

Sunderland Symphony Orchestra

Formerly: City of Sunderland Millennium Orchestral Society (CoSMOS)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting March 2022

7.30pm: West Park Church: Wednesday 30th. March 2022

Chair: Ged McCormack

Present: Ged McCormack (GM), Peter Andrews (PA), Margaret Andrews, Louise Baxter, Mark Greenfield (MG), Joy Lowther (JL), Brian Naisby, Lynne Dakers (LD), Dave Milner (DM), Judith Thompson (JT), Emma Mapplebeck, Philip Jackson, Francesca Sensier, Jim Moodie, Rhoda Healey, Lucy Reeves, Sylvia Zalas, Laura Baxter, John Stead, Friedrich Brillling, Jayne Simpson, Sheila Rayson (SR), Eileen Peterson, Paul Judson, Becky Vickers, Lucy Beckmann, Julie Coomber, Danny Silva, Gareth Williams, Ed Greenfield :30

Apologies: John Harding, John A. Lennox, Win Lundgren, Peter Chapman (PC), David E. Mills (DEM), Kathleen Mills, Jane Boyd, Sophia Pearson, Ben Leighton (BL), Nikola Zalas, Nicola Moore, Liz Tinker, Anne Wilkinson, David Smith, John Baxter, Diana Whaley, Clemence Chenevas-Paule, Rachel Blackhall, Jack Stead, Fiona Cudlipp, Gillian Anderson, Owain Bolt, Cristina MacLeod :23

| | Matters Arising, Comments, Agenda Items (organised for easier reading links) |
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| 1,2,3 | Welcome, Minutes of Last General Meeting and specific Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GM thanked everyone for their attendance and support.• The minutes were accepted as a true record of last year's AGM which was held on line.• There were no further additional matters arising. |
| 4 | Annual Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Annual Report of the Executive Committee was accepted as an accurate report of the year's workings of the orchestra.• The one point of discussion referred to 'Events and Activities' 7 re the YouTube channel. PA said that he had started the old site and was willing to liaise with someone to transfer the items and close the old site. SR offered to facilitate this. NZ to be kept informed. PA was thanked for his consistent interest in the orchestra's progress.• JL wished to put on record the orchestra's thanks to those who had so faithfully kept it viable through a range of interesting activities and creative ideas through and leading out of Lockdown. Particular mention should be made of DM, JT, GM and SP but others played their part. |
| 5 | Treasurer's Report and Accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The finance report was accepted as a clear and accurate record of a financial year well managed. DEM had asked for his comments to be passed on that he was very happy with the clarity of the reports prepared by PC. GM pointed to the careful management of existing balance and judicious use of funds to enable development and income.• Costs have decreased in insurance and payments to additional players.• Rental rates have doubled and some of the shortfall will have to be made up by raising playing member fees. This will be 'stepped', starting with a rise of £2 a month to £10 a month (£120 annual fee). The student and unwaged rate will be £6 a month (£72). Friends and Patrons remain the same as before (£30 and £60) and flexible arrangements are made to support anyone in real financial difficulty.• The meeting accepted the need for a fee rise and agreed the proposed amount.• EP commented that people paying by standing order needed notice to change instructions. JL felt that a month here or there would not be too much of a problem. |

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| 6 | <p>Potential Constitutional Changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CIO action group has confirmed its decision to progress to CIO registration. Documentation has been out for comment and agreed. GM will circulate the final documentation once more before registering. • MG asked GM to ensure the annual accounts were sent to the Charity Commission. |
| 7 8 9 | <p>Appointment of Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current committee will remain in place. • Ged McCormack Chair, Louise Baxter Vice-Chair, Joy Lowther Secretary, Peter Chapman Membership Secretary and Treasurer, Brian Naisby Orchestra Manager, Mark Greenfield Relational Lead, John Harding Librarian were all reappointed unanimously. • Lynne Dakers is standing down as a 'Co-opted' member and was thanked for her many years of goodwill and good service to the SSO. She will continue to assist on an ad hoc basis. • Ben Leighton has agreed to take LD's place and will be responsible for Financial Strategy (fundraising). • The core executive committee is well supported by an 'extended' group of volunteers who have quietly taken on crucial roles in the smooth running of the orchestra. Our thanks to Sophia Pearson, Jane Boyd, Nikola Zalas and Emma Mapplebeck. |
| 10 | <p>Annual Accounts Verifier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chris May is willing to continue to check our annual accounts. • We are most grateful that he takes the time to do this voluntarily. |
| 11 | <p>AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is bereft by the untimely and sudden death of Barnaby Blacker, our friend, member and landlord. • It is anticipated that at some time in the future the church will again change hands and we are unlikely to be so fortunate as to remain in the building we call home. • The committee continues to consider alternatives. |