MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORWICH PHIHARMONIC SOCIETY HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY HOUSE, NORWICH ON WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2018 AT 7.30PM

Antony Jarrold, the Society’s President, took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from 29 members. 24 members were in attendance.

1. **Minutes of the last AGM:**

The Minutes had been posted on the Society’s website and hard copies made available before the meeting. They were taken as read and accepted, proposed by Judy Tryggvason and seconded by Ivor Self.

1. **Chair’s Report:**

Caroline Dixey presented her report (see attached). Antony thanked her for a very comprehensive report on a very successful season. He praised the Committee as a great team whose work was reflected in the good audiences for the last season.

1. **Annual Accounts:**

Kate Anetts (Treasurer) presented her report (see attached). Antony thanked her for her very full and detailed report and for her efforts throughout a tremendous season.

Caroline then thanked the retiring Independent Auditor, Chris Jennings, for examining the Society’s Accounts for at least ten years and previously having acted as Treasurer. She presented him with a gift on behalf of the Society and said it would need someone skilled to take on the role of Independent Auditor. She invited people to apply.

The Accounts were unanimously approved, proposed by Sally West-Lindell and seconded by Sarah Norman.

1. **Election of Officers**

The Officers of the Committee were re-elected en bloc by a vote in favour proposed by Peter Phillips and seconded by Alex Atherton.

1. Election of Ordinary Members:

Caroline explained that Juliet Rickard had stepped down as the Public Representative for the Norfolk Music Services (NMS) on the Committee. The Norfolk Music Hub had taken over from the NMS and its Head, Alison Corfield, had agreed to serve on the Committee with Gillian Shaw as her deputy. She was elected, proposed by Mike Nutt and seconded by Sally West-Lindell. There remained one vacancy for a Public Representative.

1. Appointment of an Independent Accounts Examiner:

There was no appointment and names were being sought.

1. Presentation of Long Service Awards to Members

Antony said it was wonderful to have such long serving members in the Society. 25 year awards went to Ruth Dodds and Richard Martin who would be presented with their certificates at the first choir rehearsal in September.

1. Concert Programme for the next season 2018/19

Mike Nutt praised the creative artwork of Moira Eagling in the new season’s brochure and said it was a cracking season to come.

The November choral and orchestral concert would mark the Centenary of the Armistice in 1918. The orchestral pieces were George Butterworth’s ‘A Shropshire Lad’ and Vaughan Williams’ Symphony No.3 ‘Pastoral’. The latter was inspired by the composer’s wartime experiences and was a subtly beautiful elegy for the dead. Catherine May would be the soprano soloist.

David Dunnett then described the choral pieces, Elgar’s ‘The Spirit of England’ written during the war and very poignant, and Vaughan Williams’ ‘Lord thou hast been our refuge’, a very beautiful piece.

Mike talked about the orchestral concert in December which would be an American Night featuring Bernstein’s ‘Overture Candide’ and Gershwin’s Piano Concerto. The soloist would be Martin Roscoe whom the Society was fortunate to get, being quite a big name who had recorded the Gershwin. Other pieces were Copland’s ‘Billy the Kid Suite’ and Barber’s ‘Essay No 1’ which the conductor, Matt Andrews, had introduced into the repertoire. Finally, Gershwin’s ‘An American in Paris’ would be a new edition featuring authentic taxi horns.

David joked that the Christmas Concert was always a mystery but said it would include the orchestra this coming Christmas.

Mike then said the February orchestral concert would consist of romantic German and Russian pieces. The Wagner ‘Overture and Venusberg Music from Tannhauser’ was less well known. The Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1 would have Katy Woolley as soloist. He described her as a fantastic horn player, one of the Philharmonia players who led a workshop previously with members of the orchestra in the run up to the Mahler 8 concert in 2016 and an extraordinary talent.

David said the choir would be singing Verdi’s Requiem in the final March concert, last performed in 2010. The Germans from Koblenz would be joining in and he had hired a very good quartet of soloists. He praised the choir for currently doing the Mahler 8 again in Ely Cathedral in July and said they were in good heart at the present time.

Antony concluded that it looked like an exciting season was to come.

1. Any other business

There were no items.

Antony thanked Caroline as Chair and congratulated her on her Honorary Degree awarded by the University of East Anglia.

There followed a recital by a wind trio from the Norfolk Centre for Young Musicians, arranged by Gillian Shaw. The recital was very well received and Caroline thanked them very much for their talented playing and popular choice of repertoire.