

## **Walsall Symphony Orchestra (Charitable Incorporated Organisation Reg. No. 1173311)**

### **- Trustees Report – presented at the AGM, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

#### **Introduction**

Chris Edwards, Secretary, presented the report, explaining that it covers the period to date from the previous AGM, which was held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Walsall Symphony Orchestra was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017, so the orchestra has now completed its first full accounting year as a CIO which, for this financial year only, was from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 (15 months).

#### **Trustees and Committee**

WSO started 2018 with three Trustees: Joy Askew (Treasurer), Chris Edwards (Secretary) and Ian Sumner.

Sheila Bailey and Jane Taylor kindly became Trustees in January, bringing the total number of Trustees to five.

The Trustees were ably supported by Music Director, Clive Allsopp and committee members Katie Franklin and Stephanie Watkins. We also welcomed Caroline Moore onto the committee in January.

During the year the Trustees held three meetings and, in the absence of a resident chairperson, each meeting was chaired by a Trustee in rotation.

#### **Activities**

During the twelve months being reported three concerts were organised by the committee:

24<sup>th</sup> March at All Saints Church, West Bromwich  
16<sup>th</sup> June at Holy Trinity Church, Willenhall  
3<sup>rd</sup> November at Broadway URC Church, Walsall

During the year eight new members joined the orchestra and we said goodbye to three players. We are still in need of more violin, cello and horn players.

On the administrative side, one of the key benefits of becoming a CIO was realised – a Gift Aid reclaim was submitted to HMRC and reimbursement received, thanks to the work put in by our Treasurer, Joy. Joy will provide more information about this in her report.

Also on the administrative side, the General Data Protection Regulations came into force last May, which is something that WSO has had to take on board. The Trustees reviewed how this affected the orchestra and actions were identified in order that WSO should be compliant. These actions, which are primarily about safeguarding personal information – notably contact details, are now in the process of being implemented in conjunction with orchestra members.

#### **Moving Forward**

We have a number of changes taking place amongst our Trustees and committee members.

Our Governing Document as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation requires two Trustees to stand down each year, on a rotating basis.

This year Joy will be standing down as Trustee and Treasurer, having been Treasurer for seven years, although Joy will remain on the committee. Many thanks to Joy for her much valued contribution over these past years.

Caroline has very kindly volunteered to become a Trustee and take on the role of Treasurer.

After five years recruiting orchestra deputies and guiding our concert repertoires, and under time pressures due to her other activities outside the orchestra, Jane is standing down as a Trustee and is relinquishing her responsibilities for deputies and repertoire, although will remain on the committee.

A big thank you to Jane for all her hard work over these last five years.

In terms of organising concert repertoires, we are taking this opportunity to consider a different approach, involving each section of the orchestra.

However, as regards the activity of recruiting deputies, we do need a volunteer to take over this task from Jane, so please will everyone give this some consideration.

There is also a Trustee vacancy. Going into 2019 we have only four Trustees compared to five in 2018. We would welcome someone filling this vacancy so that we can be sure of minimum numbers at committee meetings, also to have required numbers in place when Trustees have to stand down in rotation at the end of this year. Being a Trustee is straightforward and not an onerous responsibility.

The orchestra does not have a resident chairperson and, in the absence of anyone wishing to fill that role, the Trustees would intend to continue as now, rotating the chair at each committee meeting.

We have to say goodbye to Katie Franklin who is leaving both orchestra and committee due to house relocation. Our very best wishes and thanks go to Katie. Stephanie has kindly agreed to take over website management from Katie.

As regards our concert programme for next year, we have confirmed dates and venues for our:

Spring Concert – 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Summer Concert – 15<sup>th</sup> June  
Autumn Concert – 19<sup>th</sup> October  
Christmas Concert – 14<sup>th</sup> December

## **Finance**

Please refer to attached Accounts Summary.

Overall, we made a small loss of (£66) on the 15 month financial year. The Orchestra's financial position remains sound with £7000 on deposit £1600 in our current account. The inclusion of a raffle whenever possible at concerts helps to boost income, as does charging for programmes, but membership subscriptions remain a substantial part of our income. We are fortunate in having some very supportive visiting players who help us out at concerts without taking up our offer to pay their travel expenses.

As in previous years, Andrew Birkbeck conducted an independent financial review and, on behalf of the orchestra, I would like to ask Catherine to pass on to him our thanks for his continued support.

Chris Edwards  
Secretary  
5.11.18

**Walsall Symphony Orchestra Account Summary****07.06.17 to 31.08.18**

## MoneyMarket

07/06/2017	5503.91
Interest	27.52
31/08/2018	5531.43

## Deposit Account

Balance 07.06.17	1411.38
Interest	1.00
Balance 31.08.18	1412.38

## Current Account

Balance 07.06.17	1229.31
Income	4064.10
Expenditure	1954.21
Conductor Expenses	2205.00
Balance 31.08.18	1134.20

Total funds at 07.06.17	5503.91	1411.38	1229.31	Total:	8144.60
Total funds at 31.08.18	5531.43	1412.38	1134.20	Total:	8078.01
Profit/loss					-66.59