

MINUTES

The Berlioz Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Berlioz Society,
Held on Thursday 4 April 2019
At 7pm at FRANCIS TAYLOR BUILDING,
INNER TEMPLE, LONDON EC4Y 7BY

Present:

Alastair Aberdare (Chairman)	Adrian Brown	David Cairns
Chris Follett	Richard Hubbard	Peter Payne
Helen Petchey (Notes)	Charles Shaw	Julian Rushton

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Diana Bickley	Jonathan Burton	Linda Edmondson
William Edmondson	Avril Godfrey	Brian Godfrey
Simon Jones	Shelagh Marston	Philip Petchey
Martin Price	Adam Ridley	Biddy Ridley

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM, HELD ON 26 APRIL 2018

- 2.1 The following amendments were agreed:
Under 'Present' – should be 'Robert Keer, 'Helen Petchey' and 'Philip Petchey'.
- 2.2 Subject to these amendments the minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the previous AGM.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4 SECRETARY'S REPORT

- 4.1 The first Society event of 2018 was the 'Ridley Day', a Sunday spent enjoying the hospitality of Sir Adam and Lady Ridley, devoted to an aspect of Berlioz's legacy. Our guest was the conductor, Sir Roger Norrington.
- 4.2 Plans move on for Berlioz 150, the commemoration of Berlioz's sesquicentennial this year. Events are now in motion or have already taken place, including a performance of the *Requiem* on 8 March in St. Paul's Cathedral under the baton of John Nelson.
- 4.3 The Members' Weekend in November concentrated on Berlioz in Britain. David Cairns explored Berlioz's reputation in Britain from 1847 onward; Katy Hamilton and Leanne Langley both looked at his visit in 1851, respectively commenting on the Great Exhibition and his work with the New Philharmonic Society. Alastair

Aberdare interviewed Andrew Marriner, LSO Principal Clarinet; Julian Rushton asked, why does Berlioz's music annoy people? Rachel Howerton spoke via Skype about the *Damnation of Faust's* reputation in late 19th Century Britain: and Christopher Follett gave a slide show of Berliozian sites in London. The after-dinner speaker was Robert Saxton. Where possible we include transcripts or essays on these topics in future editions of the Bulletin.

- 4.4. Programme notes and articles on Berlioz were provided for the 2018 Cheltenham Festival last July and the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester in July 2019. It is intended to place free advertisements for the Society in the LSO Concert programme for three upcoming Berlioz 150 concerts. Information on the Festival Berlioz in France from August 17 – September 1 – to be entitled *Le Roi Hector* – to mark the 150th anniversary of the composer's death in 1869 – will be circulated to members.
- 4.5 Julian Rushton and Christopher Follett assisted with the editing of David Cairns's new book for Toccata Press, due for publication later this year.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 5.1 A satisfactory surplus of £2138 is shown in the accounts, but there was lower expenditure than had been forecast of £973 as we were unable to send out a third Bulletin during the year. This expenditure will now occur in the 2019 financial year.
- 5.2 The total of subscription and donation income increased to £3810 compared with £3744 in 2017 and similar income is expected in 2019.
- 5.3 The Gift Aid reclaim received in 2018 (£498) was slightly lower than in 2017 (£564) reflecting the lower subscription and donation income in 2017 when compared with 2016.
- 5.4 The surplus of £874 on the 2018 Weekend was lower than that in 2017 (£1155), but is still most satisfactory. Most of the Weekend expenditure is fixed and the financial outcome is heavily dependent on the number of attendees. As in previous years, the excellent programme presented attracted sufficient attendees to achieve a surplus.
- 5.5 There was a small surplus of £159 on the Ridley Day, which compared with the small deficit of £56 in 2017.
- 5.6 The committee decided to make a donation of approximately £500 to the publisher of Society member Professor Peter Bloom's forthcoming critical edition of *Les Mémoires d'Hector Berlioz*, allowing some reduction in the price of the book.
- 5.7 When comparing the 2018 and 2017 accounts, two non-recurring items need to be taken into account. Under 'other costs' the high expenditure in 2017 was for the purchase of further Society Medals. Under Berlioz 150, the high figures for both income and expenditure reflect the Society's looking after the funds of the Berlioz 150 charity during the period prior to the charity having a bank account. As reported last year (Minutes 5.8 and 5.9), the outstanding balance was paid to the charity during 2017.

6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 6.1 The Chairman thanked the Committee for all their advice, good ideas, and hard work.
- 6.2 The Chairman reminded members about Diana Bickley's forthcoming Berlioz Choral Workshop, to be held at Milton Court on 25 & 26 May
- 6.3 Adrian Brown proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Seconding the vote, David Cairns said that the Society was indebted to him for his work and inspiration.

7 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

- 7.1 With the exception of Brian Godfrey, the existing Committee was willing to serve for the next year. The meeting was indebted to Brian for his input during his years on the Committee.
- 7.2 Richard Hubbard proposed that the Committee be re-elected. This was seconded by Charles Shaw, and passed unanimously by the meeting.
- 7.4 The Committee was re-elected, as follows.

• 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
• Member (temporarily without portfolio)	Linda Edmondson
• Member (temporarily without portfolio)	Julian Rushton

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Berlioz 150:
- Three East London primary schools will be taking part in a Berlioz 150 event at the V&A on 4 May, including a recital of Berlioz songs by mezzo Rachel Kelly.
 - The Bristol music education hub is partnering with Berlioz 150 to develop learning resources for schools based on the *Symphonie Fantastique*, to be made available for teachers online.
 - For the final *Fantastique!* massed children's choir concert in Cardiff, Berlioz 150 partner Young Voices will recruit 10,000 schoolchildren from Wales, the rest of the UK and beyond. The content will include an eclectic range of musical styles, 'from Berlioz to beatbox'.
- 8.2 The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Philip Petchey for the use of rooms in Chambers.

The evening concluded with a viewing of excerpts from the DVD of 'Benvenuto Cellini' in a performance given by Dutch National Opera, with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, and directed by Terry Gilliam.