

PHILOMUSICA OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE
Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021
held at the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Hall, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
on Friday 15th October 2021

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were received from John Mitchinson (President) and 28 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 Jill Field, seconded by Janet Emmerson. Agreed Nem. Con

3. MATTERS ARISING: there were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

John referred to his 2020 AGM report where plans were outlined for Philo that simply could not happen due to Covid. We gave a solitary performance of *Messiah* on 14 March 2020 and that was it as far as concerts went until we sang again in public on 19 September 2021. During those months we were kept going by Linda, to whom we are very grateful, who ran Zoom rehearsals for us which kept those who took part in touch with singing and with each other. Since the early summer of 2021 we have been able to hold in-person rehearsals.

Fortunately, our membership remains largely intact. A few members have decided that they feel unable to return due to the Covid threat, one or two members have retired for reasons completely unconnected to Covid and a small number of members are delaying their return at least until after Christmas. However, we went into the Covid shutdown with 110 members and currently we have 98 including five people who have joined us since the summer. This is itself is a cause for celebration.

It is the committee's firm intention to stick as closely as possible to the musical plans agreed just before Covid struck, though, inevitably, the timing of when we will perform the works in question may have to be subject to some flexibility. As can be seen from the accounts, finances remain in good shape and it is hoped that the committee's proposal for a combined subscription covering this year and last will be regarded as fair when it is put to the meeting tonight.

John thanked the committee for approaching the unprecedented circumstances of the last 18 months in a sensible, practical fashion. Three of the committee have not put themselves forward for re-election. Freya Crunden, who has done a great job on Philo's marketing, has understandably decided to stand down but has offered to take on the key role of designing our posters and programmes. Prior to the 2020 AGM both Tessa Jay and Bob Howe had indicated that they would wish to stand down as Group Reps at the 2021 AGM. At that stage they expected to be able to stand down in around March 2021. Generously, they both willingly agreed to carry on until this postponed AGM. Both have done an excellent job for their respective Groups. In addition, Bob did invaluable work in organising the front of house operations for our concerts. John thanked all three of the departing committee members for their contribution. In addition, Bob made the decision many months ago that he wanted to stop singing so he is now leaving the choir: Bob, we shall miss you.

John finished by saying that we have come through a very testing 18 months but, in his assessment, Philo is in good heart adding that, as we look forward, the phrase 'onwards and upwards' is entirely appropriate.

Full text with the Master Minutes

5. 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 which also includes an explanation of the figures. The figures are inflated because a good number of members paid their 2020 subs before we were obliged to shut down operations, since when, of course, expenditure has been minimal.

Full text and accounts with the Master Minutes.

SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS: Proposed by Terry Heighway, seconded by Phil Joseph: Agreed Nem. Con.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021. The committee propose a subscription to cover the two years 2020 and 2021 of £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

One abstention

7. CONDUCTOR'S REPORT: Read by Kathryn Jeffree in Linda's absence due to illness

Linda's report began by expressing what a frustrating year it has been for all who love singing and what a delight it was to be back together. Despite our last concert before lockdown being Handel's Messiah on March 14th, with the help of various clever people, Linda was able to set up Zoom rehearsals which were useful, but frustrating for her, as she could see everyone but couldn't hear a note! Linda expressed admiration for those who stuck with it for weeks and hoped that the joy of seeing friends made up for the disadvantages of such a rehearsal. Outdoor rehearsals were resumed in July and although it felt strange, it eased us back into singing together.

Linda thanked everyone who sang at David's celebration concert and said that it was whole-hearted and sounded lovely. She said that David would have been grateful and proud of us all. She also thanked everyone for the generous gifts of food for the party. Linda gave a special thank you to John for his excellent talk about David and for being such a good friend to him.

Linda's report ended with her saying that we are busy preparing two works for a full-scale concert: the Mozart Requiem and the Beethoven Mass in C, challenging work for everyone, especially our accompanist, Josh, as there are so many notes to the square inch to get his head and fingers round! Linda thanked him for all he does and also James who provides very able emergency cover!

At the end of the report Kathryn added a word of personal thanks from her and Tim to all Philo members for their kindness to Linda during a very difficult year.

Full text with Master Minutes

8. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE HONORARY AUDITOR

Nominations for the Philo Committee 2021/22

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	John Quinn	Gaye Boggon	Tessa Jay
Vice chair	Lorraine Dodd	Carole Anderson	Janet White
Secretary	Kathryn Thurgood	Joanna Kelly	Catherine Mangan
Worcester gp rep	Mel Weston	Joanna Kelly	Tessa Jay
Worcester gp rep	Janet Emmerson	Heather Servini	Ann Norris
Gloucester gp rep	Carole Anderson	Janet Lanigan	Linda Hillier
Making music rep	Lorraine Dodd	John Quinn	Kathryn Thurgood
Conductor	Linda Parsons	Gaye Boggon	Tessa Jay
Treasurer	Terry Heighway	Tim Jeffree	Rob Jackson
Marketing gp rep			
Orchestra liaison	Karen Longmate	Derek Taylor	Paul Murray
General member	Lyn Rimell	Catherine Mangan	Sam Thomas
General member	Derek Taylor	Lorraine Dodd	Karen Longmate
Honorary auditor	Matthew Bunn	Kathryn Thurgood	Lois Bunn

Agreed Nem. Con

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Lois Bunn had asked if rehearsals could be shortened to an hour and a half. John explained that Linda was the only person who could comment on this proposal authoritatively. As Linda was unable to attend the AGM, John suggested that the meeting agree to remit this to the committee for discussion and report back. This was unanimously approved.

John Quinn proposed making Linda Parsons and Lyn Rimell Honorary Life Members of Philo for the following reasons:

There are several people who are long serving members of Philo. Two of them have both been members for an amazing 46 years. Lyn Rimell joined in February 1975 and that same year (the month is uncertain) Linda joined.

Since then, both have made a fantastic contribution. Linda, of course, has been our conductor for many years. She became one of three joint conductors after the sudden death of Jim Cowley in 1998 and she has been our sole conductor since 2001. Before that, she sang both in the chorus and many times as a soloist. Lyn has been one of our leading sopranos for as long as John can remember, both as a soloist and, in the chorus, as a key member of the Worcester Group. She has served on the committee for many years, always bringing great energy and enthusiasm to whatever she does for Philo.

The Philo constitution states that the committee “may appoint as Honorary Life Members, any member who is considered to have given exceptional service to the society”. Even though the committee is allowed to appoint, we always prefer to ask the membership to approve such appointments in a General Meeting. To date, we’ve only ever appointed four Honorary Life Members: the late Diana Walkley, Iris Trask, Sue Bingham and Simon Bertram.

The outgoing committee has conferred without the knowledge of Linda and Lyn and we believe that their contributions to Philo, for which we’re hugely grateful, amply justify the award to both of them of Honorary Life Membership. It gave John great pleasure to propose, on behalf of the outgoing committee, that the meeting should approve these recommendations. Proposed by John Quinn and seconded by Phil Joseph. Agreed nem con

Robin Humphries proposed that the meeting should also recognise the immense contribution to Philo by David Parsons. Unanimously agreed.

The meeting was closed at 7.57 and was followed by a joint rehearsal