

# MINUTES

## The Berlioz Society

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Berlioz Society,  
held on Thursday 17 September 2009, at 7:30pm in the Art Workers Guild,  
6 Queen Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 3AT

#### Present:

Alastair Aberdare	Margaret Bond	David Cairns
Rosemary Cairns	Brian Chenley	Celia Clarke
Christopher Follett	Michael Gammie	Avril Godfrey
Brian Godfrey	Elizabeth Hughes	Harold Hughes (in chair)
Simon Jones (notes)	Robert Keer	David Lass
Shelagh Marston	Martin Price	Sir Adam Ridley
Sylvia Saunders		

#### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dave May	John Ogden	Jeanne Pingree
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David Cairns formally opened the meeting and thanked the members for attending, then invited Harold Hughes to take the Chair.

#### 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM, HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2008

2.1 The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed.

#### 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Simon Jones had agreed to look into the possibility of the Society awarding a medal. He has done so and found that the cost of awarding one annually would be prohibitive. He was now looking at the possibility of awarding this on an ad hoc basis, as and when the Society considered an individual merited recognition.

#### 4 FINANCIAL REPORT

4.1 Alastair Aberdare (Treasurer) passed round his report, together with the annual accounts for 2008. These showed a surplus for the year of £538.65, resulting mainly from a significant increase in subscriptions received, although some of these were payments in advance for 2009.

- 4.2 The results for 2009 would depend heavily on subscriptions received before year-end and the financial outcome of the Weekend. Currently the accounts were showing a substantial deficit, of almost £2,600, even after receipt of the first Gift Aid repayment. This was due mainly to higher-than-normal spending on advertising and promotion and purchase of new audio equipment.
- 4.3 The Society currently has reserves of almost £3,000. Despite the possibility of a deficit in 2009, the Treasurer did not feel it appropriate to recommend increasing subscription rates at present. The meeting agreed.

## **5 MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

- 5.1 As at July 2009, the Society had 193 subscribers. Of these, 140 are based in the UK, 30 are in the Americas, 14 in Europe and 7 in the rest of the world (Post Office definitions). 16 are academic institutions, libraries or associations.
- 5.2 This was a net increase of 19 from 173 at the last AGM. 21 new members had joined, one had resigned and two had died.
- 5.3 143 membership subscriptions had been paid in. 19 are complementary. 29 have still to pay. Since July, some cheques have arrived which are not yet paid in.
- 5.4 Revenue from subscriptions and donations banked so far for 2009 comprises £2,873, \$949 and 20€.

## **6 ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- 6.1 Harold Hughes thanked Sir Adam Ridley for again offering his home for the May meeting. This was echoed by the meeting.
- 6.2 Three ticket offers had gone out to members, but one had not been taken up. Harold Hughes could vouch that they had missed a superb concert.
- 6.3 The Society's visit to La Côte-Saint-André had proved a great success. The members who went were received royally by the mayor and the curator, and were given a guided tour of the Musée. They also visited Meylan. The Society seems very well-regarded at La Côte, which is encouraging.

- 6.4 The Committee extended thanks to Dave May for the hard work he has put into developing the Society's website: not only is it very informative but it comes very high on the list of the main search engines.
- 6.5 The Members' Weekend for this year is being publicised. Tickets are now being advertised to non- members, and leaflets and posters are being circulated.

## **7 LIBRARY**

- 7.1 Brian Godfrey gave a description of the Society's library. It consists of nine volumes of the New Berlioz Edition, some miniature scores, books, CDs and some LPs. It was not worth keeping as a library as it was not significant.
- 7.2 Alastair Aberdare holds back copies of the Society's Bulletin up to number 171, including one copy of most issues from number 68 (July 1970) onwards. There is a cumulative index up to Bulletin 150, updated by Brian Godfrey, which could be put on the website.
- 7.3 The collection of tapes built up by Inge Mann is held by different members: its quality is extremely variable.
- 7.4 With the exception of the New Berlioz Edition issues, the library is of little monetary value. It will be offered for sale at the Members' Weekend.

## **8 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- 8.1 The committee was unanimously re-elected, en bloc, in a vote proposed by Sir Adam Ridley and seconded by Shelagh Marston, including members co-opted since the last AGM.
- 8.2 The following were elected:
- Chairman: David Cairns
  - Treasurer: Alastair Aberdare
  - Administrator: Harold Hughes
  - Secretary: Simon Jones
  - Media Relations Officer: Christopher Follett
  - Website manager: David May
  - Committee Member: Brian Godfrey
  - Committee Member: Martin Price

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1 David Lass suggested a members' correspondence column in the Bulletin. David Cairns, as editor, would welcome input but reserved right of alteration or refusal.

9.2 Sir Adam Ridley proposed a vote of thanks to Harold Hughes and Christopher Follett for their work in arranging the visit to La Côte-Saint-André, and this was carried unanimously.

## **END OF AGM**

The meeting closed formally, and was followed by a screening of the 1942 film “La Symphonie Fantastique”, arranged by Harold Hughes.