

PHILOMUSICA OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE
Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019
held at the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Hall, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
on Friday 1st March 2019

PRESENT: John Quinn (Chairman) and 66 signed in members, enough to provide a quorum (50). Full attendance list with Master Minutes.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were received from John Mitchinson (President), Sue Bingham and 15 members. Full list with the Master Minutes.

2. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: In a message read by the Chairman, Mitch congratulated Philo on another successful year and apologised for not attending any concerts due to distance to travel and ill health. He particularly regretted not being able to attend our November concert in Tewkesbury Abbey. He has listened though with great pleasure to the recordings of our concerts and been kept fully up to date with Philo's "doings" by Linda, David and John. Mitch congratulated the choir on its performance of Mozart's Requiem which he said we had performed with a combination of skill and commitment that not many choirs could match. Mitch congratulated Linda on leading us so devotedly and musically and our soloists and also thanked those who work so hard behind the scenes to keep Philo running in "tip-top order". Mitch wished us every success for 2019 particularly with our collaboration with Roddy Williams saying that it was a huge compliment to Philo that he had made space in his crowded schedule to come and sing with us. 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 Annie Norris. Agreed Nem. Con

4. MATTERS ARISING: there were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

John began by looking back at our 2018 programmes particularly our November concert which coincided with the centenary of the end of the Great War. He thanked Karen for arranging a large orchestra within budget and the choir for embracing both the programme and the occasion. Looking forward to 2019 it was decided to choose a spring programme that did not require an orchestra for cost saving purposes and to not have a summer programme. This is to enable more time to prepare for our autumn programme for which we have booked Roderick Williams as baritone soloist in the Brahms' Requiem. This concert will be a great advert for Philo as a good number of people will come simply to hear Roddy and our challenge will be to be good enough to make them want to come to future concerts. Roddy has made a very generous concession with his fee which will be largely covered by Kathryn and Tim's canoe project and the grant we got from Ecclesiastical Insurance.

John thanked Linda and Josh for the hours of preparation that they both put in to prepare for rehearsals and concerts and Linda and David for supper concerts. John thanked Jo Kelly as she has stepped down from designing our posters and programmes. Fortunately David Parsons is now in a position to resume this role. Also mentioned were Josh and Mair Shankster for their work on the Music sub-committee and soloist selection panel. John also thanked the committee and music monitors for their work behind the scenes and informed members of contingency plans put in place to cover for Peter Cutler, our treasurer, during his illness. We are extremely grateful to Terry Heighway who has kindly volunteered to serve as Acting Treasurer in Peter's absence and wish Peter a speedy recovery. Full text with the Master Minutes

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

This report is deliberately not entitled 'Treasurer's Report' as it has not been written by Peter. However, it comments on the 2018 accounts and the 2019 budget, both of which he prepared, and also reflects his comments when the budget was discussed and adopted by the committee in January 2019.

The financial outcome for 2018 shows a reduction in our assets of £2180. The budget for 2018 predicted a deficit of £4499, so we have done much better than Peter's prudent forecast. Despite this loss for the year, our financial reserves remain healthy. This was helped by members for getting so strongly behind the 'Ring in Peace' concert in Tewkesbury Abbey and achieving ticket sales that exceeded budget. Karen once again recruited very good orchestras for us while remaining within budget. Also we received three injections of cash during the year from Ecclesiastical Insurance, the generous bequest made to us by Lizzie Heighway and Linda and David's Supper Concerts. From Supper Concert

proceeds over the last 20 years, plus Gift Aid on their donations, Linda and David have raised some £20k for Philo funds.

The committee has approved a budget for the coming year, which projects a deficit of £4343. As he did last year, Peter has been deliberately cautious in his budgeting, especially on the income side, and the committee will be working with the intention that the outturn for 2019 will be better than forecast.

The budget includes our concert in November, when our Vice President, Roderick Williams will be our guest soloist. The committee has decided that we will charge £16 for this particular concert, which we think is very reasonable given the calibre of our guest soloist.

Subscriptions

The committee asked the AGM to approve a subscription rise of £10 to £90 for 2019 as alluded to in the treasurer's report from the AGM in 2018.

Members who are tax payers, and who have not already done so, were encouraged to enable Philo to receive Gift Aid on their subs. The subscription is payable by 31 March 2019.

John thanked our Hon Auditor, Matt Bunn for his diligent and practical approach to auditing our annual accounts and also Peter Cutler for all of his work to date on our finances. On behalf of Philo John wished Peter a speedy and full recovery.

On requesting questions from the floor, Robin Humphreys asked, given that Philo had made losses in the last two years and with a large projected loss in 2019, how long could our reserves last? John explained that there was little scope to cut non-concert expenses and that the spring 2019 programme had been chosen specifically as it did not require an orchestra. In orchestral concerts having a small orchestra did not always equate to a significant cost reduction. The committee would look at fundraising and applying for more grants such as that from Ecclesiastical Insurance. Ruth Warne asked if we had applied for Lottery funding and David Parsons confirmed that we had. We had been successful in the past, but the rules have been changed, not to our benefit.

Full text and accounts with the Master Minutes.

SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS: Proposed by David Parsons, seconded by John Roberts-Powell: Agreed Nem. Con.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS 2019. The committee propose that subscription for 2019 shall be raised to £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 took us back over the year by looking at our performances of Schubert's Mass in G, and his setting of The Lord is my Shepherd and the Requiem by Mozart. On Good Friday we sang Faure's Requiem and in the summer a programme entitled Songs of Rivers, Lakes and Seas.

Our Remembrance Concert in Tewkesbury Abbey was sung on the eve of Armistice and the programme was chosen to go from remembering the horrors of WW1, Elgar's "For the Fallen", to looking forward to a peaceful and prosperous future "Awake! Awake! The world is young" by Ian Venables. Rebecca McNaught gave a masterly performance of Elgar's 'cello concerto, which was chosen as a bridge between the War and the Peace, with just 40 minutes rehearsal with the orchestra. Linda thanked Karen at this point for the wonderful job she does in assembling an orchestra of players skilled enough to do this. Linda also thanked Josh and James for their splendid performance of Elgar's violin sonata in the concert at Holy Trinity.

In the Christmas concerts we were joined by children from Kempsey and Meadowside Schools who sang beautifully. Linda expressed her intention to persuade both schools to join us again this Christmas.

Linda thanked the soloists for their many hours of practise, Janet, Pam and Karen for ensuring that we have scores, the committee for their hard work behind the scenes, John for his untiring leadership and Josh for his splendid accompanying and willing help at all times. Finally, Linda thanked the choir for working so hard and so cheerfully at rehearsals and exhorted us to attend regularly, sit up well, hold our copies up, watch the conductor as much as possible and keep chatter to a minimum!

Full text with Master Minutes

9. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE HONORARY AUDITOR

Nominations for the Philo Committee 2019/20

Position	Name	Proposer	Second
Chair	John Quinn	Robin Humphreys	David Parsons
Vice chair	Lorraine Dodd	Janet Lanigan	Karen Longmate
Secretary	Kathryn Thurgood	Joanna Kelly	Melanie Lewis
Worcester gp rep	Tessa Jay	Frances Evans	Pamela Checketts
Gloucester gp rep	Bob Howe	Rob Jackson	Derek Taylor
Making music rep	Heather Servini	Frances Betts	Joanna Kelly
Conductor	Linda Parsons	Veronika Koller	Ken Haines
Treasurer			
Marketing gp rep	Freya Ashmore	Joanna Kelly	Kathryn Thurgood
Orchestra liaison	Karen Longmate	Barry Hall	Gaye Boggon
General member	Lyn Rimell	Melanie Lewis	Lois Bunn
General member	Derek Taylor	Dave Everett	Tim Hodgetts
Honorary auditor	Matthew Bunn	Kathryn Thurgood	Catherine Power

Agreed Nem. Con

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

There being no more business, the meeting was closed at 8.0pm and was followed by a joint rehearsal.