



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 9/1//22 at All Saints Church, Gosforth

Present: Cecilia (Chair), Carol (minutes), Peter, Angela, Katharine, Annette, Jen, Sue, Emma, Jennifer, Neil, David.

Apologies: Diana, Sylvia, Chris, Jess.

1. Correspondence

Cecilia informed the meeting of the following correspondence that she had received:

1. Email from Sylvia announcing that, unfortunately, she would be leaving Semitones, as she is moving to Sheffield.
2. Email from Ewa passing on her best wishes and congratulating us on having achieved so much in these past two years, despite the difficult situation.
3. Extremely positive feedback from Gosforth Shopping Centre, after our Christmas concert in December.
4. Email from Angel Court thanking us for our December concert and for being "bringers of jollity".

We are really grateful for all of these lovely comments and will be sad to see Sylvia leave.

2. Summary of the past year

Cecilia read out the summary that Diana had written which outlined our activities in 2021. The meeting thanked Diana for taking the time to produce this detailed and eloquent report. It will be made available on our website in due course.

3. Finances

Annette reported that our finances were very healthy, and that we had ended 2021 with more money in our account than at the same time the previous year. We have just over three thousand pounds in the bank at present, after having received £500 from Magic Little Grants and having generated £244 from our Christmas concert in Gosforth Shopping Centre. Our main outgoings last year were on insurance, conductor's fee and cleaning fluids/wipes for the rehearsals. Annette reminded members that we need to write a report for Magic Little Grants to show them how we spent the £500.

4. Conductor for 2022

Members unanimously agreed that we would be delighted to continue with David as our conductor. He has done a superb job and his engagement with our audiences is excellent.

5. Grant allocation

The following ideas were put forward on how to spend our £500 grant:

1. David suggested asking Phil Jackson to arrange some pieces specifically for our combination of instruments. We could invite him to come to one of our rehearsals and discuss possibilities.
2. Neil suggested investing in a portable amplifier for concerts and will research the possible models.
3. Various members discussed the need for some sort of advertising banner, and David agreed to speak to Gateshead Music Services, as they have experience with this. There was also discussion around banners for music stands, although it was pointed out that these would be expensive. Emma kindly offered to produce some laminated sheets with the Semitones logo on that we could place on our music stands during performances.
4. The original idea to purchase Covid screens was abandoned, as the care homes that Jen had spoken to about this said that the use of screens would make no difference to their visitor regulations. There was also the issue of lack of space.

6. Alternative performance venues

Some suggested venues/groups to contact:

1. The People's Kitchen (Alison Centre). Sue has been talking to the organisers there and she will let Jen know the best way to approach them.
2. 'Search' (supporting older people and their carers), Age UK Tyneside; Dementia Matters. Annette has started approaching these groups.
3. Local churches. Members were asked to enquire if local churches were running groups for the elderly, carers or similar. Annette will provide us with a text for this.
4. Additional concerts in Gosforth Shopping Centre.
5. Make more use of parks: e.g. Exhibition, Saltwell
6. Approach care homes to play in their gardens. As this is largely dependent on good weather, it was suggested that we could check members' availability over the summer and not have the long summer break. This will be decided nearer the time.

There was some discussion of the possibility of recording our pieces in order to allow care homes to play a video instead of us visiting. However, it was felt that bringing live music to care homes and the wider community is an integral part of what we do, and that it would be best to aim to play live whenever possible.

7. Suggestions for sheet music

Cecilia pointed out that this year will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and suggested a medley of tunes from Oklahoma (apparently the Queen's favourite musical!). Other suggestions were: some other musicals such as Carousel; some more folk music (e.g. Irish music, ceilidh music); instrumental versions of well-known Geordie songs.

8. Sheet music

We discussed the repertoire for the coming year, retaining some of our favourites from last year (e.g. Radetsky March, Second Waltz) and adding some new pieces/pieces not played for a while (e.g. Intermezzo from Carmen, Sound of Music, Whiter Shade of Pale).

9. Roles and responsibilities

These are as follows:

Chair -	Cecilia	Percussion -	Cecilia
Treasurer -	Annette	Key Holder -	Peter, Jen
Concert Organiser -	Jen	Webmaster -	Michael
Posters Distributor -	Carol	Social Media -	Carol
E-mail Distributor -	Katharine	Graphic Designer -	Angela
Music Organiser -	Jennifer	Monitoring Semitones	
Keyboard -	Neil	Email Address -	Chris

10. AOB

Annette announced that the Jesmond Festival would be taking place this year (in spring) and that there might be opportunities for playing there. She will contact Jesmond Library to see if they would be interested in hosting a concert and also the group Wellbeing Jesmond to see if they would be interested in us arranging something.