £1000 to cover the fees of soloists, organ accompanist, venue hire and publicity for our concert on 12th April 2025. The event will feature performances of Haydn's Missa Brevis in F and Missa Brevis 'St Joannis de Deo' and Mozart's 'Missa Brevis in D Minor and 'Ave Verum'.

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 hear large scale, live, classical music in Berwick. Soloists from the region, including young people who are embarking on professional singing careers, need the experience of performing live for an audience, for which opportunities locally are limited. A professional organist is needed to accompany these works and should be paid an appropriate fee. Other instrumentalists include some who are local but others who may need travel expenses.

How will you measure the success of your project?

We would hope to attract an audience of 120, including young people. Ticket prices will be held at £10 for adults, and admission will be free for under 18s. Extracts from the concert may be recorded and placed on the BAC website to attract new members, but this will depend on other sources of funding for a professional sound engineer (under consideration but not listed below).

What is the total Cost of your project? **£2150 (specific concert costs) plus £2130 (half annual rehearsal costs)**
PLEASE PROVIDE A PROJECT BUDGET = £4280 (see attached financial report and 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
No other funding requested for the concert itself - grants may be sought for professional recording of parts of the concerts		

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	Purchase or hire?	Town Council contribution
Soloist singers x 4	£400		
Organist for accompaniment	£300		
Hire of venue for concert (Berwick Parish Church)	£150		
Posters and other publicity	£150		
Total requested from the Town Council This amount must not exceed £2500			£1000

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

Support from the Town Council will be acknowledged in publicity posters, in the programmes, in an announcement at the concert itself and in the website report of the concert.

See <https://www.berwickartschoir.co.uk/info/april-2023-concert> for acknowledgement of previous support.

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

The choir will have to either run down its reserves, engage fewer professional soloists or limit publicity. This will have an adverse impact on efforts to record extracts, make the website more engaging and in turn to encourage more and younger singers to join the choir.

In future without external support the choir would have to consider a cheaper and more purely popular repertoire, reducing the opportunity to hear high quality large scale classical music in Berwick.