

REVIEW OF THE SEASON 2018/9 and REPORT FOR 2019/20

Presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Society

Thursday 21st May 2020

This Report sets out the Trustees Review of the Season 2018/19 for which the Financial Accounts are presented at the Annual General Meeting in May 2020 and provides an overview of the work undertaken by Trustees during the year May 2019 to May 2020.

REVIEW OF SEASON 2018/19

The 2018/19 Season saw the delivery of 8 concerts, including a renewed collaboration with the Airedale Symphony Orchestra in a joint promotion of music appropriate to remembering the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1.

We started with a commemoration of the ending of the First World War, with a joint concert given in collaboration with the Airedale Symphony Orchestra (ASO). This concert was given on a Sunday afternoon, and there was good attendance by the audience resulting in a small surplus which was shared between both the Phil and the ASO. The performances of Elgar's Spirit of England and the vocal arrangement of Nimrod using words of the Lux Aeterna from the requiem mass settings, together with the Hymn to the Fallen by John Williams, Verdi's Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves and Whitacre's Sleep formed the contemplative part of remembrance whilst Elgar's Cockaigne Overture, Walton's Spitfire Prelude and Fugue with the Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture which chorus and cannon provided a fine contrast.

Messiah was given in the brass band version, with the Black Dyke Band rising to the challenges. We were joined by the Philharmonic Chorus of the Dortmund Music Society and the Halifax Choral

Society for this performance. It was great to be able to welcome Members of the Dortmund Phil and they really enjoyed collaborating with us. An invitation for Members to join with them for a performance of Elgar's The Kingdom during June 2020 in Dortmund was taken up by around 25 singers, although with the coronavirus pandemic this has been postponed to February 2021.

The chorus led carols for staff and prisoners at Leeds Prison in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leeds and Bishop of Ripon and Leeds. This engagement continued a link initiated by Fr Jack Parkes, a singing Member of the Chorus and Prison Chaplain.

The Annual Lord Mayor's Carols provided the usual high spirited welcome to the Festive Season. We are very grateful to the Leeds City Council for the invitation to participate in these concerts, which get the Phil's name and sound in front of a different audience in the packed Leeds Town Hall.

Early in 2019, the Society joined in the efforts of Yorkshire Voices (a new Choral Musical Festival body) aiming to bring together choirs from across the region to participate in a Festival Style performance to be given later in 2019. The Phil registered interest in the Festival and participated in early outreach event by performing on 25th January 2019 in Temple Newsome House, Leeds. Ultimately the Phil did not take part in the Festival concert which was given in September 2019.

In February 2019, a number of the men from the Chorus joined with the Halle Choir and London Philharmonic Choir to take part in a performance

of Berlioz, Damnation of Faust in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester under the baton of Sir Mark Elder.

Those taking part reported that it was a huge success and “one of the best concerts” ever. It was gratifying to be invited by the Halle to take part, but the circumstances did get a little difficult, with additional rehearsals being added to the schedule at late notice which meant that not as many singers were able to participate as had originally been sought.

The Season continued with the Chorus’s first contribution in the review year to the Leeds International Concert Season, a performance of the Stabat Mater by Antonin Dvorak. The performance supported by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, was very warmly received, but it is noted that the audience numbers for the Phil’s concerts in the LICS Season, remain slightly under those attending Leeds Festival Chorus performances. More must be done to raise the profile of the Phil and encourage audience to come to the concerts.

The final concert of the Season was the annual collaboration with the Leeds Festival Chorus and St Peter’s Singers. The concert was under the direction of Simon Wight, the Festival’s conductor and artistic advisor, and was accompanied by the Halle. Dame Sarah Connolly sang a magnificent Angel whilst Barry Banks was the pained and penitent Soul. The performance with over 250 singers on the platform raised the roof of Leeds Town Hall at the appropriate moments but also had periods of exquisite delicacy and charm.

OUR SINGING MEMBERSHIP at End of 2018/19 Season

| Voice | 2015/6 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Sop | 43 | 47 | 32 | 39 |
| Alto | 45 | 47 | 48 | 49 |
| Tenor | 17 | 17 | 15 | 17 |
| Bass | 20 | 20 | 20 | 23 |
| TOTAL | 125 | 131 | 113 | 128 |

It is encouraging that the number of singers within the Chorus is rising. However, it is very noticeable that there is a need for additional Sopranos to

make for a more balanced sound. Our challenge therefore remains to generate the growth in membership and through successful recruitment campaigns attract new singing membership. The current Coronavirus lock-down makes this even more difficult at present.

Every year there is a turnover of Members. Sadly losing one Member, but also 8 others who left for various reasons. We celebrated the association with the Society of nearly 50 years one of our long serving tenors, who subsequently resigned from the chorus. Rudi Leavor was awarded the first Honorary Lifetime Patron of the Society and remains a Member of the Society through the Friends of the Phil.

SINGING STRENGTH AT CONCERTS DURING 2018/19

The Society has provided the chorus for the following concerts with the numbers stated for each.

ELGAR: SPIRIT OF ENGLAND Leeds Town Hall, 21st October 2018

| Sop | Alto | Tenor | Bass | TOT |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 12/12 = 24 | 19/18 = 37 | 8/6 = 14 | 9/8 = 17 | 92 |

HANDEL : MESSIAH Saturday 8th December 2018 Leeds Town Hall

| | Sop | Alto | Tenor | Bass | TOT |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| LPS | 10/15 = 25 | 22/18 = 40 | 15 | 17 | 97 |
| HCS | 12 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 40 |
| DPC | 10 | 15 | 9 | 7 | 39 |
| TOT | 47 | 66 | 32 | 33 | 176 |

LPS = Leeds Philharmonic Chorus

HCS = Halifax Choral Society

DPC = Dortmund Philharmonic Chorus

LORD MAYOR’S CAROLS Thursday 15th December 2018

| Sop | Alto | Tenor | Bass | TOT |
|-----|------|-------|------|-----------|
| 23 | 30 | 24 | | 77 |

BERLIOZ: The Damnation of Faust

February 10th 2019

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

| Tenor | Bass | TOT |
|-------|------|-----|
| 8 | | 8 |

DVORAK : Stabat Mater

Leeds Town Hall

| Sop | Alto | Tenor | Bass | TOT |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 15/17 + 2 = 34 | 23/17= 40 | 8/7= 15 | 19/11= 30 | 117+2 = 119 |
| For this concert we were joined by 20 additional voices from St Peter's Singers giving 139 on the platform | | | | |

ELGAR: The Dream of Gerontius

Leeds Town Hall 12 May 2018

| Sop | Alto | Tenor | Bass | TOT |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 14/16 = 30 | 22/15 + 1 = 38 | 9/7 = 16 | 9/9 = 18 | 102 |
| For this performance we joined with the Members of the Leeds Festival Chorus and St Peter's Singers | | | | |

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR 2019/20

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

FINANCES

The Trustees have thought long and hard over the financial future of the Society. As part of our guardianship we are working on a strategy to deliver the Business Plan but some of the potential changes may require alterations to the Constitution, these will be brought to Members for their consideration at the appropriate time.

During this current year the Trustees have continued with the Strategy Working Group, chaired by Roger Shirley, to which a number of Society Members have also contributed. This is

helping to address some of the challenges that lie ahead and also become a more inclusive/self-run organisation.

Whilst we have received about £5,000 towards special projects, unfortunately nothing has been raised towards general running costs or sponsorship of concerts.

This is extremely disappointing and points to the need to address fund raising in a different way, as well as addressing the costs and outlay that the Society has. Income Generation remains a particular challenge and whilst the attempt to use an external fund raiser was not successful, it has reinforced the need for self-help to generate the funds required.

Our Subscriptions are part of the financial income for the Society and should where possible cover the costs associated with the Rehearsals. In the current crisis, we thank Members who have continued to pay their Subscriptions.

LEEDS PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY – SECOND CHRISTMAS CAROL WRITING COMPETITION

The Society launched the Second Christmas Carol Writing Competition in June 2019, with submissions anticipated by the end of October 2019. Entries were received from the UK, Germany, Portugal, Spain, New Zealand, the United States and several other countries. Judging was in the hands of Joseph Judge, Simon Lindley, David Hill and Tim Ruffer from the Royal School of Church Music. Whilst the number of entries was down on the previous competition (78 against 110), the standard of writing was high, and the competition more than covered its costs. Following the judging, which was anonymous, the winner who emerged was Christopher Artley, from Auckland, New Zealand. This was a great surprise to the judges as Christopher had also won the first competition in 2017. Christopher won a cash prize from the Society and the carol was published, as part of the prize, by the RSCM. Christopher set the words of the poem "Cradle Song" by William Blake, as a beautiful lullaby which was greatly enjoyed by the Chorus well received at the

audiences at the Lord Mayor's Carol Concerts in December 2019.

Trustees intend to run the Christmas Carol Writing Competition every second year, with the next one being due in 2021.

LEEDS SCHOOLS SINGING COMPETITION

The Society (led by Roger Shirley and Simon Lindley) has been in discussion with Officers at Leeds City Council over the holding of a Schools Singing Competition. This competition would run on alternate years to the Christmas Carol Competition. Funding for the competition was raised through the external Fund Raiser, from Charitable Trusts which were mainly given to support outreach and activities with young people. The first competition was to be launched in the Summer Term of 2020, with the competition proper running during Autumn Term. The Winning School would be presented with a celebratory Cup and they would also participate in the Lord Mayor's Carol Concerts.

Given the current circumstances this competition has been put on hold and will be kept under review, following announcements regarding the re-opening of schools.

CORONAVIRUS

The arrival of the coronavirus with the Covid-19 disease has led to rehearsals not taking place. This has saved both the church hire and professional fees. However, the Trustees decided to retain the services of both Alan Horsey and Joe Judge through the payment of part of their weekly fees.

Our last concert before the lock-down was given on 29th February 2020, and we held two rehearsals for the concert in May, before having to suspend all rehearsing and performance activities following the Government advice.

The Leeds International Concert Season, cancelled the concert to be given on Saturday 16th May just before Easter, and the performance at Bolton Abbey on 27th June is unlikely to be given as there is no time for rehearsals. Formal cancellation has not at the time of writing been made.

The lifting of the lock-down will determine how and when rehearsals can resume, and whilst

planning is in hand for concerts to be given during autumn 2020, there is no guarantee that these will actually take place. It may be that rehearsals will develop on-line until such time as we can come together to sing.

Joe Judge has produced valuable rehearsal material on-line for Members focussing upon the Beethoven Mass in C, which was due to have been performed on May 16th 2020. These resources have been greatly appreciated by members, and the Society is very grateful to him for producing these. Trustees will continue to have regard to the advice of the Government and will always act in the best interest of Members.

This year the Trustees introduced a general weekly update to Members through the use of Mail-Chimp which provides all the information that would normally have been given during announcements at rehearsals. This has allowed breaks within rehearsals to become a forum for socialising and has been warmly welcomed by Members.

One major challenge during the lock-down is to ensure that Members remain connected with the Society and want to return to singing after the lock-down is lifted. As a result, a weekly Keeping in Touch contact is also sent to all Members. The Membership Manager has been diligent in providing these updates, with contributions from others within the chorus.

Ensuring that we can resume as a singing body after the lock-down restrictions are lifted and draw members back as well as attracting new Members will be a challenging issue for the new Committee to consider moving forward.

TRUSTEES MEETINGS 2019/20

During 2018/19, 6 Trustee Meetings were held. For these, apologies were received from a number of Trustees at various times. Attendance of individual Trustees is shown below:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----|
| Chair | (None) | 0/0 |
| Secretary | Philip Ratcliff | 6/6 |
| Treasurer | Andrew Straton | 4/6 |

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----|
| Membership Manager | Jill Foalks | 6/6 |
| Marketing Manager | Penny Dean | 5/6 |
| Concert Manager | David Lunn | 6/6 |
| Music Programme Manager | Simon Lindley | 2/6 |
| Income Generation Manager | (None) | 0/0 |
| Tour Manager | (None) | 0/0 |
| | | |
| Trustees Without Portfolio | Christine Starmer | 5/6 |
| | Rosemary O’Dea | 5/6 |
| | Roger Shirley | 6/6 |
| | | |
| Leeds City Council Representative | Cllr Jane Dowson | 2/6 |

For the year 2019/20 Trustees again decided to fix the day and dates for meetings. Whilst it is recognised that not all Trustees can make every meeting, this arrangement has been more successful than in previous years, with most Trustees at least attending 4 or more meetings. From the above it is clear that there is no Chair in place and that we do not have an Income Generation Manager nor a Tour Manager.

Attendance by a number of Society members at the Leeds Chamber of Commerce Breakfast in autumn 2019 gave the opportunity to make connections with the business community in Leeds. This has borne fruit with an interest being expressed in the Chairmanship of the Society, which is hoped will allow the governance of the Society to move forward.

It is also very satisfying that Cllr Jane Dowson has been able to take up her appointment as Leeds City Representative on the Phil’s Trustees Board, for the second year running. We are grateful to Cllr Dowson for her input to meeting discussions.

This Season has ended with the international Pandemic of Covid-19, which has affected so much of the life of the nation and the community of the Leeds Phil.

The Trustees have been cognisant of the Charity Commission advice regarding activities during the pandemic. In particular noting the requirements to submit annual financial reports and the statement of activities to meet the Commission’s deadline, which for the Society is 1st June 2020, Trustees resolved to undertake meetings using Skype, and also resolved that Zoom Conferencing will be employed for the Annual General Meeting 2020. These arrangements also gave the Chorus Master the opportunity to attend meetings remotely as his other arrangements were also on hold. It is hoped that these arrangements demonstrate the ongoing good governance of the Society during these difficult times.

THANKS

The Society is deeply appreciative of the work that our professionals undertaken the Society’s behalf. David Hill MBE, our Musical Director, Joseph Judge our talented Chorus Master and Alan Horsey our distinguished accompanist.

We are grateful to Dame Ingrid Roscoe, our President and are very grateful for the work and time that former and existing Charity Trustees put in on behalf of the Society.

All Trustees work hard on their respective portfolios and the Society records thanks for their work. In particular thanks are given to Christine Starmer (Trustee without Portfolio), who has decided to step down from the Board. She contributed to the work of the Strategy Group and her input to Committee Meetings was always on-point and very useful for the Board.

We are also most grateful to the Chorus Stewards (Cindy Maude, Madeleine Andrews, Sylvia Sharpe, Lynda Kitching, Gerard Aylward and David Hope), the Librarians (David Lunn and Karin Houkes), Wardrobe Mistress (Margaret Irving), Subscriptions Secretaries (Harriet Timmis and Julia Baxter), Secretary to the Friends (Rosemary O’Dea), Raffle Seller (Irene Truman); 100 Club Secretary (Julia Baxter); Tuck Shop (Richard Staveley, Geoff Queen and Peter Harrison), Book Stall (Lynne Fox), Ticket Secretary and AGM Minutes Taker (Val

Middleton) for the work they have given on behalf of the Society.

We marked the untimely death of our Wardrobe Mistress (Margaret Irving) during the current Season (2019/20) and performed the Barber "Agnus Dei" in her memory at our concert on 29th February 2020. The Society is saddened by her death and very grateful for her work, friendship and kindness to all in the Chorus. She will be sorely missed.

We are grateful to Julia Wilkin for volunteering to take on the role of Wardrobe Mistress for the remainder of the current season.

Finally thanks must be given to our Members, both singing and non-singing for their on-going support, patience and commitment to the Society. The current Covid-19 crisis continues to be a testing time for all of us. But hopefully at some point we will be able to reconvene and start rehearsing and delivering concerts, which is at the heart of the Objects that we have as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

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CONCERTS GIVEN DURING 2018/19 SEASON**SUNDAY 21st October 2018: TOWN HALL, LEEDS****EDWARD ELGAR: SPIRIT OF ENGLAND****Cockaigne Overture****Lux Aeterna** (Nimrod);**WILLIAM WALTON : Spitfire Prelude and Fugue;****JOHN WILLIAMS: Hymn to the Fallen** (from Saving Private Ryan);**ERIC WHITACRE: Sleep** (*)**GIUSEPPE VERDI : Va Pensiero (Nabucco)****PYOTR ILLYCH TCHAIKOVSKY: 1812 Overture**

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus

Airedale Symphony Orchestra

John Anderson and Joseph Judge (*) Conducting

Sarah Power, Soprano

Alan Horsey (Organ)

FRIDAY 7th December Trinity Centre, Leeds**Carol Singing**

Presented with additional singers from Dortmund Philharmonic Chorus.

SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER 2018 LEEDS TOWN HALL**GEORG FRIDERIC HANDEL: MESSIAH**

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus

Philhamonischer Chor des Dortmunder Musikvereins

Halifax Choral Society

David Hill MBE Conducting

Black Dyke Band

Alan Horsey (Organ)

Fflur Wyn, Soprano

Caitlin Hulcup, Mezz- Soparano,

Joshua Ellicott, Tenor;

Ben McAteer, Baritone

Saturday 15th DECEMBER 2018**CAROLS IN LEEDS PRISON****Om the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leeds and Bishop of Ripon and Leeds**

Joseph Judge Conducting

Alan Horsey (Organ)

THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER 2018 TOWN HALL, LEEDS**LORD MAYOR'S CAROLS (Two Performances)**

Joseph Judge and Simon Lindley Conducting;

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus

Rothwell Temperance Band

CONCERTS GIVEN DURING 2018/19 SEASON

Darius Battiwalla (Organ)

Saturday 25th January 2019

Temple Newsam House, Leeds

Voices Yorkshire event

Joseph Judge conducting

Alan Horsey (Piano)

Saturday 10th February 2019

HECTOR BERLIOZ: THE DAMNATION OF FAUST

Halle

Sir Mark Elder conducting

Halle Choir

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus, (men's voices only)

London Philharmonic Choir (men's Voices only)

Rachael Kelly, Mezzo Soprano;

David Butt Philip, Tenor;

Laurent Nauri, Baritone;

David Soar, Bass

SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2019: TOWN HALL, LEEDS

ANTONIN DVORAK: STABAT MATER

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus

Members of St Peter's Singers

David Hill MBE conducting

Elizabeth Atherton, Soprano

Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Mezzo Soprano;

Sam Furness, Tenor;

Wojciek Gierlach, Bass

SATURDAY 1st June 2019, LEEDS TOWN HALL

EDWARD ELGAR: THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

The Halle

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus

Leeds Festival Chorus

St Peter's Singers

Simon Wright conducting

Dame Sarah Connolly, Mezzo Soprano

Barry Banks, Tenor

David Soar, Baritone

FUTURE PROGRAMME: 2020-21

Our concert programme is at the heart of what we do in terms of our charitable objects. For the coming season our programme is:

SINGING DAY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 10th 2020
Likely to focus upon Beethoven Mass in C

SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2020
St Edmund's Church, Roundhay
Programme in preparation, but likely to include
RUSSEL PASCOE: SECULAR REQUIEM

THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER 2019
LORD MAYORS CAROLS, Leeds Town Hall

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER 2020
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CELEBRATING JOHN RUTTER'S 75th BIRTHDAY
Leeds Town Hall
Possibly to include the GLORIA and various Christmas Carols
John Rutter Conducting
Fine Arts Brass
David Hill MBE (Organ)

SATURDAY 20th February 2021
Ev Stadtkirche St Reinoldi, Dortmund, Germany
EDWARD ELGAR: THE KINGDOM
Members of Leeds Philharmonic Chorus
Dortmund Philharmonic Chorus
Granville Walker Conducting

SATURDAY 13th MARCH 201
Leeds Town Hall
150th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
IGOR STRAVINSKY: SYMPHONY OF PSALMS
FRANCES POULENC: GLORIA
PHILIP WILBY: ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION
David Hill MBE, Conducting
The Halle

SATURDAY 15th JUNE 2021
Leeds Town Hall

EDWARD ELGAR: GREAT IS THE LORD
EDWARD ELGAR : ENIGMA VARIATIONS
WILLIAM WALTON: BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST
Orchestra of Opera North
Simon Wright Conductor
With Leeds Festival Chorus & St Peter's Singers