

HENLEAZE CONCERT SOCIETY – Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 7 October 2022

(Draft approved by the Committee, for formal approval at the next AGM)

1 Attendance and apologies

Committee: Roger Huckle (Chair), Penny Rawlings, Sue Paterson, Armelle Young

Members: Roger Woolley

Apologies: Roger Caldwell

The meeting was declared to be quorate.

2 Minutes and matters arising

Minutes of the last AGM on 7 October 2021 were approved.

An interim distribution of the legacy from former member Walter Finley had been received, but the final balance was still outstanding. The Secretary would ask for an update. There were no other matters arising.

3 Chairman's report

The Chair was delighted to be able to resume live concerts, although still cautious about putting on larger ensembles, as audience numbers were at only half of previous levels. At one point the future of the Society was on a knife edge. Similar difficulties were being experienced by music societies across the country, and audiences for classical music were significantly smaller in general, even in major venues such as St George's.

Thanks to generous gifts from members, including an offer to cover any future losses, and the unexpected and very welcome legacy, the Society's finances were now on a more solid footing. The first concert of the season would feature a substantial orchestra, although subsequent concerts will involve smaller chamber groups. It was hoped to put on more ambitious concerts in due course, but this will continue to depend on ticket sales and audience numbers.

The pre-concert talks will be more varied this season, including different speakers and interviews with players, starting with an interview of the soloist at the October concert.

4 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer tabled draft accounts for the financial year ended 30 June 2022. Prior to the receipt of the legacy distribution, these showed an operating loss of £2,105.57. Without the many individual donations that the Society received over the year, both large and small, and totalling over £2,000, the operating loss would have been significantly greater.

The balance at Lloyds Bank as at 6 October 2022 was £21,553.38, including the legacy, Gift Aid of £700 and some season ticket and ticket sales for the new season. Cheques received to the value of about £3,000 were yet to be paid in. Fortunately, the Society banks with Lloyds, which is one of only two major banks still providing free banking for charity accounts. The Treasurer would continue to pursue the possibility of opening an online bank account.

The Society's finances are now in a healthy state.

5 Approval of accounts for the year ended 30 June 2022

The draft accounts were approved, with thanks to the Treasurer.

6 **Membership Secretary's report**

Over the year, 60 season tickets and 12 memberships were sold, down from 95 season tickets and 27 memberships in the last pre-Covid year. As at the date of the AGM, 57 season tickets and 12 memberships had already been sold for 2022/23, so numbers should be as good as last year if not better. There is still a steady demand, with a few new members each year, but it seems unlikely that there will ever be a return to previous levels of season ticket sales. On the positive side, the income from individual ticket sales is potentially greater than from the discounted season ticket prices.

The Society had ended its relationship with Opus 13, who were no longer selling many tickets, but Eventbrite sales were increasing and 195 tickets were sold online, with the highest number of online sales for the November and January concerts. The new owners of Henleaze Post Office have agreed to continue selling tickets, which is helpful as this is a popular and convenient outlet for local residents.

Almost all members are now on email (only about 20 receive physical letters), which has significantly reduced costs on stamps, stationery and printing. Season tickets and memberships are still processed by post and this is working well with no problems so far.

There are plans to create a separate database of contact details from Eventbrite sales to enable mailshots about future concerts to be sent both to members and to previous online purchasers. It may be possible to send emails to them directly through Eventbrite.

7 **Publicity**

There were still many leaflets to be distributed and it was agreed to ask audience members to help with this at each concert. The Treasurer will create an Instagram account, in the hope of reaching a different and wider audience. Advertising in BS 6 and 9 will continue.

8 **Bar Manager's report**

Wine and soft drink supplies had been stocked up and there should be enough for the next two or three concerts. The request to serve fresh rather than long life juice means having to buy in for each concert which is not ideal, but people are generous with donations and often surprisingly complimentary about the budget quality wine!

9 **Other business**

Programme notes had been provided on a voluntary basis to date but it was agreed in future to pay the contributor a set amount per concert, to be reviewed.

10 **Succession Planning and Election of Officers**

The Committee was pleased to hear that Simon Kodurand of the Bristol Ensemble was willing to join the Committee and agreed that he should be elected as Vice Chair. The other Officers were willing to continue in their current roles and all were re-elected.

Chair:	Roger Huckle	Treasurer:	Penny Rawlings
Vice Chair:	Simon Kodurand	Bar Manager:	Roger Caldwell
Secretary:	Sue Paterson	Publicity:	Armelle Young

The Chair thanked the Committee members and called the meeting to a close.

Next Committee meeting: January 2023 (date and time to be agreed)

Date of next AGM: To be agreed