

# Minutes of DSO Annual General Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## Venue: Holst Hall, JAGS at 7.30pm



**Introduction, Welcome and Apologies.** Approximately 40 members of the orchestra were present. There were no apologies.

**Election of Trustees.** DSO is a registered charity (No. 1100857) and so committee members are Charity Trustees. One of the 8 Trustee positions had become vacant since Hannah Gamlen-Thomson had stepped down. It was agreed that DSO would continue to seek a volunteer and, if necessary, hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect the trustee.

- **Officers of Committee.** Jeremy Crump was voted to the post of Chair (Proposed by Russell Ashley-Smith, Seconded by Liz Cleary), Tessa Crilly to the post of Secretary (proposed by Ross Paterson and Seconded by Emma Laing) and Liz Cleary to the post of Treasurer (Proposed by Nicky Jackson and Seconded by Russell Ashley-Smith).
- **Other Members of Committee.** Other Trustees were prepared to continue their service and so were proposed/nominated as a single group from the floor (proposed by Emma Laing and seconded by Robin White). These included: Chris Burns, Ruth Holton, Ishani O'Connor, Allyson Rosser.

**Minutes of AGM 2017.** These were agreed as an accurate record.

**Chair's Report.** Jeremy presented the report (made available in advance) in which he thanked Leigh O'Hara (music director), Paula Tysall (leader) as well as section leaders and others who ensure the smooth running of the orchestra. Jeremy was thanked for his work throughout the year.

**Treasurer's Report.** Liz Cleary (Treasurer) presented the accounts for 2016/17 (available on the website) which showed a surplus of £602 on income of £17,648 against expenditure of £17,046, taking the reserve to £7,728. She proposed a balanced budget for 2018/19 that maintained the current subscription (£70 per term with 50% concession) and raised professional fees (conductor and leader). A Reserves Policy had been published on the website, stating that £8-10k was considered to be a good level of reserve, taking into account DSO's level of risk exposure (mainly driven by membership and audience numbers). The report was accepted and Liz was thanked for her work throughout the year.

**Orchestra Tax Relief.** Liz outlined the proposal to set up a financial structure that would enable DSO to claim Orchestra Tax Relief under HMRC regulations. The main barrier was the administrative work involved in setting up a production company, including the need for 3 Trustees to become Directors of the Limited Company. The potential benefit (other things being equal) could be up to £1800 annual increase in income. The proposal was well received by DSO members. Directors were thanked for offering that commitment. The motion to set up a production company was put to the vote by a show of hands. The motion was carried unanimously with 1 abstention and zero votes against.

### Any Other Business:

- It was noted that the accounts were scrutinised by an external examiner (as proposed at the 2017 AGM).
- Ishani described the Outreach programme with Chineke! and asked members for ideas for school links.
- Tessa gave feedback about the consultation on future venues. While 6 people declared that Elmgreen (previous venue) was more convenient, it was accepted that it was no longer viable, mainly due to incidence of last minute cancellations. Chatsworth Way Hall was not a long-term option as the dance class met on Tuesday evenings. The Holst Hall had proved to be a sound prospect for the foreseeable future.
- Jeremy asked for volunteers to manage and improve the website, and also to engage with social media, inviting comments from members.

The meeting finished at 8pm.