

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 5PM VIA
ZOOM AND AT LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL.**

1. ATTENDANCE

Directors present: Louise Shepherd (Chair)
Michael Eakin (Chief Executive)
Stephen Gregory
Bryan Johnson (via Zoom)

In attendance: Peter Garden, Executive Director (Performance & Learning)
Stephan Heaton, Executive Director (Finance & IT)
Millicent Jones, Executive Director (Audience & Development)
Sandra Parr, Artistic Planning Director (Orchestra & Ensembles)
Plus 60 other members of the Society, 48 in person and 9 via Zoom
(and 3 members represented by Proxy votes).

Apologies: Vanessa Bakewell
Angela Bellingham
Sameeta Gahir
Dr Tony Harvey (Company Secretary)
Claire Jackson
Baroness Estelle Morris of Yardley
Apologies were received from 27 other members of the Society.

2. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting were noted.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS

3.1 The Chief Executive presented the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

3.2 **The Audited Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2023 were approved.**

4. RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The Chair proposed, and members seconded, the resolution for the reappointment of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP as the Auditors of the Society's accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

The meeting agreed to the re-appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP as the Auditors of the Society's accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

5.1 The meeting approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors to the reappointment for a term of three years of:

Sameeta Gahir

5.2 The meeting approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors to the appointment for a period of three years, commencing from their co-option by the Board in December 2022 of

Bryan Johnson

Camilla Mankabady

5.3 The meeting noted the following retiring Directors of the Board:

Baroness Estelle Morris of Yardley

Susanna Poole

The Chair thanked the retiring members of the Board for providing their support and personal expertise during their tenures as Trustees, and the contribution they have made both within their role as Trustee and outside of this role.

5.4 The meeting noted the following continuing Directors of the Board

To retire in 2024

Vanessa Bakewell

Angela Bellingham

To retire in 2025

Claire Jackson (end of second term)

Stephen Gregory (end of first term)

Louise Shepherd (end of first term)

Camilla Mankabady (end of first term)

Bryan Johnson (end of first term)

Chief Executive

Michael Eakin

5.5 The meeting noted the retirement from the non-trustee role of Company Secretary of:

Dr Tony Harvey

The Chair thanked the Company Secretary for his support to the Board and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

6. OTHER ORDINARY BUSINESS

A member of the Society shared a special congratulations to the survival of the organisation given difficulties with COVID-19 over the last three years.

No other ordinary business had been notified to the Company Secretary in advance of the meeting.

MEMBERS MEETING OF THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 5.15PM VIA ZOOM AND AT LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL

ATTENDANCE

Directors present:

Louise Shepherd (Chair)
Michael Eakin (Chief Executive)
Stephen Gregory
Bryan Johnson (via Zoom)

In attendance:

Peter Garden, Executive Director (Performance & Learning)
Stephan Heaton, Executive Director (Finance & IT)
Millicent Jones, Executive Director (Audience & Development)
Sandra Parr, Artistic Planning Director (Orchestra & Ensembles)
Plus 60 other members of the Society, 48 in person and 9 via Zoom

Apologies:

Vanessa Bakewell
Angela Bellingham
Sameeta Gahir
Dr Tony Harvey (Company Secretary)
Claire Jackson
Baroness Estelle Morris of Yardley

Apologies were received from 27 other members of the Society.

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the members meeting and explained that this was an opportunity to hear from the Chief Executive directly on the current work and future plans of the organisation, and to ask any general questions or make comments.

The Chair started by reflecting on her first year as Chair and her impression of the organisation, noting that it had been a successful year in which the organisation had continued to deliver a very wide range of work across multiple areas. Since coming in as Chair, she had been impressed

by the ambition of Liverpool Philharmonic and its team. The Chair reflected on the important role that Liverpool Philharmonic plays in the city in many ways, and noted that it is right to be aspirational in this, whilst ensuring we are not overextending ourselves. The Chair also shared that the organisation enjoys great support and loyalty from its audiences and members, and that the Board is very conscious of this and appreciative of it. Similarly, we enjoy great support from Liverpool City Council and Arts Council England.

The Chair reflected on how Liverpool Philharmonic recovered well since the pandemic and is now well positioned to continue to progress, particularly with Domingo as Chief Conductor, and given his huge success in his first two years both with the Orchestra and with our audiences.

The Chair introduced the Chief Executive to say more about the last year, and plans for the future.

2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive updated the meeting on the on the current work of the Society and plans for the coming year.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting that overall audiences across all activity in 2022-23 was up by 5.5% on 2019/20. The Chief Executive reflected on the continuing growth of audiences despite recent events, including COVID-19 and the ‘cost of living crisis’.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting on Domingo Hindoyan being in his third season as Orchestra conductor. The Chief Executive also updated the meeting on the extension of Domingo Hindoyan’s contract by another three years, likely making this the longest confirmed period for a Chief Conductor in the UK today. The Chief Executive reflected on the continuing development of Domingo’s relationship with the Orchestra, and noted that this is being recognised by audiences, and national and local critics.

The Chief Executive reflected upon the unique combination of work and activity that Liverpool Philharmonic engages in, bringing together a professional symphony orchestra and concert programme, a leading concert hall with a broad range of concerts and artists across music genres, and one of the biggest music education and learning programmes in the country, as well as our extensive Music and Health programme. The Chief Executive reflected on this being possible through the diverse skills, backgrounds, and perspectives of our team of 300 plus people, including our Orchestra made up of over 70 musicians.

The Chief Executive noted the departure of Jamie Kenny (Associate Principal Double Bass) and Nina Ashton (Section Leader Bassoon), as well as the retirement of Paul Marsden (Principal 2nd Trumpet) and Graham Johns (Section Leader Percussion). He also welcomed Drake Gritton (Principal Cor Anglais), Emma Burgess (Principal 2nd Clarinet), and Helena Mackie (Section Leader Oboe), who joined the Orchestra this Autumn. The Chief Executive noted that Hannah Mackenzie will be joining the Orchestra as Principal 2nd Trumpet in the new year, and will also

be the fourth current member of the Orchestra to have come through the Liverpool Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra.

The Chief Executive reflected on the passing of Carl Davis, who had a long and distinguished career as a successful composer of film and tv scores, and as a conductor, working with many orchestras, but none more than Liverpool Philharmonic.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting that we hosted the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine. He reflected on this being a reminder of the power of music in sharing culture and uniting people, despite whatever else the world may be going through.

The Chief Executive noted the retirement of Dr Ian Tracey as Choir's Chorusmaster in July this year, and shared the Liverpool Philharmonic's gratitude for all Ian has given the organisation. The Chief Executive noted the appointment of Matthew Hamilton as the new Director of Choirs and Singing.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting on proposed activity for next year, including the continued delivery of our concert programme, our ensembles, our In Harmony programme, our Schools Concerts, and our Music and Health programme. He noted plans for the Orchestra and Domingo to go to Japan in May 2024 for their first international tour together. The Chief Executive also reflected on planned works to invest in the stage and choir areas in the Summer 2024. The Chief Executive reflected on the three-year partnership with Barrow in Furness to extend the impact of our music beyond Liverpool to the North of England.

Finally, the Chief Executive thanked staff, the Chair, Trustees, Members, funders, donors, partners, and audience members for their continued support.

There followed questions and comments from members covering areas including:

- A suggestion to host other visiting Orchestras. The Chief Executive noted that we have a resident Orchestra where some other concert halls do not, and we would not want to overstretch our audience. The Chief Executive also noted that hosting the Ukraine Symphony was a specific thought through decision given current circumstances.
- Quantitative measures for the Music and Health programme. The Executive Director of Performance & Learning noted that we collect lots of qualitative data for our Music and Health programmes (surveys, feedback, focus groups, etc.) from patients, clinicians, and NHS Trust partners. However, he noted that measuring the clinical impact of music on the health through quantitative data is more difficult and we think it is more important to focus on the well person rather than the ill person.
- The statistics of audiences in the hall and how these are measured. The Executive Director of Audience & Development noted that we are not able to differentiate between different individuals per concert and clarified that attendance numbers refer to the number of tickets bought.

- The Chief Executive acknowledged a pre-sent question regarding accessibility to the restrooms in the circle area. The Chief Executive noted that, whilst have taken steps to increase the accessibility, we are still constrained by the nature of a 1930s building. The Chief Executive also noted that we have one of the highest Kitemark standards in music venues for people with disabilities.
- The reduction in the number of afternoon concerts this season. The Chief Executive noted that we reduced the number of full symphony orchestra concerts and repeat concerts as part of the strategy to allow breadth of other work, as well as continuing to grow average audience numbers. The Chief Executive noted that we may have lost too many afternoon concerts so will be building that up again next season.
- A suggestion that the process of buying stand-by tickets is relooked at given that Box Office hours are not what they used to be, making buying tickets in person more difficult. The Executive Director of Audience & Development agreed to meet with the member after the meeting to discuss this further.

Lord Derby, President of the organisation, gave a special thank you to everyone at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic for all the work they produce.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was tabled.

The meeting concluded at 6.24pm.