

New Tyneside Orchestra

Minutes of AGM of 2nd October 2017

Corrected at AGM 1 October 2018

Meeting began 8.45pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Richard Stent, Katie Lodge, Brian Tanner, John Pearce, Emma Peacock, Andrew Martin, Malcolm Toft
2. **Minutes of Previous AGM:** Acceptance. Proposed by Philip Sheard Seconded by Ellen Arkless
3. **Reports**
- 3.1 **Chairman's Report:** Nick Pears

Members were welcomed to the meeting, Nick Pears' 15th Chairman's report

Thanks were expressed to:

Dawn Allen for leading the orchestra and her commitment to the role

Rachael Leisk for arranging the chamber concerts

Katie Lodge for her hard work and efficiency in the role of librarian

Bob Taylor for helping Katie and production of practice copies

Dennis Grieve and Ruth Pickles for organising rehearsal refreshments

Kirsty Pearson for continuing her work as treasurer

Kirsty McDowell for her work in marketing the orchestra including developing e-ticketing

Monica Buckland, Andrew Martin and Chris Clinch for their work planning the musical programme

2 committee members who are stepping down – Rachel Leisk has completed her second term on the committee and Richard Stent is retiring from his role as secretary, but still plans to have some involvement with ticketing.

Monica Buckland for her musical leadership and the time and effort she puts in to the orchestra

3.2 Treasurer's Report: Kirsty Pearson

Accounts for the year were presented.

The orchestra performed 3 main concerts during the last season. The November concert made a £258 profit. The March concert made a loss of £517 and the July concert made a loss of £573.

The orchestra ended the year with a surplus of £878

Running costs for the orchestra are fairly consistent so the annual subscription will remain the same.

Subscriptions for this year are now due.

Members are requested to fill out new membership forms for this year to ensure details are correct and to allow for gift aid purposes

The committee have set up a company, "NTO Concerts Ltd" to allow the orchestra to claim tax relief on pre-performance costs such as music hire and rehearsal hall rental.

Thanks to Malcolm Stronach for independently examining the accounts.

Nick Pears added that the orchestra had received a £300 donation from the charity concert in memory of Stephen Pettitt. This had been used to buy a pair of crash cymbals.

Richard Bergman asked if the losses from 2 concerts were at an acceptable level, and if the committee had in mind a level above which it would be unacceptable. Nick Pears answered that the committee were very aware of costs and that they would ensure that the orchestra accounts balanced. Chris Clinch spoke to say that the musical programming sub-committee took potential costs such as soloists, venue, extra players and music hire costs into account when planning the annual programme.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

Proposed: Kirsty McDowell Seconded: Robert Taylor

3.3 Musical Director's Report: Monica Buckland

Monica was pleased to have completed her first complete season with the orchestra and had found planning a whole year's programme interesting and enjoyable

The first concert with 3 Czech tales went well – both players and the audience enjoyed the pieces. Monica felt it was nice that the orchestra trusted her to bring new pieces.

The second concert “Mr and Mrs Mahler” was very well received with a standing ovation (the first ever received by the NTO in the memory of current players)

It was a pleasure to perform with Mojca Vedernjak. It was particularly useful to have a week to work with the soloist

The third concert with the planet suite was a big hit. Monica enjoyed the contrast of an early and a late Vaughan Williams piece in the same concert. She thanked Simon Styles, the tuba soloist.

The orchestra is not just about the concerts, but also the work done getting there. Monica has noticed over the season that there has been an improvement in how players listen to each other, and in intonation in various sections. She said it was gratifying to see the results of players hard work and practice. Players should remember they are part of a team and their individual contribution is always important.

In summary, Monica felt it had been an enjoyable year and she was looking forward to this season. She echoed all of Nick's previous thank yous and made a special mention of the work done by section leaders.

4. Elections of Officers and Committee Members

Position	Member Proposed	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Nick Pears	Fiona Beyer	Jytte Nielsen
Secretary	Annette Nicolle	Kirsty McDowell	Malcolm Toft
Treasurer	Kirsty Pearson	Ellen Arkless	Richard Stent
Librarian	Katie Lodge	Monica Dunlop	Lucy Beckmann
Ordinary Member	Andrew Martin	Richard Stent	Kirsty Pearson
Ordinary Member	Simon Hirst	Ian Murdoch	Chris Harding
Ordinary Member	Robert Taylor	Rachael Leisk	Mark Carroll
Ordinary Member	Brian Tanner	Richard Poyer	Heather Ferris
Ordinary Member	Kirsty McDowell	Annette Nicolle	Malcolm Toft
Ordinary Member	Jenny Williams	Katherine Raine	Nick Pears

No other nominations were received.

The positions of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were duly elected

7 nominations were received for ordinary members of the committee. The orchestra constitution states that there should be a maximum of 6 ordinary members. Nick Pears agreed to speak to the nominated members to see if anyone wished to defer their nomination in the light of there being 7 people nominated. He will announce the outcome to the orchestra at the next rehearsal and if necessary will call an extra-ordinary general meeting with the appropriate period of notice according to the constitution.

5. Any Other Business

The Orchestra thanked Nick Pears for his hard work as chairman
Nick welcomed Jack Zissell as a new member to the viola section.

Meeting closed: 9:10 pm