

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL  
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 5PM VIA  
TEAMS AND AT LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL.**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

**Directors present:**

Louise Shepherd (Chair)

Michael Eakin (Chief Executive)

Stephen Gregory

Camilla Mankabady

David Lloyd

Bryan Johnson (via Teams)

Tom Lewis (via Teams)

**In attendance:**

Peter Garden, Executive Director (Performance & Learning)

Stephan Heaton, Executive Director (Finance & IT)

Sandra Parr, Artistic Planning Director (Orchestra & Ensembles)

Plus 42 other members of the Society, 40 in person and 2 via Zoom  
(and 3 members represented by Proxy votes).

**Apologies:**

Vanessa Bakewell

Angela Bellingham

Sameeta Gahir

Olga Smolen

Jernice Easthope

Lord Derby (President)

Apologies were received from 12 other members of the Society.

## **2. WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting.

**The minutes of the 2023 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 2024.

3.2 **The Audited Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 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 appointment for a period of three years, following their co-option by the Board in December 2023 of

**Olga Smolen**

5.2 The meeting approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors to the appointment for a period of three years, following their co-option by the Board in September 2024 of

**Jernice Easthope**

**Tom Lewis**

5.3 The meeting approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors to the appointment for a period of three years

**David Lloyd**

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

**Claire Jackson (retired January 2024)**

**Vanessa Bakewell (retired from the date of this Annual General Meeting)**

**Angela Bellingham (retired from the date of this Annual General Meeting)**

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.

5.5 The meeting noted the following continuing Directors of the Board:

To retire in 2025

**Stephen Gregory (end of first term)**

**Louise Shepherd (end of first term)**

**Camilla Mankabady (end of first term)**

**Bryan Johnson (end of first term)**

To retire in 2026

**Sameeta Gahir (end of second term)**

**Olga Smolen (end of first term)**

Chief Executive

**Michael Eakin**

**6. OTHER ORDINARY BUSINESS**

No 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 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 5.18PM VIA TEAMS AND AT LIVERPOOL  
PHILHARMONIC HALL**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Directors present:**

Louise Shepherd (Chair)  
Michael Eakin (Chief Executive)  
Stephen Gregory  
Camilla Mankabady  
David Lloyd  
Bryan Johnson (via Teams)  
Tom Lewis (via Teams)

**In attendance:**

Peter Garden, Executive Director (Performance & Learning)  
Stephan Heaton, Executive Director (Finance & IT)  
Sandra Parr, Artistic Planning Director (Orchestra & Ensembles)  
Plus 42 other members of the Society, 40 in person and 2 via Zoom  
(and 3 members represented by Proxy votes).

**Apologies:**

Vanessa Bakewell  
Angela Bellingham  
Sameeta Gahir  
Olga Smolen  
Jernice Easthope  
Lord Derby (President)  
Apologies were received from 12 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 reflected on the incredible breadth and quality of work that Liverpool Philharmonic engages in, having gone from strength to strength over the last year. The Chair noted the upcoming retirement of the Chief Executive, sharing that he is the head of the extraordinary family that is Liverpool Philharmonic.

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 reflected upon the 2023-24 season, including the Orchestra's busy programme over the summer closure period, showing the ambition, breadth and quality that the Orchestra delivered to. The Chief Executive updated the meeting on the Orchestra's tour of Japan, which was their first tour since before the pandemic. The tour of Japan which was a triumphant success.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting on the extended closure period, during which the orchestra stage risers and the Choir area were remodelled. The works were successfully delivered to schedule, and all the funding needed was raised from public sector partners and trusts and foundations. The Chief Executive reflected upon the benefits of the new stage risers, including the greater flexibility of space it provides on stage, improved acoustics on stage and across the Auditorium, as well as providing disabled access for performers across the stage for the first time the Hall's history.

The Chief Executive reflected upon the growth of the Youth Company and In Harmony programmes, which are continuing to engage increasing numbers of young people in the city. The Chief Executive also noted the Youth Orchestra's tour to Italy in July, with 50 young people performing 4 concerts as part of Florence Youth Festival.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting on the successful start of our three-year partnership in Barrow-in-Furness, having sold out Orchestra performances across a range of venues, small ensembles of players performing for free in care homes and public spaces, and including working with young people in schools.

The Chief Executive noted the retirement of Jonathan Small (Principal Oboe), Richard Wallace (Section Player Viola), Rob Shepley (Principal Viola) and Alex Marks (Section Player 1<sup>st</sup> Violin), as well as the departure of Millicent Jones (Executive Director, Audiences and Development). He also welcomed Matthew Brett (Section Leader Percussion) who came through the Emerging Professionals talent development programme, Fabio Brum (Section Leader Trumpet), Miquel Ramos (Section Leader Clarinet), and Nadia Debono (Associate Principal Viola), who joined the Orchestra this Autumn.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting that the Board and Executive Team are now working on a Strategic Plan to take the organisation through to 2030. The Chief Executive noted the consultation exercise which took place earlier this year, which reflected stakeholder's value in the breadth and quality of the concert programme; the social impact and benefit of our community work, especially our work with young people; the access to a world class Orchestra, and the unique qualities of Philharmonic Hall.

Finally, the Chief Executive noted his retirement from this role at the end of March next year, and thanked staff, the Chair, Trustees, Members, funders, donors, partners, and audience members for their continued support over the last 16 years.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for the extraordinary impact he has had on the organisation and city throughout his time in the role, transforming people's lives through music in every walk of life. The Chair updated the meeting that the search process for the next Chief Executive has started, and gave assurance of commitment from the trustees to ensure the right person is appointed to continue building on the strengths which Michael created.

There followed questions and comments from members covering areas including:

- Depth of questioning in post-concert surveys. The Chief Executive noted that the questions are set by Arts Council England to monitor who our audiences are and to how successful we are in attracting audiences from our communities. The Chief Executive also noted that results are anonymised, all questions are not mandatory to answer, and there is always an option to select 'Prefer not to say' should individuals not feel comfortable answering a particular question. The Chief Executive shared that we will continue to feedback to Arts Council England on audience concerns on the questions.
- Improvement in acoustic arrangements in the Hall for recordings. The Executive Director of Artistic Planning noted that the improved acoustics in the Hall ensure the Orchestra can more clearly hear each other and thus play better together, improving the quality of sound.
- All members thanked the Chief Executive for his contribution to Liverpool Philharmonic and the city.

### **3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was tabled. The meeting concluded at 6.20pm.