

Sunderland Symphony Orchestra

Formerly: City of Sunderland Millennium Orchestral Society (CoSMOS)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting March 2021

7.15pm online via Zoom Video Link: Wednesday 31st. March 2021

Chair: Ged McCormack

Present: Ged McCormack (GM), Louise Baxter (LB), Mark Greenfield (MG), Joy Lowther (JL), Brian Naisby (BN), Peter Chapman (PC), Lynne Dakers (LD), Dave Milner (DM), Emma Mapplebeck (EM), Jane Boyd (JB), Sophia Pearson (SB), Philip Jackson (PJ), Francesca Sensier (FS), Diana Whaley (DW), Peter Andrews (PA), Margaret Andrews (MA) :16

Apologies: John Harding (JH), John A. Lennox (JAL), Win Lundgren (WL), David E. Mills (DEM), Kathleen Mills (KM), Judith Thompson (JT), Nikola Zalas (NZ), Paul Judson (PJ), Nicola Moore (NM), Lucy Beckmann (LB), Sheila Rayson (SR), Anne Wilkinson (AW), David Smith (DS), John Baxter (JB), Ben Leighton (BL), Rhoda Healey (RH) :16

	Matters Arising, Comments, Agenda Items (organised for easier reading links)
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 events surrounding last year's AGM which had been put together from the online consultation held as the country had gone into 'Lockdown' due to Covid 19.• There were no further additional matters arising.
4	Annual Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Annual Report of the Executive Committee had been sent out and it was unanimously accepted as a true report of the year's workings of the orchestra.• It had been an unusual year, due to cessation of normal operations since mid March 2020. However, we were pleased to note that, despite this, the orchestra had kept a remarkable level of engagement through the variety of activities mentioned in the report and the response of a good number of members.• GM was thanked for ensuring this through his attention to regular 'zoom' opportunities.• It was also agreed that the support of many people not all on the formal committee had contributed to this success. The 'Satellite Groups' now play a big part in the orchestra's work.

5	<p>Financial Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The finance report was ‘tabled’ on zoom screen. It had not been available to share earlier as it had been with the external checker. It will be sent to members with these minutes. • PC took the meeting through the details and was commended for the precise, clear format, the clarity of his entries and additional explanations made regarding specific entries. Any repetition is due to the need to present certain aspects in formats which satisfy The Charities’ Commission. • Thanks are due to members, most of whom have kept up membership payments, to Barnaby Blacker for reduced rental and to DM for waiving Musical Director fees during the pandemic. • SSO continues to be financially secure with a carry forward of sufficient funds to run the orchestra for two years, which is its goal. Indeed, we find ourselves with almost £2500 more than last year! There are £750 set aside for music hire or purchase. • PC anticipates there could be a small drop in receipts from Gift Aid next year due to uncertain times and the ‘payment holiday’ offered for the first three months of 2021. • The finance report was accepted unanimously.
6	<p>Potential Constitutional Changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CIO action group (GM, MG, PC, BN) comparison document was sent out and participants were invited to comment. There had been no significant feedback regarding the documents sent out. Members are invited to study the details, question and make any points to anyone in the group or to the secretary. • A final decision will be brought to a full General Meeting to be held within the next six months. Members are urged to consider the options.
7 8 9	<p>Appointment of Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current committee will remain in place and there are no further additions. • 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 • Lynne Dakers is the only ‘Co-opted’ member and will also continue in post of Fund-Raiser. • The committee is well supported by an ‘extended’ group of volunteers who have quietly taken on crucial roles in the smooth running of the orchestra, particularly in the Lockdown period. • Special mention is made of Judith Thompson (instigating ‘The Teabreak’ and advising on musical aspects and arrangements), Nikola Zalas (Website management and development ideas), Sophia Pearson (digital recording and Facebook), Phil Jackson (new compositions and arrangements), Emma Mapplebeck (school and young person links), and Jane Boyd (Twitter and general orchestra promotion), Lynne Dakers (What’s App and attention to detail), Dave Milner and John Harding (Programming and sheet music provision)
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 thanked for their attendance, participation and interest in keeping in touch with the orchestra in a variety of ways, according to personal circumstances, despite the difficulties we all face. GM felt that this reflects a healthy and vibrant society.• JL felt that the weekly teabreak option had been particularly helpful to a number of members isolated by the pandemic. GM agreed that it had also been an opportunity for people to get to know each other better and in a different light.
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