

# **PHILOMUSICA OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE**

## **Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020**

**held at the Milestone School, Longford Ln, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 9EU on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**PRESENT:** John Quinn (Chairman) and 66 signed in members, enough to provide a quorum (55). Full attendance list with Master Minutes.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from John Mitchinson (President) and 22 members. Full list with the Master Minutes.

**2. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:** In a message read by the Chairman, Mitch began by apologising for not being able to attend any of our concerts due a combination of indifferent health and the long distance to travel but congratulated us on another very successful year. By listening to recordings of our concerts Mitch was able to say that we had celebrated French music in fine style with our 'Springtime in Paris' programme and recognised the huge amount of work that we had put into learning the Brahms Requiem in November not only in performing it so well but also on retaining freshness in our singing after months of rehearsal. Of course we had the prospect of singing with Roderick Williams as an incentive and Mitch spoke particularly of the imagination with which Roddy sang the music during the *Five Mystical Songs* and how he was struck by the degree of freedom and rubato which Roddy used in order to make the most of words and music. Yet at all times the performance was completely together which was a great tribute to Linda's conducting skills and the thoroughness with which she, loyally supported by Josh, had rehearsed us.

Mitch congratulated all of our soloists and thanked all those who work so hard behind the scenes to keep Philo running in tip-top order.

Mitch ended by wishing us great joy in learning and bringing to life *Messiah* and the Verdi Requiem and exhorted us to keep our diaphragms working hard, not our shoulders!

Full text with the Master Minutes.

**3. MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** These were agreed to be a true record. Proposed by Pat Best, seconded by Pauline Quinn. Agreed Nem. Con

**4. MATTERS ARISING:** there were no matters arising.

### **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

John began with our concert in Tewkesbury Abbey with our vice president, Roderick Williams as our guest soloist commenting on how we had all applied ourselves to rehearsals, culminating in a fine concert. Of course, Roddy was a big draw, but we had sold a great many tickets and John was certain that every member of that large audience left the Abbey with a very positive impression of Philomusica. John thanked the choir and also Bob Howe, his front-of-house team, Tim Jeffree and his meeters and greeters who, with a larger than usual audience, had to be on their toes.

John referred to our 2020 concerts comprising *Messiah* in March and Beethoven's Mass in C in the autumn coinciding with the Beethoven 250 celebration. In June we will be performing the Verdi Requiem with the Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra to celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

John welcomed our 15 new members who have meant a net gain in membership to 109 registered singers leaving Philo in a very healthy state.

John thanked Janet Lanigan and Pam Vernon who have stepped down from the role of Music Monitor. Jessica Sullivan and Hilary Simmonds have volunteered to replace them and John asked everyone to do all they can to make their job as easy as possible. John also thanked Heather Servini who was obliged to step back from the role of Making Music Rep and announced that Tim Hodgetts has kindly agreed to take on Heather's other role, acting as our Data Manager.

On behalf of the choir John thanked the committee for the efforts they put in behind the scenes to keep Philo functioning so smoothly.

John thanked Josh and Linda for the terrific amount of work that none of us see, learning and practising the music so that we all have productive and enjoyable rehearsals each week. Josh's accompaniments always give us confidence and

we are most grateful to him and also to Linda who teaches us the music thoroughly, patiently and with good humour and then inspires us in our concerts

Full text with the Master Minutes

## **6. FINANCIAL REPORT AND SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2018:**

Terry took us through the condensed set of figures that showed the net amounts for each source of income in and out of Philo funds. He informed us that the formal Annual Accounts are available on the Members' page of the Philomusica website.

The comparison of actual figures with 2019 budget showed that this year we have made a surplus of £1,018. Our 2019 budget predicted a loss of £4,543. Major factors involved in this improvement against budget of £5561 were the number of tickets sold for the Tewkesbury concert (overall the concert accounts were £2528 better off than predicted) and our non-concert income being £2,715 larger than predicted, mainly due to the fundraising figure.

Terry thanked everyone who had contributed to the £1284 income from fund raising and gave a special thanks to Linda and David for the Supper Concerts which provided us with £804.

Terry recommended that the subscription rate remains at £90 per year and reminded us that if we had not already paid our 2020 subs that they are now due.

The formal accounts have been independently examined by our honorary auditor Matt Bunn and Terry asked that the accounts be approved formally.

On requesting questions from the floor, John Liptrot queried the non-concert income being higher than anticipated and Terry explained that funds had come from the 200 Club, other fund-raising activities, gift aid and the increase in membership and hence subs.

Full text and accounts with the Master Minutes.

**SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS:** Proposed by David Parsons, seconded by Jon Ashford: Agreed Nem. Con.

**7. SUBSCRIPTIONS 2019. The committee propose that subscription for 2020 shall remain at £90 with a £5 concession for members over 65 who wish to claim it:** Proposed by Lorraine Dodd, seconded by Karen Longmate. Agreed Nem. Con

## **8. CONDUCTOR'S REPORT:**

Linda reminded the choir of the works sung in 2019 - Faure's exquisite "Cantique de Jean Racine", Vierne's "Messe Solonelle" and Duruflé's moving Requiem, enhanced by the solos sung so feelingly by Karen, Gaye, Tim and David. The main work in Good Friday's programme was John Rutter's Requiem, with the clear voices of Freya and Sam singing the solos.

We did not have a summer concert as we had the major task of learning Vaughan Williams "5 Mystical Songs" and Brahms Requiem in German to the highest possible standard by November as we had managed to secure Roderick Williams to come to sing the solos. Linda appreciated that a lot of people were not at all keen on the Brahms initially finding it hard work but everyone came to rehearsals faithfully and gradually the innate beauty of the music won most people over. The first performance given in St. Stephen's, Worcester, finally made us believe we could do it, and the performance in the Abbey was just spectacular. Linda congratulated Tim on his performance of the Vaughan Williams in Worcester and said that David had sung the solos in the Brahms at that concert with authority and expression. Kathryn sang the soprano solo in both concerts requiring enormous breath control, a true legato line and clarity of pitch and tone. It was a very tall order to sing this music alongside a top international singer, but Kathryn was more than equal to the challenge and proved again that hard work and fearlessness can achieve great things.

In Tewkesbury Roddy sang the Brahms with effortless command and it was a joy and a privilege to have him singing for us. He was also impressed with the choir.

Linda thanked Karen who had, as always, amassed an orchestra who played so well, with so much attention to dynamics and sensitivity to the choir, that they never drowned us even at their most dramatic

Linda thanked all of our soloists for all of their hours of preparation and all of the choir members who had sung in consorts this year. She also thanked Mel Weston and Marian Yeo for their flute duet and Sam for bringing along her highly entertaining choir from her school for the Christmas concert at Holy Trinity.

Linda expressed her gratitude to John for his tireless work as Chairman and producer of programme notes, the committee for their work behind the scenes, James for playing for rehearsals when required, the music subcommittee for selecting music which will suit and challenge the choir, stay close to budget, take account of the wish list whilst attracting audiences and the soloists' subcommittee which has the unenviable task of trying to match the right voice to the music and spread the opportunities evenly.

Linda finished with a huge thank you to Josh as our accompanist and her right-hand man and to the choir for welcoming new members, working hard and singing so well.

Full text with Master Minutes

## **9. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE HONORARY AUDITOR**

Nominations for the Philo Committee 2020/21

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Chair	John Quinn	Mair Shankster	Frances Betts
Vice chair	Lorraine Dodd	Iris Trask	Sam Thomas
Secretary	Kathryn Thurgood	Joanna Kelly	Heather Servini
Worcester gp rep	Tessa Jay	Heather Servini	Melanie Lewis
Gloucester gp rep	Bob Howe	Sam Thomas	Mair Shankster
Making music rep	Lorraine Dodd	Iris Trask	Sam Thomas
Conductor	Linda Parsons	Janet Emmerson	Gaye Boggon
Treasurer	Terry Heighway	John Liptrot	Pat Best
Marketing gp rep	Freya Crunden	Joanne Lucas	Janet Lanigan
Orchestra liaison	Karen Longmate	Janet Lanigan	Jon Ashford
General member	Lyn Rimell	Tessa Jay	Derek Taylor
General member	Derek Taylor	Tom Daltry	Janet Lanigan
Honorary auditor	Matthew Bunn	Lyn Rimell	Kathryn Thurgood

Agreed Nem. Con

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None**

There being no more business, the meeting was closed at 8.10pm and was followed by a joint rehearsal.