

Cambridge Philharmonic Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.30 on Tuesday 26th September 2006 in the Farnsworth Hall, Chesterton Community College, Gilbert road, Cambridge

1. Election of Chairman of the AGM

Sir David Willcocks, the President of the Society, was present at the meeting but it was agreed that Lindy Beveridge (Chairman) should chair the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sir Robin Orr, Tim Brown, Graeme Jenkins, Raymond Leppard, Hugh Macdonald, Russell Keable, Matthew Rowe, Martin West and 16 members of the Society.

3. Minutes of the 2005 AGM

These were adopted.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Secretary's Report

The secretary, Jan Moore, welcomed our Honorary Patron, His Worship the Mayor and gave a special welcome to our President Sir David Willcocks.

She thanked the committee and said goodbye to Airlie McCoy and Alison Deary. There was special thanks to: Nick Tippler who had been responsible for the programme plus booking percussion and driving it to venues; Sue Challans for taking over the Chorus Registrar's post; Chris Strachan the chorus librarian and Richard Birkett for the website; Lindy Beveridge for keeping us on course and coming from France; the tea and coffee teams – Pauline Curtis and Barbara Parker and Martin Scutt and the 'A team' for setting up venues.

The chorus said goodbye to accompanist Oliver Brett from King's at the end of last season and welcomed Max Pappenheim from Trinity.

The chorus had benefited from the patient work of Chris Whitton and the orchestra appreciated Steve Bingham tirelessly giving of his time and immense skill. Jan thanked Tim Redmond who had stepped into his post early and worked with us all through the season

Jan called 2005-6 the season of many conductors and soloists. She explained that Martin West planned the season before we knew that he was not going to be around to conduct it. The idea was that he would aim to be back for Ely in the Summer. The Society had appointed Tim Redmond in June 2005 and so invited him to start early and fit us into his schedule. Tim opened the season with the Brahms's Bonanza. Gerry Cornelius took over with Stravinsky, Vaughan Williams and Dvorak and when Tim Brown went off to the USA, Gerry took responsibility for the Verdi Requiem concert. A big thanks to him for his hard work booking soloists and keeping in touch from various parts of Europe. This was the concert where the tenor soloist left to sing at a rugby match.

At Christmas Chris Whitton found himself conducting The Cambridge Brass Band; their conductor Craig Patterson conducted the chorus. Tim returned to conduct the next one and local actors joined the orchestra on stage.

April 1st saw Tim in EURC for Pergolesi, Stravinsky: and fun with which Schubert: Mass? Chris took over the baton to bring a festival concert to OLEM in May with a premier of Colin Mawby's Te Deum; a missing portable organ and brass players coping with transposing in all directions to play with the OLEM organ. The chorus rose to the occasion.

Martin came back for the Korngold Violin Concerto with the talented Matthew Trussler. This proved to be his final concert.

The orchestra worked with David Temple and the Herts chorus with yet another performance of *Toward the Unknown Region*. The strings recorded with Ryan Teague. We finished the season with 3 conductors simultaneously: Janet Macleod with children from Sawston and the double act of Tim and Gerry coping with 2 orchestras and a huge traffic problem. The War Requiem was a wonderful and challenging end to the season. We have been fortunate to enjoy listening to wonderful soloists.

Jan put in a plea for members of the Society to get more involved by volunteering for the following: the concert set up team, programme editor and contributors, ticket sales and poster distributors.

Jan thanked everyone for a great season and looked forward to an exciting season ahead- Prague, Festival concerts, education project, Howard Blake and the featured composer Paul Patterson.

6. Conductor's Report

Tim Redmond addressed the meeting and highlighted some of the key parts of the 2005-6 season that he had conducted. He informed the meeting that the Ryan Teague recording *Coins and Crosses* released in April 2005, was featuring in specialist magazines to critical acclaim. He was pleased with the *War Requiem* performance in Ely although he felt that we were underpowered in the orchestra having to split the forces to provide a chamber orchestra.

Tim outlined the forthcoming concerts, which he had planned. He explained about the thematic link between Bartok and Holst for the Festival concert and mentioned the exciting prospect of the projected planet images. He was aware that the Autumn term was busy for the Society due to external demands and this is why *Henry V* will be repeated in Prague as rehearsal time is tight. He told the meeting about the wonderful opportunity we have in performing in the Rudolfinum and urged those who were uncertain to sign up for a place on the trip.

David Timson has performed with Tim on several occasions and he will be an important part of the children's concert narrating Paul Patterson's *Little Red Riding Hood*. He feels that we should do well selling the children's concerts. This is the first part of our collaboration with Paul Patterson, the Society's composer-in focus. Tim expressed his enthusiasm for supporting the work of living composers and Paul is intending to come to our concerts this season. Tim looked forward to working with Cordelia Williams, the BBC Young Musician Finalist, in May. The season ends with Gerontius and hopes that we can fill Ely Cathedral.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Society had made a loss of just over £2,800, a disappointing result after the previous two seasons. Apart from the Verdi Requiem and Britten War Requiem concerts, concerts had not met their budgeted ticket income; if the ticket sales budget had been met, the Society would have broken even. The poor ticket sales were thought to be due to a combination of factors, including unfortunate clashes with other concerts in Cambridge and problems with distribution of publicity material.

Concert costs were £3500 above budget, with percussion hire and transport, music hire and publicity costs all contributing to this. In addition, box office costs were £1400 higher than budgeted due to increased costs at the Arts Theatre box office, and two conductors were required for the War Requiem.

The extra concert costs were offset by a £700 surplus in subscriptions, additional bank interest and fundraising efforts by individuals in the Society. Admin costs were also kept low.

The Brahms Bonanza fundraising event brought in only £1180, instead of the budgeted £4000. This shortfall was made up by two unbudgeted events: a recording by some of the orchestra's string players for Ryan Teague, and a contract concert for the Hertfordshire Chorus.

A new sponsor for the season brochure has been signed up – Nujira will replace TTPCom in this role, for 2006-7. An additional corporate patron, Abcam, had also just been found. Members were asked to consider whether they could suggest other companies to support the Society.

The Society's reserve now stood at £44,907, compared with a planned expenditure of around £51,000 in the coming season.

This ended the formal report; it was followed by a discussion on marketing and gaining new audience members for concerts.

8. Appointment of Chairman of the Society and Officers and Election of Committee

Lindy Beveridge has agreed to stand for another season as Chairman and this was unanimously accepted. The vacancy of Chorus Representative was filled by Iain Percival and of Orchestral Secretary by Emma Lawrence, both were unopposed. The Concerts Manager post remains unfilled. The remainder of the committee were elected unopposed.

9. Member's Annual Subscription 2006-7 and election of auditors.

The Treasurer proposed that the subscription should increase by £5 from £85 to £90. This was seconded by Jan Moore and agreed by the meeting. The Treasurer proposed that Whitmarsh Sterland should be the auditors and this was seconded by Jan Moore and agreed by the meeting.

AOB

Sir David Willcocks told the meeting about how special the Society is to him as he met his future wife at a Philharmonic Chorus rehearsal when he was conducting it.

The meeting finished with wine and nibbles.