

# SLO AGM 2016

Minutes of meeting held at Broadford Hall on Saturday,

5th March, 2016

Present: John Hockett (Chairman), Nic Bullivant, Chris Crichton, Eilidh Scammell, Catriona Bullivant, Iain Roden, Chris Manvell, Laura Grisi, Elizabeth Watt, Duncan Watt, Alan Donald, Douglas Strachan, Wendy Riva, Ilona Morison, Satsuki Barnes, Bar Purser and Jenny Hey (for the last part).

- 1) **Apologies:** Jo Cumine, Maryon Gardiner, Philippa Davies, Kate MacArthur, Meg Rosher, Hugh Morison, Rosemary Bungard, Judith Bullivant and Mike and Margaret Cormack.
- 2) **Minutes** of last year's AGM were approved, and there were no matters arising.
- 3) **Chairman's Report:** John started with thanks to Chris, who has put in a lot of work as librarian and webmaster even though not on the committee this year, and to Ilona and Bar for keeping things going. He expressed his appreciation of Iain, who has inspired us with much enthusiasm, resulting in improved attendance. There was general thanks to Iain for the time and effort he puts in. John also said we had more violins now thanks to Meg, and expressed his appreciation of the work Allison Russell put into the timps. She refurbished them without charging for her labour. The cost of the parts was split between SLO and the HCO, who borrow the timps. John mentioned that we still need cellos and violas, and the lack of an oboe was mentioned.

Ilona thanked Wendy, and Laura was thanked for taking on the opening of Breakish Hall when necessary.

- 3.1) **Matters Arising:** It was thought unlikely we would get Sam back to play oboe. The possibility of purchasing an oboe was discussed, but Douglas (later) said that purchase of instruments by the orchestra should be avoided. However Chris mentioned that we had previously thought of buying a keyboard, and it was agreed that this is still a possibility.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** Ilona congratulated SLO for keeping a healthy bank balance. The expenditure was higher in 2014 than 2015, and the income lower, because we had no Christmas concert, and an expensive Easter concert. In 2015, we made a profit of £478 at the spring concert at SMO, and enough at the Christmas concert to donate £100 each to Alzheimer's Research and the Broadford Patient Participation Group. The subscriptions have been healthy - Ilona will email those still outstanding for this term. Ilona said that the discrepancy between the actual bank balance and the projected closing balance is due to the fact that 1) SMO, due to an oversight, only paid their contribution for our Easter concert in 2016 and 2) the latest Broadford and Breakish Halls invoices were paid in 2016.

Some questions were asked about the accounts – they will be available for viewing on the SLO website.

- 4.1) **Matters Arising:** Nic asked if the accounts got audited, and Ilona said that they were. Last year it wasn't audited because some of the bank books were lost.

- 4.2) **Further Comments:** Ilona mentioned that the cost the posters for the upcoming concert had been £77 and that it was her gift to the orchestra. All thanked her for that, and many said how beautiful the posters were.
- 5) **Elections:** Those present expressed regret that Meg has had to resign from the committee, but are grateful that she has said she is willing to continue distributing posters and recruiting members. Chris Manvell had expressed a willingness to rejoin the committee because his year out (see the Constitution para. 7) had expired. Bar gratefully proposed him, seconded by Ilona. Nic said he was willing as well, so he was proposed by John and seconded by Douglas.
- 6) **AOCB:** Iain spoke of his ideas about future music, sticking to the tradition of having a lighter Christmas concert and a meatier Spring one. He is looking into the Can-Can from Orpheus in the Underworld, and is trying to find music from Coppelia. He's hoping Chris Watkiss's choir will be joining us, in which case we would try Mozart's arrangement of the Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah. He said he was trying to find music that was challenging but playable, adding that members shouldn't feel daunted if they couldn't play every note. He will let us know if it isn't working!
- 6.1) Iain's three suggestions for our symphony to be played in the spring were (in reverse order of his preference, and with his comments) Haydn 104 (which has difficult string parts in places and the winds might find it boring), Dvorak 8 (beautiful and playable, but we are not big enough - Wendy added that the string parts are difficult all the way through), and Beethoven 5 (he's hoping members won't mind that we did Beethoven 6 so recently). He would welcome feedback from the orchestra on these three possibilities. Schumann was mentioned, with the addition that his symphonies tend to have an unplayable movement.
- 6.2) Iain would welcome suggestions from the orchestra, and proposed that an email be sent to them asking them to suggest two or three items on condition that 1) they wouldn't be put out if their pieces weren't played - this is as much as anything for Iain to get an idea of the general tastes of the members, 2) the pieces were practicable and 3) hoping they would see if they could get hold of the music themselves. Bar suggested that Chris email the members asking for their suggestions in order of preference, and she offered to have the emails sent to her so they could be "tidied up" before being sent to Iain. There is also the contact form on the website that people should be encouraged to use. Laura said there were a few problems on the website, and Chris said he was working on it.
- 6.3) Ilona gave the rehearsal and concert dates the committee had decided on. Douglas mentioned the Plockton concert, which is always the second Saturday in December - our December 10 date would conflict with that. The general consensus was to go for 17th December. Bar said she would email Jenny Strachan in the hope that the Schools' Orchestra was free that evening.
- 6.4) The date for the spring concert was discussed as well. Because the school holiday starts on 5th April, we will need to have the concert on 1st April. John mentioned the possibility of doing two spring concerts, perhaps with the second one in the north end of the island. Bar said that there would be quite a few members who wouldn't want to do that.
- 6.5) Alan asked about rehearsal venues – Broadford is definitely preferred. Chris asked if there was any news of Denis's piano. Bar said Chris Watkiss is storing it. Ilona and Bar confirmed that arranging for the storage of the timps is in hand. Douglas mentioned the wires from the

keyboard that ran across where members of the audience could walk to get to the cafeteria (at the Christmas concert). Nic said we should have a health and safety manager, who wouldn't necessarily have to be a playing member of the orchestra.

- 6.6) The provision of parts was discussed. Ilona said that Chris does a lot of printing, and that bound parts can be bought from the Petrucci/IMSLP website. We should do a study of costing. Ilona will approach the Edinburgh Library as well. Nic said HCO hires their parts, and it is very expensive. Chris mentioned that we had hired from the Portsmouth Orchestra's library several times.

The meeting finished at 1.10pm.

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