



Annual general meeting 2015

Minutes

Meeting held at the Elmgreen School, 7.45 pm, Tuesday 6 October 2015

Chair: Caroline Annesley

1. Welcome and introductions

40 members of the orchestra were present. No apologies for absence had been received. In opening the meeting, the chair said that she would be standing down at the end of the meeting. Reflecting on the successes of the last two years, Caroline said she thought the appointment of Leigh O'Hara had been an unqualified success, the Young Composers Award had been successfully revived and there had been a series of excellent concerts. This year's summer concert, with Mario Mora, had been a particularly successful one with a large and enthusiastic audience. Caroline concluded by thanking members of the committee and all the others who had volunteered for work on behalf of the orchestra.

2. Minutes of AGM 2014

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. Annual report

The report was adopted, subject to some typographical corrections and the addition of thanks to the Treasurer.

4. Financial report

The Treasurer (Liz Cleary) noted that, but for the generous support of the Golden Bottle Fund and other donations, the orchestra would have made a loss in the year which would soon be unsustainable. Ticket prices had been increased, and the committee was mindful of the need to reduce costs. Liz recommended therefore that subscriptions for members be increased to £70 per term (concessions £35) with effect from January 2016.

Alan Taylor agreed that it was right to raise subs, but asked what the pressures on expenditure were. Liz Cleary replied that the fees paid to the conductor had increased, and there had been

increased costs for extras, itself a consequence of repertoire choice. There had also been a fall in membership since the previous year. Ian Finn argued that while an increase in fees may eventually be necessary, it was not et since the orchestra had reserves of c £3,000. Liz Cleary replied that the level of reserves was below that recommended in many quarters (i.e. that they should represent a year's income) and the committee had for some time aimed to build up the reserves.

The report, including the proposal to increase subscriptions, was accepted after a vote by show of hands. 35 voted for, 3 against and 2 abstained.

5. Election officers

Nominations were as follows:

Jeremy Crump (chair) Nominated by Emma Grant, seconded by Nicky Jackson

Tessa Crilly (secretary) Nominated by Ruth Holton, seconded by Chris Burns

Liz Cleary (treasurer) Nominated by Robin White seconded by Sam Wise.

The officers were elected unopposed.

6. Election of ordinary members of the committee

The following were elected unopposed:

Ishani O'Connor (nominated by Helen Bartholomew, seconded by Russell Ashley-Smith)

Sarah Bort, Chris Burns, Ruth Holton, Emerald Toogood (All nominated by Brendan O'Neill Smith and seconded by Liz Cleary).

8. Any other business

Frances Barrett asked what had become of the proposal to hold a day school on the Rite of Spring. The chair invited Brendan O'Neill to respond as the organiser. Brendan said that it had become apparent that the cost of hiring premises and probably a large number of paid extra musicians had led him to the view that the cost would be too great. He had made this known to the committee and they had agreed not to take the project forward at this time.

Sam Wise made an innovative proposal for the arrangement of chairs at future rehearsals which met with approval.

Tessa Crilly proposed a vote of thanks to Caroline Annesley for her work as chair, which was enthusiastically supported by all those present.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Jeremy Crump (Secretary)