

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Semitones.

7th January 2018, All Saints Church, Gosforth.

Present: Ewa (Chair), Diana, Annette, Jen, Tony, Carol (minutes), Philip, Michael, Rachel, Clive, Katharine, Jennifer, Neil.

Apologies: Chris, Erin, Peter, Sylvia.

1. Summary of the past year: The annual report written by Diana outlining Semitones' main activities in 2017 was distributed and discussed.

2. Finances: Annette reported that we still have £1,142 left in our budget. We also have some money remaining from the masterclass grant and £100 to spend on sheet music. The concerts in Eldon Square and Gosforth went very well and we collected £200 at the former and £150 at the latter. We are particularly grateful to the money collectors for their help and hope they can return next year.

Annette pointed out that the insurance we currently have is relatively expensive (£120 in total per year) and she asked if members could let her know if they knew of a better alternative providing public liability insurance.

3. Masterclasses and workshops: Members were very positive about the masterclasses and workshops that took place in 2017 (strings, wind and singing). The string players would like to use the remaining money to book another strings workshop in the coming months. There was also discussion around singing workshops and/or the possibility of introducing 10 minutes of singing practice into the rehearsals once a month.

4. Sheet music: We have £100 available to spend on sheet music. Last year we purchased a variety of new pieces: e.g. Liberty Bell, Peer Gynt, Abba Medley, When I'm Sixty Four, Can Can, World War II memories. Members suggested some possible additions, before and during the meeting, and were invited to send any further suggestions to Carol to collate. The pieces mentioned so far are listed in the Appendix below.

5. Conductor: The appointment of a conductor for 2018 was discussed at length. It was agreed that we would like to continue with David in the first instance but would also approach other conductors for the times when David is unavailable. One possibility would be to try to appoint a student through Mark Edwards for the latter part of the year, and Ewa will look into this. Unfortunately, Penny is not available for most of the time, but could be approached on an ad hoc basis. We are unsure whether Alex is still in Newcastle and what his plans are now that he has graduated.

Diana suggested that, whoever the conductor is, it would be useful if we could have a training session during one of the rehearsals in which we could practise working together with a conductor and understanding his/her style of leading the band.

6. Roles and responsibilities

· Ewa is happy to continue as Chair but if anyone else is interested, please let her know.

- Annette agreed to continue as Treasurer.
- Jen is currently responsible for organising the concerts but would like to pass this on. Please let Jen know if anyone is interested in doing this. Jen is happy to continue with the job until someone comes forward
- Carol will continue sending the posters to the care homes.
- Sylvia is no longer able to organise the additional concerts. If anyone else is able to do this, please let Ewa know. This could be done on an ad hoc basis by different individuals.
- Jennifer and Katharine agreed to carry on looking after the music folders (Jennifer) and sending the emails re concerts and rehearsals (Katharine), although it is hoped that the conductor will help Katharine put the programmes together, as David did in the past.
- Tony and Clive have been looking after the keyboard and rattles. Tony has agreed to take the rattles and Clive the keyboard for now. Peter will continue looking after the keys.
- Michael is happy to continue as webmaster.
- Philip will take over the Facebook page from Jennifer.

7. AOB

- Diana reminded members to be professional during concerts and not talk or make any noise when the conductor is introducing the pieces.
- We are extremely grateful to All Saints for letting us use their room for rehearsals and as a way of expressing our gratitude we are keen to offer musical support whenever requested. We have already provisionally agreed to play at two afternoon tea events, as we have done in the past.
- Chris has rearranged the pitch of the Geordie songs and the new music will go into the folders.

CF, 12/1/18