

MINUTES

The Berlioz Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Berlioz Society,
held on Thursday 26 April 2018
at 7pm at FRANCIS TAYLOR BUILDING,
INNER TEMPLE, LONDON EC4Y 7BY

Present:

Alastair Aberdare (Chairman)	Margaret Bond	Brian Carroll
Diana Bickley	Jonathan Burton	David Cairns
Christopher Follett	Richard Hubbard	Simon Jones (notes)
Robert Keer	Shelagh Marston	Peter Payne
Helen Petchey	Philip Petchey	Martin Price
Julian Rushton		

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Adrian Brown	Mike Drake	Linda Edmondson
William Edmondson	Katharine Ellis	Ed Elsey
Jim Hart	Terry Heard	Gareth Jones
Mike Joyce	Avril Godfrey	Brian Godfrey
Natividad Jimenez	Mark Noble	Jim Page
Adam Ridley	Christopher Price	Charles Shaw
Christopher Sims	Lucie Sims	

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM, HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2017

- 2.1 On behalf of the meeting, the Chairman thanked Philip Petchey for his generous provision of the chambers as a venue, and for the refreshments.
- 2.2 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the previous AGM.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 In paragraph 6.5, the 2019 Berlioz commemorations should be Sesquicentenary, not Seaquintenary as printed.

4 SECRETARY'S REPORT

- 4.1 The only event since the last AGM in October was the Weekend, held on 2 & 3 December, with the theme "Berlioz in Italy". Talks were: Culture and politics in Berlioz's Italy – David Laven; Berlioz and Italy, pre-1831 – David Cairns; Berlioz and Harold – Paul Banks; Harold en Italie, performing and realising this masterpiece – Adrian Brown; Berlioz and Italian music, 16th to 18th centuries;

Berlioz's Cantatas for the Prix de Rome – Peter Bloom;; Berlioz in Nice – Chris Follett. The dinner guest on Saturday evening was esteemed conductor Owain Arwel Hughes. On the Sunday, conductor and Berlioz champion Sir Mark Elder was interviewed by Alastair Aberdare. He was also presented with the Society's medal in recognition of his work over the years.

- 4.2 A special sub-committee has been set up to plan for this year's Society Study Weekend to be held in Bloomsbury on November 24th & 25th on the theme "Berlioz in Britain" with members working on the task of finding suitable speakers for the event.
- 4.3 Earlier this month, the programme for the Festival Berlioz 2018 was unveiled - dates from August 18th to September 2nd. The theme will be "Berlioz! Sacré" - Sacred Berlioz - with the focus on Berlioz's sacred music and the full programme has been placed on the society website. It includes a performance of "Harold en Italie", the Overture "Le Roi Lear" and extracts from "Les Troyens", directed by John Eliot Gardiner with the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, as well as performances of "L'enfance du Christ", the Messe Solennelle and the Requiem, with François-Xavier Roth. Chris Follett will issue a flyer due to go out in May.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 5.1 Income from subscriptions had fallen compared to 2016. The amount received in Gift Aid, however, was approximately the same for the two years.
- 5.2 There was also a small deficit on the 2017 "Ridley Day".
- 5.3 The Members' Weekend in 2017 had made a profit of £1,155 (income £8,750 against expenditure of £7,595).
- 5.4 Bulletin costs now include fees for transcription of recorded talks and interviews.
- 5.5 Postage costs have dropped slightly, due to removal of non-renewers from the Society membership list, but actual postage costs are set to rise again.
- 5.6 Advertising expenditure this year has mainly been due to website charges.
- 5.7 Other costs include purchasing ten blank Society medals.
- 5.8 The Society had been looking after funds for the Berlioz 2019 project – these funds were made over to Berlioz 2019 last August.
- 5.9 The net change in assets is a reduction of £8,572, most of this being the transfer out of Berlioz 2019 funds. The net change in free funds is a surplus of about £600.
- 5.10 Increasing costs, including postal charges, supporting various projects such as as Berlioz 2019, the Berlioz performance at the Oxford Lieder Fest and Peter Bloom's forthcoming edition of the Memoirs, mean an increase in subscription rates is necessary and annual membership will increase from £20 to £30 from 2019. This seems reasonable compared to subscriptions to other similar societies.
- 5.11 The Meeting thanked Martin for his work as Treasurer.

6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 6.1 The programme for the 2018 "Ridley Day" had not been circulated because of difficulties confirming the programme, but the Chairman was very pleased to

announce that Sir Roger Norrington will be attending. Details will be published very soon.

6.2 Thanks were due to David Cairns for making the arrangements for this.

6.3 Berlioz 2019 comprises three elements:

- To make as many performers as possible aware of Berlioz and keen to perform his music;
- Bringing educational materials, performance information and biographical information together in a website; and
- Arranging a massed children's choral event, with a minimum of 10,000 children performing, in Cardiff, provisionally entitled "Fantastique!".

6.4 Patrons so far include David Cairns, Dame Janet Baker, Michael Berkeley and Susan Digby.

6.5 Julian Rushton has joined the Committee as a trustee since January 2018. The Meeting welcomed him.

6.6 Shelagh Marston thanked Alastair for chairing the Committee in the past year, and this was echoed by the Meeting.

7 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

7.1 The existing Committee were willing to serve for the next year.

7.2 Julian Rushton has very kindly agreed to join the Committee.

7.3 Richard Hubbard proposed that the Committee be re-elected. This was seconded by Diana Bickley, and passed unanimously by the meeting.

7.4 The Committee was re-elected, as follows.

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| • President (and editor of the Bulletin) | David Cairns |
| • Chairman | Alastair Aberdare |
| • Vice Chairman | Adam Ridley |
| • Treasurer | Martin Price |
| • Secretary (and Website Manager) | Simon Jones |
| • Membership Secretary | Peter Payne |
| • Media Manager | Christopher Follett |
| • Weekend Coordinator | Helen Petchey |
| • Summer Event Coordinator | Shelagh Marston |
| • Archivist | Brian Godfrey |
| • Member (temporarily without portfolio) | Linda Edmondson |
| • Member (temporarily without portfolio) | Julian Rushton |

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Richard Hubbard asked whether membership numbers were tracked to check for any patterns of growth or decline. Details are kept – overall, though, the number of members was fairly stable at around 200. Numbers might increase after a concert where the Society had a promotional table, but then members also leave for various reasons.
- 8.2 The events of Berlioz 2019 should provide a platform for recruitment to the Society.
- 8.3 Shelagh Marston raised the Data Protection regulations, which will require members to grant permission for the Society holding and using personal data. Martin Price will be the Data Protection Officer and will be writing out to members.
- 8.4 Philip Petchey noted that the Elgar Society considered the giving of postal details as consent for further communication. Consent was still needed, however, for sending out flyers or any similar documents.
- 8.5 Brian Carroll hoped that the arrangements for commemoration of the date of Berlioz's death would not be swamped by the leaving of the European Union, scheduled for 29 March.

The evening concluded with a viewing of a DVD of the concert performances of "Les Troyens" given in Strasbourg at Easter last year under John Nelson, released on CD by Erato/Warner Classics.