



Registered Charity No. 264425

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28th June, 2022, at
7.30pm, via Zoom.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd June, 2021. (Attached)
3. To receive the Chair's report for 2021/22. (Attached)
4. To receive and approve the Accounts, including the Financial Report for 1 May 2021 – 30 April, 2022.
Accounts will be available on the website 1 week before the meeting (To follow)
5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Members are invited to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Society for a three-year term, from June, 2022. The current Chair, Caroline Dixey, and Vice-Chair, Catrina Nixon, were re-appointed in June 2019, for three years. Caroline and Catrina have both indicated their willingness to be re-appointed Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for a further three-year term to June, 2025, in the event that no other nominations are received..

Note: The Society's Constitution states that: 'The members of the Society shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman every third AGM who must have already served on the Committee. At the end of the three-year period the Chairman shall not be eligible for re-election or co-option to the Committee for one year unless there is no other candidate for Chairman. At the end of the three-year period the Vice Chairman shall be eligible for election as Chairman but not for re-election as Vice Chairman unless there is no other candidate for Vice Chairman.'

6. Election of Officers for 2022/23*

6.1 Present Officers seeking re-election are:

Treasurer	Kate Anetts
Front of House Manager	Sue Prutton
Chorus Secretary	Sally West-Lindell
Orchestra Secretary	Rob Barnes
Secretary to the Friends and Benefactors	Kate Anetts
Orchestra Sub-Committee Chair	Catrina Nixon
Committee Secretary	Alison Rhodes

Note: The Society's Constitution states that: 'The Officers of the Society, (excluding the Chairman and Vice Chairman) shall be elected annually at the AGM.'

6.2 Election of Publicity Officer*

There is a vacancy for a Publicity Officer for which nominations are invited.

7. Election of Ordinary Members*

7.1 There is one vacancy for a Chorus representative, vice Frances Beadle, for which a nomination is sought.

7.2 There is one vacancy for an Orchestra representative, vice Judy Tryggvason. Judy is willing to serve a further term of three years.

7.3 There are vacancies for two Public Representatives for which nominations are sought.

Note: The Society's Constitution states that: 'The ordinary members, whether elected or co-opted, shall retire after three years' service and shall not be eligible for re-election or co-option for one year unless there are insufficient candidates to fill all the vacancies and the Chairman exercises his or her discretion to invite further nominations which may include nominations for retiring members.'

* *The role of Committee Members*

All elected members of the Committee are Trustees of the charity. Information about the role of a Trustee may be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do>

The Committee normally meets five times a year. The Committee has met on Zoom since the start of the pandemic and has currently agreed to continue to do so on the basis that there has been no impact on the effectiveness of the Committee and it has reduced the need for members to travel to meetings. This will be kept under review.

The Committee welcomes new members. If members are interested and/or are aware of members of the public who might consider getting involved with the Philharmonic, they are welcome to talk in the first instance to the Chair. Secretary or other members of the Committee to find out more.

8. Appointment of an Independent Accounts Examiner.

9. Presentation of Long Service Awards to Members, and Farewells.

10. Looking ahead to the 2022/23 Season.

11. Any other business (See Note 1 below).

Alison Rhodes
NPS Secretary

Note 1: AOB items, written questions or comments on the Minutes or Accounts may be submitted to the Secretary up to 5pm on Monday, 27th June, 2022, by email (alison.rhodes@btinternet.com) or in writing (address below)

Note 2: Nominations should be sent to:

Alison Rhodes
Norwich Philharmonic Society
c/o 24, Burgess Way, Brooke, Norwich, NR15 1JY
to arrive no later than Tuesday, 14th June, 2022 (the closing date).

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORWICH PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23rd JUNE, 2021, VIA ZOOM**

Caroline Dixey, Chair of the Society's Committee, took the chair for this Annual General Meeting. Caroline warmly welcomed everyone, stating that the meeting was taking place via Zoom, in view of the continuing restrictions arising from the Covid19 pandemic.

1. Apologies

It was reported that apologies had been received from 25 members. 25 members were in attendance.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 20th January, 2021

The Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated along with the agenda and other papers, via email and post, the requisite period of notice having been given. The Minutes were taken as read and **accepted**, proposed by Barbara Wildman and seconded by Jayne Evans.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 The Chair's Report had been circulated with the agenda. Attention was drawn to the following:

i) noting that the remainder of the 2020/21 season had continued to be badly disrupted because of the Covid19 pandemic, Caroline regretted that a proposed Choral Workshop, due to be held on 24th July, had had to be cancelled because of the on-going restrictions on amateur singing. Strong representation had been made about this on behalf of amateur groups by 'Making Music', of which the Philharmonic Society was a member. It was hoped that the next Government review, due on 5th July, would bring more positive news;

ii) the Orchestra, meanwhile, had been able to return to rehearsals at the Showground Arena. Working on three pieces in three-week blocks, the Orchestra was inviting members of the Chorus, Friends and Benefactors to a play-through on the third rehearsal. This arrangement had been very well received by all. The next play-through, of Malcolm Arnold's Symphony No. 5, would be held on Tuesday, 6th July. The final play-through, of Liszt Piano Concertos 1 and 2, with Alexander Ullman (a previous soloist with the Philharmonic) would be held in late July;

iii) although the programme for the 2021/22 season had still to be finalised in view of the Covid19 pandemic, St. Andrew's Hall had been booked and contact had been made with The Hewett Academy for Chorus rehearsals and Norwich High School for Orchestra rehearsals. A good relationship had also developed with the Showground;

iv) heartfelt thanks were extended to Benefactors, Friends and Members who had so generously contributed financially (via subscriptions or donations) to the Society during this extraordinary time. In addition, Caroline thanked members of the Committee and the Committee's Covid Sub-Group for their efforts in a very challenging year. She also thanked Kate Anetts, the Treasurer; the Vice-Chair and Orchestra Sub-Committee Chair, Catrina Nixon; the Committee, Chorus and Orchestra Secretaries, Alison, Sally and Rob; the Society's indefatigable conductors, Matt and David; Caroline Furniss and Matt Andrews for the hugely enjoyable quiz; Sally and other contributors for wonderfully uplifting 'Musical Musings'; and Judy Tryggvason for eye-catching and informative Newsletters.

3.2 The Chair was delighted to announce that the Society had recently received a very generous donation of £2k from a member of the Chorus who wished to remain anonymous. On behalf of all Benefactors, Friends and Members, the Chair thanked the donor most gratefully for this gift.

4. Annual Accounts, including the Financial Report for 1 May, 2020 to 30 April, 2021

4.1 The Treasurer, Kate Anetts, referred to the Annual Accounts and the Financial Report that had been circulated. She explained that, as the Society's income for this period was less than £25k, there was no

requirement to submit the Report and detailed accounts to the Charity Commission. Instead, summary financial data would be provided. In her report, the Treasurer highlighted the following:

- i) although there had been no concert income and a one-off loss had been budgetted for to pay professional colleagues, the Society had in fact ended the year with a surplus of £1823, thanks to the generosity of Benefactors, Friends and Members;
- ii) the Society had welcomed five new Benefactors during the year. The number of Friends had dropped but it was anticipated that some would return when the Society was able to resume its normal activities. Income had thus remained constant from these sources;
- iii) the number of '100 Club' members stood at 68, with draws taking place this year via social media, producing welcome income of £510;
- iv) the current orchestra rehearsals at the Showground Arena were at nil cost to the Society, the Showground having received funding under the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund;
- v) the 2021/22 budget would be difficult to set up as uncertainties remained. It would be prudent therefore to build in a one-off exceptional deficit as a precaution. Reserves were healthy, however, and the Society remained a sustainable concern;
- vi) a very generous donation of £2k had been made to the Society by a member of the Chorus who wished to remain anonymous. The Treasurer re-iterated the Chair's grateful thanks to the donor.

4.2 The Chair thanked the Treasurer for her report and for her continued work in support of the Philharmonic Society.

4.3 The Accounts and Financial Report were **approved**, proposed by Kirsty Visick and seconded by James Visick.

5. Election of Officers for 2021/22

5.1 It was reported that the Officers (with the exception of the Chair and Vice-Chair, which were three-year appointments) had indicated that they were seeking re-election. Proposed by Ruth Dodds and seconded by Sue Mitchell, they were duly **re-elected**.

5.2 There was a vacancy for the role of Publicity Officer. As no nominations had been received, this position remained unfilled. The Chair noted that an expression of interest might be forthcoming, in which case it was proposed that the person concerned be co-opted to the Committee during 2021/22, as permitted under the Constitution. This proposal was **approved** by all members present.

6. Election of Ordinary Members

6.1 Of the seven Ordinary Members of the Committee, the two Chorus and two Orchestra representatives had indicated that they were seeking re-election. Proposed by Sue Mitchell and seconded by Ruth Dodds, they were duly **re-elected**.

6.2 The Chair informed members that, in addition to the notification of two vacancies for Public representatives, a third had since arisen following the recent decision by Juliet Rickard to stand down. One nomination had been received, from Simon Suter. Simon, like Juliet, was connected with the Norfolk County Youth Orchestra (NCYO), being its orchestra manager. The Committee was very keen to continue this link with musicians of the future and accordingly recommended acceptance of the nomination, notwithstanding the fact that Simon was also a member of the Philharmonic orchestra. It was stressed that Simon's membership of the Committee, if approved, would be on the basis of his role with the NCYO. Proposed by Catrina Nixon and seconded by Caroline Furniss, Simon Suter's was **duly elected** as a Public representative.

6.3 As no further nominations had been received, two vacancies remained unfilled. The Chair encouraged members to consider whether they knew of any suitable candidates.

6.4 On behalf of the Society, the Chair placed on record her grateful thanks to Juliet Rickard for her service

to and support of the Committee and the valuable link with the NCYO that had been created. She wished Juliet all the best for the future.

7. Co-opted Members

The Chair noted that the Constitution allowed co-option to the Committee of such members as were deemed to be necessary. In this regard, it was proposed that Caroline Furniss remain a member of the Committee as Orchestra Librarian, by virtue of co-option. Proposed by Sally West-Lindell and seconded by Catrina Nixon, Caroline Furniss was duly **re-elected**.

8. Proposed amendment to the Constitution

8.1 The Chair reported that, given the extraordinary circumstances arising from the Covid19 pandemic this year, AGM and Committee meetings had been held, successfully, via Zoom. In the light of this, it was considered prudent to insert an additional clause into the Society's Constitution to permit the holding of meetings remotely, by electronic means, if necessary. It was stressed that this approach was expected to be the exception rather than the norm. Due notice had been given of the proposal which, if approved (a two-thirds majority of those present at the AGM was required), would be notified to the Charity Commission.

8.2 Proposed by Kate Anetts and seconded by Catrina Nixon, the amendment (addition) to the Constitution was **unanimously approved**.

9. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner

Noting that such an appointment was required should the Society's income exceed £25k during the year, the firm of Lovewell Blake was **re-appointed** as Independent Accounts Examiner, proposed by Kate Anetts and seconded by Catrina Nixon.

10. Long Service Awards

The Chair reported that Long Service Certificates had been presented to the following members: David Dunnett (Chorus Conductor) and Nicky Dunnett (Chorus member) and Colin Pordham. Colin had completed twenty-nine years as a member and former Chair of the Society.

On behalf of the Philharmonic Society, the Chair congratulated all the above on their achievement.

11. Looking ahead to the 2021/22 Season

Members were informed that there was still uncertainty about the 2021/22 programme as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. A number of options had been identified depending on the scale of any restrictions that might still be in place. The two Conductors thanked members for their patience and understanding during what had been a very disrupted season. The Choral Workshops held at St. Andrew's Hall before Christmas had been enjoyable but regrettably had not been able to be offered again because of the restrictions placed on amateur singers. The Orchestra had fared better, having been able to resume rehearsals at the Showground Arena. This opportunity was proving useful in exploring repertoire and thinking about possible future programmes. Members were assured that the Committee was keeping the position under careful review.

12. Any other business

12.1 Members heard that St. George's Music Shop would be closing in July. The Shop had acted as a ticket office for Philharmonic concerts. Discussions were still on-going with regard to future arrangements. One possibility might be to focus on on-line and telephone bookings. On behalf of

Benefactors, Friends and Members, the Chair thanked the Music Shop for its support.

12.2 The Music Quiz, hosted by Matt Andrews and Caroline Furniss in January, 2021, via Zoom, had been very enjoyable. Thanking the hosts once again, the Chair noted that another on-line quiz, possibly in the autumn, was under consideration. Members would be informed if there was a decision to hold another one.

12.3 As noted in Minute 3.1 ii) above, a warm invitation was extended to the Orchestra's remaining two 'play-throughs': on 6th July (Malcolm Arnold's Symphony No. 5) and on 27th July (Liszt's Piano Concertos 1 and 2, with Alexander Ullman). There was ample space at the Arena, but names would need to be provided in advance and Covid precautions observed.

12.4 In response to a question about the Chorus's next visit to Koblenz (which should have taken place earlier in the year), the Chair noted that the Musik Institut usually planned its programmes well in advance, so at this point, it was not possible to give a definite date. She undertook to follow this up.

12.5 In her concluding remarks, the Chair re-iterated her grateful thanks to all members of the Committee and of the Covid19 Sub-Group for their hard work during the year. She also thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to the time when the Philharmonic Society would once again meet in person.

NORWICH PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

CHAIR'S REPORT ON THE 2021/22 SEASON

A very warm welcome to you all to this AGM. At this time last year, we were waiting to hear if we would be allowed to return to practice and performance. Thankfully, the 'green light' (with some amber tones), was given. After having put away instruments and rested voices (apart from home practice, of course), the Phil returned to music making and performance with great joy and enthusiasm, tempered with cautionary procedures to reduce the risk of Covid19 infection.

How lovely it was, therefore, to watch and listen to the Orchestra rehearsing in the vast space of the Showground Arena, during last summer, accompanied at one point, I recall, by the bangs and crashes of thunder and flashes of lightning! It was a privilege too for us all to hear Alex Ullman once again, rehearsing Liszt's Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 2. Then, after much deliberation by the Committee, we decided to press ahead with a revised concert programme, offering not just our usual five concerts, but seven, although our Family Christmas concert had to be cancelled because of the rising number of Covid19 cases. The Orchestra duly announced the Phil's return with an October 'Spectacular' at the Showground Arena, with a number of classics, including the ever-popular 1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky, complete with cannon and bells, courtesy of a computer ably operated by Judy Tryggvason.

November saw the return of the Choir, suitably socially-distanced, with a slightly more sedate offering of Rossini's 'Petite Messe Solennelle'. This piece gave us the opportunity to admire Tim Patient's fitness as he worked the pedals to produce air for the harmonium. The 'Messe' was followed by an impressive tribute to Malcolm Arnold in the year of the centenary of his birth, including his Symphony No. 5, Walton's Spitfire Prelude, Delius and Elgar. What wonderful feedback for the Phil from Arnold's daughter and son-in-law (see the May Newsletter). All looked set fair for the much-loved Phil Family Christmas concert – and then came the Omicron variant of Covid19, which caused us, sadly, to cancel the performance. Despite this disappointment, the 'show went on'. The Orchestra presented an evening of Sibelius, Tchaikovsky, Mahler and Shostakovich in February, dedicating the performance to the memory of the late, former leader of the Orchestra, Dominic Hopkins. Zoe Beyers, the soloist in the Tchaikovsky violin concerto also sent lovely feedback to Matt and the Orchestra. March saw the return of the Chorus, with an amazing rendition of Duke Ellington's 'The Best of the Sacred Concerts'. What an evening: the Echoes of Ellington Jazz Orchestra was astonishing, the three soloists brought different styles to their pieces, and the tap-dancer made us all feel breathless. It was such a pity that a number of choir members caught Covid after this memorable evening. We hope that you are all now fully recovered. The final concert featured the Orchestra at the Arena Showground again, with a programme aimed at attracting families to live, classical music. Everyone had great fun. Some of us even worked out that the Conductor was the guilty party in the musical whodunnit, 'The Composer is dead'!

As I mentioned in the May Newsletter, the challenges posed by Covid19 have made us think creatively about programmes to reduce risks. I hope you agree that, in the end, we managed to performed exciting works and settings of works which we would not have done in a normal season. May I congratulate you all on delivering a well-received concert series in challenging circumstances. You showed commitment, flexibility and determination. Huge thanks too to our indefatigable conductors, Matt and David and rehearsal pianist, Tim.

All the above, however, comes at a cost. Although we have put on more concerts than normal, our audiences, whilst encouraging given the circumstances, have been about half the usual number, resulting in reduced income. In addition, we incurred some costs from the cancelled concert and we face increased prices for hire of performance and rehearsal space for next season. Our Treasurer, Kate Anetts, will give more detail about this in the Financial Report. In summary, we have made an in-year loss on our concerts in 2021/22 which we are fortunate in being able to cover from our reserves. We cannot do this indefinitely, however, and it is for this reason that the Committee has had to increase Membership subscriptions for next year and to raise ticket prices. Indeed, our financial situation is a reason why the Committee decided to hold this AGM by Zoom, once again. I very much hope that we shall be in a better position next year and that the Chair's report can be presented in person.

As well as a sense of achievement, the end of a season usually brings with it a sense of loss too. Many of you will have seen in the Newsletter that there are a number of farewells and thanks to be given: to Orchestra members Andrew Ansell, Stephen Cox and Andrew Murray, who between them have notched up an amazing 118 years' service to the Phil. The Chorus has said farewell and thank you to: Victoria Ayrton, Anne and Robin Friend, Margaret Halls, Sarah Norman, Gwen Stewart and Phil Tuckwood. You will also recall that a couple of Chorus folk have completed twenty-five years' service: David and Nicky Dunnett. They have been presented with their certificates, gifts and congratulations. The May Newsletter also gave advance notice of the decision by Liz Marjoram, Leader of the Orchestra, to retire at the end of the 2022/23 season. We shall, in due course, thank Liz for her wonderful support, but for now, we echo the Newsletter 's comment: 'You're irreplaceable, Liz.'

Another memorable season in the long history of the Phil has drawn to a close and we now look forward to 2022/23. The plan remains for the Orchestra and Chorus to get together for the first time since December, 2019, in a programme series that was originally intended for 2021/22. Catrina and David will talk about the planned programme for the coming year later in the meeting.

Some of you may be wondering about our Koblenz link. We were due to go to Koblenz to perform Elijah together in 2021, but this was postponed due to the Covid situation. We have recently been advised that the performance is now planned for 5 April 2024, so hope that many members of the choir will put this in their diaries.

Finally, I should like to record my most grateful thanks to: members of the Committee who have worked so hard this season; our Vice-Chair and chair of the orchestra Sub-Committee, Catrina; our Treasurer, Kate; our conductors, David and Matt, and rehearsal pianist, Tim; Sally, Rob and Alison, our Chorus, Orchestra and Committee Secretaries; our Publicity Group and Judy, our website and Newsletter maestro; our Front of House Manager, Sue, and volunteers at St. Andrew's Hall/The Arena; Caroline and Matt for once again challenging 'our little grey cells' in the Phil quiz (*date for your diaries: the next quiz will be held on 23rd January, 2023, - so you have plenty of time to prepare!*); our generous Benefactors and Friends; and to you all for helping to maintain and develop the strong and cherished traditions of 'The Phil'.

Caroline Dixey

Chair

Norwich Philharmonic Society



NOMINATION FORM

We, being members of the Society, hereby nominate

.....
(Block capitals)

To serve as.....

Proposer's name..... Signature

Seconder's name..... Signature.....

Nominee's signature Date.....

Please ensure that each proposer/seconder/nominee is aware of and agrees to their name being put forward.

Nominations should be sent to:

***Alison Rhodes,
Norwich Philharmonic Society,
c/o 24, Burgess Way,
Brooke,
Norwich, NR15 1JY***

to arrive no later than Tuesday, 14th June, 2022 (the closing date).