

HENLEAZE CONCERT SOCIETY – Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 21 September 2023

1 Attendance and apologies

Committee: Roger Huckle (Chair), Simon Kodurand, Penny Rawlings, Sue Paterson, Armelle Young, Roger Caldwell.

Apologies: Steve Rawlings

2 Minutes and matters arising

Minutes of the last AGM on 7 October 2022 were approved. There were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's report

The Chair reported on a successful season of concerts:

October	Bruch and Beethoven 1
November	Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue and Concerto in F
January	Baroque Concert
March	English String Music
May	Mozart Wind Serenade for 13 instruments
June	Summer Serenade – Boyce, Wesley, Einaudi, Dana Wilson, etc

Steve Clarke's pre-concert talks have been a great success and he has developed a good rapport with the audience. Thanks to Steve, and to Esme Caldwell for her excellent programme notes.

The Bristol Ensemble have been experimenting with improving stage presentation, with better lighting and Henleaze Concert Society banners behind the orchestra.

Audiences are improving but are still below pre pandemic numbers. This year the Committee has decided to put more resources into marketing and social media and the Chair hoped that this will bring in new faces and create more interest in the Society.

The legacy will help to cover losses and the extra money in the bank will enable us to be braver and more ambitious with future concerts.

4 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer tabled draft accounts for the financial year ended 30 June 2023. Interim distributions from the Walter Finley estate amount to £20,635.72 so far, with a small final distribution expected. Without the legacy, there would have been an operating loss of £3,861,26. If losses continue at this level, the legacy will last for just four to five years.

The Society was credited last year with two free concert rentals after Covid cancellations in the previous year, hence the increased amount for venue hire in 2023/23.

There were now separate entries for the speaker and programme notes. The speaker's fee was previously included in the Bristol Ensemble invoice, but separate invoices will now be required to provide an audit trail.

The balance at Lloyds Bank as at 30 June 2023 was £23,438.20.

5 **Approval of accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023**

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

6 **Membership Secretary's report**

The Society sold 62 season tickets and 37 memberships, slightly up from 60 season tickets and 12 memberships last year. Most of the memberships were sold as a result of the special offer of a £10 reduced rate, and many of these were new members who have continued to attend concerts since joining. As at the date of the AGM, 48 season tickets and 13 memberships had already been sold for the new season.

Although it seems unlikely that we will ever go back to the previous levels of season ticket sales, there is still a steady demand (with a few new season ticket holders each year) and the income from individual ticket sales is potentially greater than from the discounted season ticket prices

People continue to be generous with donations, including a member paying for the venue hire for one concert. Total donations were nearly £1,000 on which we will receive Gift Aid of about £250.

Eventbrite sales are continuing to grow and 239 tickets were sold online, with the highest number of sales (80 tickets) for the Baroque concert. The ability to take card payments on the door should be welcomed by the many younger people who no longer tend to use cash or cheques.

Almost all our members and supporters are now on email, which has significantly reduced costs on stamps, stationery and printing. Only a few now receive physical letters. We are still processing season tickets and memberships (and some ticket sales) by post. Sending out email reminders before every concert is reflected in online ticket sales soon afterwards.

7 **Publicity**

The Society was now advertising in Bristol 24/7 and Visit Bristol, as well as Bristol BS6/8/9. All invoices had been paid. There were also opportunities to post information on local community WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages. It was agreed to ask the web manager to update the photos and improve the legibility of text on the Society website.

8 **Bar Manager's report**

Wine and soft drink supplies are almost exhausted, so we will be stocking up soon for the next two or three concerts. The additional duty on alcohol will increase average bottle spend from about £4.50 to £5, but we will continue to seek out bargains. Costs are amply covered by donations.

9 **Succession Planning and Election of Officers**

All the Officers were willing to continue in their current roles and were re-elected.

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

10 **Other business**

There was no other business. The Chair thanked all the Committee members for all their work in keeping this wonderful music society going and called the meeting to a close.

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