



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE LEEDS PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY (CIO) Charity Number: 1226999
Held on Thursday 23rd May 2019 at 18:00
St George's Church, Leeds**

Present: At least 44 members including the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Concert Manager, Honorary Marketing Manager, Hon Membership Secretary, Trustees without Portfolio, Rosemary O'Dea, Christine Starmer and Roger Shirley.

In the absence of a duly elected Chairman, the Honorary Secretary, Philip Ratcliffe chaired this Annual General Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Andrew Straton (Honorary Treasurer), Dr Simon Lindley (Honorary Music Programme Manager), Lynn Kibble, Tim Ratcliffe, Liz Franks and Linda Rosen.

2. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY

There was no address from the President; she sent her best wishes to the Society.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 24TH MAY 2018

There were no matters arising.

Motion to accept the minutes.

Proposer David Jackson

Secunder Roger Shirley

Agreed by Members at the meeting

4. ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

a. Report and Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2016/17

Written copies of the accounts were available for the membership. The Treasurer reported that the overall funds balance at the end of the year 2017-2018 was £70,191. The general fund loss for the year was £4,101 and is the smallest annual loss for many years.

The annual subscription is to rise to £210 and reflects the 'real costs' in running the Society. It can be paid by instalments. A payment of £21 per month for ten months allows members to attend over thirty rehearsals with professional musicians and the chance to sing in concerts with professional, soloists, conductors and large orchestras.

David Hope pointed out the advantage of working with the Airedale Symphony Orchestra when a recent joint concert had made a profit.

Resolution to adopt the Annual Report and Accounts

Proposer Roger Shirley
Seconder Rowena Herbert

Agreed by Members at the meeting.

b. REVIEW OF THE YEAR

i Review by the Hon. Secretary, Philip Ratcliffe

A written copy of the report was available for the membership.

Highlights of the 2018-2019 season; the biennial Carol Writing Competition attracted 110 submissions and the winner, Chris Artley from New Zealand, was the winner. His composition was performed at the LMCC in December.

The performance of Hymnus Paradisi, while challenging, was amazing and achieved national acclaim in the Daily Telegraph.

The singing numbers had increased from 113 in 2018 to 128 in 2019

The finances of the Society continue to be worrying, just over £5,000 had been raised for special events but nothing raised towards general running costs or sponsorship of events.

Self-help by Society members must have a much greater focus and events outside the LICS programme must be cost neutral. The number of vacancies on the Board of Trustees creates extra work for existing the Trustees and there is a move to perhaps change the rules so that non trustees can become officers.

ii Review by the Chorus Master

There are many positives, great singing and the choir is a friendly bunch.

David Hill has privately and publicly complimented the quality of sound and responsiveness however there is a need for more sopranos.

More links with colleges and universities needed and perhaps a choral scholarship scheme could be initiated.

Next year the CM intends to include more skills-based exercises in warm-ups.

Auditions for new members: It would be preferable to have one or two dedicated audition days per project before rehearsals on Thursday, this year's schedule was not ideal.

ASO Concert November 2018, this is a great link and the CM looks forward to Porgy and Bess, the chorus members were the stars of the show of Messiah with the Black Dyke Band. Good performances also at Christmas: LMCC, Prison and the Shopping Centre.

Dvorak Stabat Mater: felt the choir was stagnant for too much of the rehearsal process. Perhaps fewer and more intense rehearsals were needed.

Messiah in Hull with RPO: delighted to receive such positive feedback from the conductor and many choir members.

Gerontius: CM felt that sometimes attentiveness in rehearsals could have been better

Auditions of choir members

Have run very smoothly, the format worked, and it was great to get a feel for the general vocal health of the choir, and as such an opportunity to offer very brief but hopefully meaningful tips for individuals to work on. Huge personal thanks from the Chorus Master to Alan and Jill.

5. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE AGM

There were no matters raised by members.

6. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS – BROADHEAD PEEL RHODES LTD.

Motion to accept this appointment

Proposer Andrew Straton
Secunder Roger Shirley

Agreed by Members at the meeting.

7. APPOINTMENT / ELECTION OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

There being no other nominations, the following Charity Trustees were elected en-bloc.

Honorary Chairman	Vacant
Honorary Secretary	Philip Ratcliffe
Honorary Treasurer	Andrew Straton
Honorary Membership Secretary	Jill Foalks
Honorary Music Programme Manager	Dr Simon Lindley
Honorary Concert Manager	David Lunn
Honorary Marketing Manager	Penny Dean
Honorary Income Generation Manager	Vacant
Honorary Tour Manager	Vacant
Honorary Trustee without Portfolio	Rosemary O’Dea
Honorary Trustee without Portfolio	Christine Starmer
Honorary Trustee without Portfolio	Roger Shirley

This was unanimously accepted by members present at the meeting

Benita Powrie gave a vote of thanks to the Trustees for all their hard work in running the Society which was endorsed by Members at the meeting.

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