

**PHILOMUSICA OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE**  
**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022**  
**held at the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Hall, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire**  
**on Friday 11 March 2022**

**PRESENT:** John Quinn (Chairman) and 54 signed in members, enough to provide a quorum of paid-up members (46)  
Full attendance list with Master Minutes.

The Chairman opened the meeting and proposed on behalf of the committee that, in order to maximise rehearsal time for the impending Pershore Abbey concert, the AGM be adjourned to 5 May 2022. Seconded by Kathryn Thurgood.  
Agreed Nem con.

**PHILOMUSICA OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE**  
**Draft Minutes of the resumed Annual General Meeting 2022**  
**held at St Stephen's Church, Worcester**  
**on Thursday 5 May 2022**

**PRESENT:** John Quinn (Chairman) and 45 signed in members, enough to provide a quorum of paid-up members (43)  
Full attendance list with Master Minutes.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from 19 members. Full list with the Master Minutes.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** These were agreed to be a true record. Proposed by Adrian Gurney, seconded by Derek Taylor. Agreed Nem. Con

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

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Since John reported to delayed 2021 AGM in October, Philo has continued its recovery from the covid restrictions. John has contacted a number of members who we had not seen for some time. Some have decided to retire from or leave the choir and others are either unwell or still unsure about returning to singing. As a result, our current singing strength is 86 members. Although there have been new recruits to Gloucester, the numbers and composition of the choir in Worcester is a cause for concern. As a consequence, the Worcester members plan to have their own recruitment drive, in which social media will play a part. A 'Come and Sing' event at Worcester is also planned at the start of the autumn term and John expressed his hope that everyone in the choir would support this event. John asked in the meantime, if any Gloucester members, particularly gentlemen, could attend a Worcester rehearsal when possible.

Referring back to our planned Pershore Abbey concert in March John expressed what a blow it was when we were obliged to cancel it due to a Covid outbreak within the choir. However, we put on a highly successful concert in support of the DEC Ukraine appeal in April, raising an astonishing £1500 in the process. This was held in the afternoon and, although the large audience was in part due to the fund-raising aspect of the concert, John said that we will persevere with afternoon concerts on an experimental basis.

John said that work will begin shortly on designing the 2023 programme taking into account the music suggested last time a Wish List exercise was undertaken and also any financial implications.

John thanked his committee colleagues for their consistent commitment and the Music Monitors in both groups. He thanked Josh on behalf of the members for all the great efforts he puts in, both at rehearsal and in the concerts and emphatically thanked Linda for her inspirational musical leadership. He also thanked all members for their patience while we tried to get Philo "back to normal".

John ended with the good news that supper concerts will be able to resume hopefully in September as a new venue has been found. The previous venue at Tewkesbury Vicarage is unavailable because the room requires substantial repairs, but Linda has recently found a location in Tredington which is a former farm building which the owners have converted into a small concert space, complete with baby grand piano; it seats about 30 people and there is parking.

Full text with the Master Minutes

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

Terry took the members through the accounts that had previously been circulated via email.

Full text and accounts with the Master Minutes.

**SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS:** Proposed by Annie Norris, seconded by Charles Whitney: Agreed Nem. Con.

## **6. SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022. The committee propose that subscriptions rise to £100 with a £5 concession for members over 65 who wish to claim it.**

Proposed by Terry Heighway, seconded by John F Quinn Agreed Nem. Con

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

Linda began by saying that it seemed a very long time since we gave our performances of Mozart's Requiem and Beethoven's Mass in C and that it was wonderful to be back singing together again and producing the authentic Philo sound. She said that the Christmas concerts had gone well, despite a short rehearsal time, and that it was a pleasure to have the children from Sam's school with us again.

The Spring term was not quite such a happy time. Fewer people than expected returned to the choir after the pandemic, particularly in the Worcester group, which made, and continues to make, rehearsing difficult through lack of balance. The Mozart Vespers turned out to be much more difficult than anticipated, largely due to the unfamiliar words having to be sung at great speed. The new Missa Brevis by Hugo Fernandez Languasco caught our imagination and the Chilcott Requiem lifted us and brought out the best in us.

The first performance of this programme went pretty well although we were singing to a disappointingly small audience, so it was a huge blow when Covid decimated our ranks and we were forced to cancel our orchestral concert at Pershore Abbey. It must also have been a bitter disappointment for Hugo. Our next orchestral concert at Pershore Abbey will take place in the afternoon on November 5<sup>th</sup> and it will be interesting to see how this affects audience numbers. We will be singing Hugo's Mass again so that he will hear it at last, plus Linda's Te Deum, the Chilcott Requiem and the Bach Magnificat.

Our concert to raise funds for the Ukraine involved singing several suitable choir pieces, including the Prayer for Ukraine, and showcased some of the remarkable vocal and instrumental talent that we are so fortunate to have in the choir. The programme was much appreciated, and we raised an unbelievable £1500 for the relief fund.

With the exception of the Ukraine concert, Linda said that she sensed that the original excitement of being back and singing together again has waned. She said that she too had felt quite discouraged and unmotivated. She asked us all to be more positive and determined, to encourage and support each other and do our best to recruit new members if we are not to join the ranks of those choirs who have been forced to close.

Linda thanked the committee so ably led by our indefatigable Chairman, John, who have worked hard to keep us moving forward through this unsettling period. She also thanked Josh for all he does musically and for his advice and good ideas, James for his willingness to step in at short notice and to all the soloists for their hard work and dedication which add so much to our performances.

Full text with Master Minutes

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

Nominations for the Philo Committee 2022/3

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	John Quinn	Paul Murray	Jill Field
Vice chair	Lorraine Dodd	Derek Taylor	Janet Lanigan
Secretary	Kathryn Thurgood	Catherine Power	Joanna Kelly
Worcester gp rep	Mel Weston	Janet Emmerson	Hilary Simmons
Gloucester gp rep	Carole Anderson	Jessica Sullivan	Janet White

Making music rep	Lorraine Dodd		
Conductor	Linda Parsons	Rob Jackson	Libby Cutler
Treasurer	Terry Heighway	Fiona Sewell	Rob Jackson
Marketing gp rep	Sam Thomas	Kathryn Jeffree	Tim Jeffree
Orchestra liaison	Karen Longmate	John Ashford	Paul Murray
General member	Lyn Rimell	Libby Cutler	David South
General member	Derek Taylor	Tom Daltry	Barry Hall
Honorary auditor	Matthew Bunn	Kathryn Thurgood	Joanna Kelly

Agreed Nem. Con

## **9. PHILOMUSICA'S FINANCIAL POSITION:**

John had preceded this item by visiting the Worcester and Gloucester rehearsals prior to the AGM to take questions. He explained that moving to one rehearsal per week in a central location like Tewkesbury would likely result in a loss of members due to increased travel costs and other commitments on a Thursday/Friday. However, this idea would be kept under review. He repeated the plea for Gloucester member to rehearse at Worcester periodically if they were able. Mel Weston is going to organise a recruitment drive on social media particularly to recruit new members for Worcester and Philo will also hold a "Come and Sing" in Worcester early in the autumn term. Other ideas that had been put forward in the discussions were:

- Have more mixed programmes such as the fund-raising concert for Ukraine
- More afternoon concerts particularly in the winter
- Devote more time to rehearsals for the Christmas concerts as they tend to attract larger audiences
- Gloucester members were more in favour of keeping the organ and orchestral concert model rather than replacing the organ concert with a dress rehearsal
- More fund-raising including revival of the Supper Concerts
- Members taking greater ownership of selling tickets

No further thoughts were raised at the AGM

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Tessa Jay asked what was happening about electing a new president for Philo. John replied that the committee had put forward a few names, but we had to decide how much input we would like from a president – someone with a high profile or someone more local who could have a greater input into the choir. All suggestions for a future president will be put forward to members, who will elect our new president in due course.

Sylvia Ward asked if Philo could charge for programmes. John replied that it is a unique selling point for Philo to have complimentary programmes and our audience appreciate them. The committee is looking to have a reduced programme for organ concerts and all concert ticket prices have had a modest increase to help cover costs.

There being no more business, the meeting was closed at 8.07pm and was followed by a joint rehearsal.