

BROMLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Annual General Meeting

Online

Monday 29th June 2020 at 8.00pm

MINUTES

Apologies for Absence: Monika Molnar; David Floyd; David Griffiths; Amanda Stephen.

Non-members present: Adrian Brown (musical director); Andy Laing (leader); Neil and Mandy Selby; Terry Dillon.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 20th May 2019 were adopted.

Chairman's Report (Mike Ibbott)

Mike started his review of the BSO year with a reflection on the orchestra's centenary celebrations in June 2019. He thanked Stephen Fuller for his invaluable role in the organisation of the festivities.

Mike gave a brief review of the 2019-20 season starting with the highs of Adrian's 40th anniversary concert and ending with the sad cancellation of the May concert. He ran through the activities which have continued since lockdown: work on the website, responses to emails, phone calls to stewards and patrons, weekly Monday online socials and virtual committee meetings.

Looking at the way forward, Mike explained that, while the November concert is unlikely to happen, there are several options available, from a slimmed down Beethoven concert, replacing Bartok 3rd Piano Concerto with a Beethoven piano concerto (number 3 or 4), to a programme with reduced forces such as the Beethoven Wind Octet, and a string work, perhaps the Elgar Serenade for Strings. The January concert may have reduced rehearsal time so it has been agreed that the Delius should be postponed, but the hope is that this one will proceed with Janice Watson as the soloist. It is also hoped that the rest of the season will be able to run as planned but the brochure will be kept on hold for the moment. The website will be updated as decisions are made, and Berard has kept in touch with season ticket holders where changes to prices and terms will need to be made when the future is clearer. Mike also confirmed that the works postponed from this season will be programmed in 2021/22.

Mike thanked the whole committee for their support through the year. In addition he thanked Alan for his work as librarian, Neil and Mandy Selby for concert management, Simon as assistant conductor, Andy as leader, Clare as deputy leader, Phil for his ongoing work on the website, Berard for ticket sales, Liz and Beccy for continuing to organise rehearsal refreshments, Vicky and James for setting up for rehearsals, Roy for fixing extra brass players, Dave Griffiths for organising and printing brochures and Alice for her excellent programme notes. He also thanked anyone else he had forgotten to thank, and all members for being there and making great music!

He finished by thanking Adrian for his musicianship, dedication and friendship.

Music Director's Report (Adrian Brown)

Adrian presented his own review of the season, starting with his 40th anniversary concert and thanking the orchestra for his gift. He expressed his particular satisfaction in working with John Senter on the performance of Proem, a work from the finals of the BSO centenary competition. Adrian went on to reflect on the performance of Vaughan Williams Symphony No 6, a work he had wanted to do for many years, and on the successful programming of this work alongside Tchaikovsky Suite No 3 to give a varied and unusual concert. The third and, as it turned out, final concert of the season was also a very special one with a full turn out from the orchestra despite looming lockdown, and Adrian thanked the orchestra for suggesting that he conduct a short work by Elgar to mark the presentation of his medal from the Elgar Society.

Passionate about the future of the orchestra and of amateur music in general, Adrian highlighted some of the challenges to come, but emphasized the importance strategies which will ensure a positive way forward. He

thanked the orchestra, the committee, Simon McVey, and in particular Mike. He also thanked the committee for agreeing the payment of fees for the final cancelled concert. Note: Andy Laing echoed this thanks.

Treasurer's Report (Peter Bruce)

David Rodker, as outgoing treasurer, confirmed that the accounts for the year ended 30th June 2019 have been approved by the Charities Commission.

Peter Bruce presented the accounts for year ending 30th June 2020 which suggest that the cancellation of the fourth concert has affected the orchestra less than might have been feared. The anticipated surplus from this season's budget has in fact been doubled and, while there are a few loose ends to tie up, this places the orchestra in a relatively strong position going forward.

Budgeting for the upcoming season is on hold for the moment. Plans will be made when the future is a bit more certain.

Chris Jeffery and Stephen Fuller asked for clarification on a couple of points.

Website (Phil McKerracher)

Phil reminded members that they should log into the website to check that their status and details are correct. He pointed out that everyone's details are visible to members when they do this.

Officers (not up for re-election this year)

Chairman: Mike Ibbott

Secretary: Caroline Marwood

Treasurer: Peter Bruce

Election of Committee

After a final call for any new nominees, the following were re-elected:

Helen Griffiths, James Dowsett, Judy Brown, Jacqueline De Ferrars, David Rodker.

Any Other Business

Mike confirmed that Phil Starr is making a steady recovery.