

MINUTES

The Berlioz Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Berlioz Society,
held on Monday 20 October 2008, at 7:30pm in the Garden Room, UCL**

Present:

Alastair Aberdare	Brian Chenley	Celia Clarke
Christopher Follett	Brian Godfrey	Elizabeth Hughes
Harold Hughes (Chair)	Simon Jones	Robert Keer
Martin Price	Estelle Russell	Sylvia Saunders

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

David Cairns Shelagh Marston

Harold Hughes thanked members for turning up.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM, HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2007, AND THE EGM HELD ON 18 MAY 2008

2.1 The minutes of the previous AGM and the EGM were read by the meeting.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Alastair Aberdare had been missed from the list of those attending.

3.2 The use of PayPal as a method of online payment is a good idea, but the website would need to be compatible and at present it is not. It remains a good idea, however.

3.3 The minutes were accepted as a record of the meetings.

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

4.1 Alastair Aberdare circulated the final accounts for 2007 and for 2008 to date.

4.2 In 2007, the Society had received £1,600 in subscriptions and £600 in donations. This could be a response to the increased quality of the Bulletins.

4.3 Three Bulletins had been issued in 2007, one of which was paid for in 2008. Print runs cost £600 each, but this figure decreased to £400 with improved organisation and economies.

- 4.4 The Members' Weekend at the end of 2007 had attracted more than 50 people and made a profit. The crucial figure was a net change of £345.35. The 18 May meeting in 2008 had made a very small loss.
- 4.5 As yet, money has still to come in for the Weekend. There is a deficit of about £750, but the year should end with a small surplus.
- 4.6 The Committee suggested keeping the subscription rate at £15, and the meeting agreed.

5 RECENT ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 The Berlioz Society has been registered as a Charity. Gift Aid forms are going out to all UK members.
- 5.2 Membership stands at 173. The increased subscription had prompted two members to resign, but overall there was a net gain of 9 on the 2007 figures.
- 5.3 David Cairns continues to edit the Bulletin, and with the Committee has tried to make the layout easier to read. Bryan Sherwood has helped greatly with layout and choice of illustrations. Those present were happy with the new layout. The next Bulletin will re-run Hugh Macdonald's series of papers "100 Years Ago", originally published in the 1960s.
- 5.4 Registrations for the next Members' Weekend were coming in more slowly than Harold Hughes would like, but the running order for the event was working out well. For 2009, the options for weekends were 28 and 29 November or the 5 and 6 December. The subject will be "Interpreting Berlioz's Music". This was received enthusiastically, and the Art Workers Guild was a popular venue.

David May and Brian Godfrey have been running the Society's website, and felt that it needed fresh material frequently, to maintain interest, whilst maintaining consistency. They will continue their work on it.

6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 6.1 The following were elected:
- Chairman: David Cairns
 - Treasurer: Alastair Aberdare
 - Administrator: Harold Hughes
 - Secretary: Simon Jones
 - Website manager: Brian Godfrey

Simon Holder had resigned as Media Manager. The post was not filled.

7 FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- 7.1 Sir Adam Ridley has kindly offered the Society use of his home for another Spring Meeting – this was enthusiastically accepted. Brian Chenley offered to speak on recordings, and suggested a selection of new recordings or the archive of recordings from the 1957 "Troyens".

- 7.2 Harold Hughes has arranged ticket deals for a concert on 13 May 2009 at Cadogan Hall, to hear Sir Colin Davis conducting the ECO in “Nuits d’Eté”, and will write out to members.
- 7.3 The Society needs to conduct an inventory of the Archive and decide how to deal with it. A music college might be interested in storing it, in return for access to the material.
- 7.4 Simon Jones will look into the possibility of the Society awarding a medal.
- 7.5 Harold Hughes suggested offering a Society- organised visit to La Côte Saint-André for the Berlioz Festival in 2009. This was enthusiastically received.

END OF AGM