

# MINUTES

## The Berlioz Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Berlioz Society,  
held on Tuesday 2 October 2012, at 7:00pm in the Art Workers Guild,  
6 Queen Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 3AT

### Present:

Alastair Aberdare (Chair)	Margaret Bond	Linda Edmondson
William Edmondson	Christopher Follett	Terry Heard
Charles Harvey	Graham Ives	Simon Jones (notes)
Robert Keer	Shelagh Marston	Dave May
Dorothy May	Helen Petchey	Philip Petchey
Martin Price	Adam Ridley	Monique Roseberg

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

David Cairns	Michael Copeland	Michael Drake
Brian Godfrey	Tim Moorey	Andrew Porter
Sylvia Saunders	David Winter	Susi Woodhouse
Rosie Yacobi		

### 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM, HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2011

- 2.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the previous AGM.
- 2.2 Adam Ridley's name had been omitted from the list of those present.

### 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 The projected visits to Nice, and La Côte Saint-André (5.4) had not taken place due to lack of sufficient interest.

### 4 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 4.1 At the end of 2011 the Society had an operating surplus of £877. This included an increase in subscription income, an increase - of around £200 - in Gift Aid, and the income from the 2010 Weekend, as well as the income for the 2011 Weekend coming in before the end of the year. Both Weekends had been very successful and had returned a profit.
- 4.2 A recorded surplus on ticket offers was a correction from the 2010 figure.
- 4.3 At the end of the year, the free funds had increased to £8,900.

- 4.4 The accounts for 2011 were formally adopted by the meeting.
- 4.5 There could be a possible deficit of up to £2,000 for 2012, offsetting the surplus for 2011. This is speculative, and could be reduced by further subscriptions received before year-end, an underspend on the advertising budget and the 2012 Weekend generating a surplus. The Society printed four documents this year: three Bulletins and the booklet on the 2011 visit to La Côte Saint-André. Each publication now costs around £900 to produce and mail to all members.
- 4.6 One small extra cost recorded for the Weekend was an incorrect invoice from last year, corrected and paid this year.
- 4.7 By way of commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society, the Committee has initiated a Berlioz medal. The first medal will be awarded to Sir Colin Davis and the second to David Cairns in recognition of their phenomenal work in the performance, scholarship, translation and promotion of Berlioz. Chris Follett will arrange press releases to accompany the awards. The Committee has ordered ten medals to take advantage of economies of scale.
- 4.9 The Trojans Study Day cost nothing: all expenses were covered by the Royal Opera House.
- 4.10 Adam Ridley thought attitudes to publications (hard copy versus computer file) may change in the future. A major factor in the cost is overseas postage, though this is covered by the higher subscription rates for overseas members.
- 4.11 Alastair Aberdare suggested the Society might offer overseas members the option of pdf format rather than paper, for a lower membership rate.
- 4.12 Once email connection is made, this can generate further exchanges. Shelagh Marston felt that some papers (such as the AGM notice) would attract more attention if sent separately from the Bulletin.
- 4.13 The meeting thanked Alastair Aberdare for his work as Treasurer.

## **5 SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- 5.1 The Society's last Weekend in November 2011 focussed on Berlioz's Latin works – the Requiem, the Te Deum and the early Messe Solennelle - and was again very successful.
- 5.2 Christopher Follett will try and arrange a Society Visit to the 2013 Festival Berlioz (dates August 21- September 1 2013) on the theme Berlioz & Wagner - to mark the bicentenary of the latter's birth.
- 5.3 The summer meeting at the Riddleys' home, on Berlioz's early works, had been a great success. Next year, Diana Bickley has kindly agreed to talk on the concert overtures, and perform some of them in piano duet, which promises to be fascinating.

- 5.4 As a prelude to the performances of 'The Trojans' at Covent Garden this summer, the Society co-hosted a study day on the work with the Royal Opera House. This was a great success and also gained the Society eight new members. The credit for instigating this goes to David Cairns and Alastair Aberdare, and to Harold Hughes whose brainchild it was.
- 5.5 Simon Jones recently met membership secretaries from the Liszt, Wagner and Alkan Societies: this is an initiative by Jim Vincent of the Liszt Society whereby the societies work together to put on occasional joint events.
- 5.6 Membership currently stands at 232, a net increase of 15 since the last AGM. 17 new members had joined (8 from the stall, 3 from the leaflet and 1 from last year's weekend – other sources were not recorded), and two passed away. Of these 232, 17 are organisations such as universities, libraries and so forth. Most members are UK residents, but there are 30 members in the United States, 20 in Europe and 8 elsewhere. Of the 168 individual UK-based members (as opposed to organisations), 75 are based in London.
- 5.7 The meeting thanked Simon Jones for his work as Secretary.

## **6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR**

- 6.1 The existing Committee were willing to serve for the next year, with the exception of Harold Hughes who was stepping down. Alastair Aberdare paid tribute to Harold, saying his departure left a huge gap in the ranks of the Committee. He had saved the Society from potentially fatal decline through his vision and organisational skill. The Weekends were masterminded by him, as was the registration as a charity, the first visit to La Côte Saint-André and the study day for 'The Trojans'.
- 6.2 No other nominations being received, the Committee was elected, as follows.
- |                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Chair (and editor of the Bulletin) | David Cairns        |
| • Treasurer                          | Alastair Aberdare   |
| • Secretary                          | Simon Jones         |
| • Media Manager                      | Christopher Follett |
| • Website Manager                    | Dave May            |
| • Membership Liaison Officer         | Martin Price        |
| • Committee Member                   | Brian Godfrey       |
| • Committee Member                   | Shelagh Marston     |
| • Committee Member                   | Helen Petchey       |
| • Committee Member                   | Sir Adam Ridley     |

Linda Edmondson was subsequently co-opted on to the Committee.

## 7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1 William Edmondson advised that the Covent Garden Trojans is available as a video stream at [thespace.org](http://thespace.org) until mid-October to watch or to download. Christopher Follett added that it will be streamed in cinemas across the UK in November.
- 7.2 Terry Heard asked whether it was now possible to pay subscriptions online. This is now possible, and the new subscriptions form has the details. There is a BT website allowing people to make payments to registered charities. They do not need a bank account, and this service can also deal with GiftAid. Terry Heard will email details of the site to Alastair Aberdare.
- 7.3 Adam Ridley asked how relations had been with the French Institute over the last year. Christopher Follett has excellent connections with people at grass-roots level, and Alastair Aberdare had approached the president again. There is good contact with the Franco-British Society but the Societies have not yet coordinated advertising for each others' events.
- 7.4 Jim Hart had raised a query about the starting time of the first day of the Weekend. To prevent out-of-towners having to either get up extremely early or book an extra night at a hotel he had suggested putting the first presentation back to 11 am. This could be done two ways: either curtailing the programme (which would be a shame) or adding a slot to Sunday afternoon (which could create travel problems at the other end of the Weekend). The Committee will consider the options.

The evening concluded with an excellent demonstration of the charms and difficulties of the ophicleide and serpent, given by Andrew Kershaw.