**Taunton Sinfonietta AGM**

**Zoom meeting**

**Sunday, February 6th  2022, at 5 pm**

**AGENDA**

1. **Attendance**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM**
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
5. **Chairman’s report**
6. **Treasurer’s report**
7. **Election of the Committee**
8. **AOB**

**Taunton Sinfonietta AGM**

**Zoom meeting**

**Sunday, February 7th 2021 at 5 pm.**

**1.** Attendance:

**Committee and Players:**

Robin Carpenter (Chairman), Ernest Kong (Hon. Treasurer, Anne Cleves, Chris Sampson, Sandra Sutton, Lynn and Andrew Carter, Angela Blackwell, Ruth Gasperini, Ruth Maddocks.

**Friends and Patrons:**

Allan Schiller, Diane Bayliss, Sue Bethune, Anna Bushell, Mr & Mrs Cann, Derek & Tuula Cole, Sarah Gleadell, Fran Hemmings, Nicholas Maddocks, Harold & Anne Mead, Shirley Stapleton,

**2. Apologies:**

Anna Cockroft, Mary Eade, Roger Mason.

**3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM** were passed and will be signed eventually.

Harold Mead proposed that the Minutes should be accepted, Lynn Carter seconded his proposal and all were in favour.

**3. Matters arising from the 2020 AGM Minutes**: none.

**4. Chairman’s report**

We warmly welcome our President, Allan Schiller, to the AGM and are delighted to see him.

Welcome, also, to you all and thank you for joining our virtual AGM. I hope you have provided yourselves with refreshments so we can at least pretend things are normal! Who would have believed this time last year that we would now be in this position.

We started the year in fine form with ‘Fab Feb’: two Baroque concerti grossi: the short Andante Festivo by Sibelius, written to commemorate the anniversary of a sawmill (!), and the expressive ‘Bullfighter’s Prayer’ by Turina. A very effective arrangement of Vaughan-Williams’ String Quartet in G minor was a wonderful conclusion to what was to be the final concert of 2020.

With the ongoing pandemic no more concerts were possible and it was very fortunate that we were able to organise the rehearsal and recording session in Stockland Village Hall on December 6th, which was big enough to accommodate 14 players with good social distancing. The recording of the Leroy Anderson ‘Sleigh Ride’ and Corelli’s ‘Christmas Concerto’ is now available on our website, and I’m sure many of you will have enjoyed this. Our grateful thanks go to Mary and the players for generously giving their time for this worthwhile endeavour. I have now started to acquire more of the recorded music the orchestra has performed over the years, some dating back to the early years in Richard Huish College, and put it onto the website.

Concert dates for this year were agreed, though February will certainly not be possible. Saturday June 12th and Saturday September 18th were booked at St James, both at 7.30 pm, and Sunday December 5th,  at 3 pm at the Temple Methodist Church but these will depend on the covid restrictions. I think the June concert date is probably optimistic. Another recording session will be considered once it is possible. We will largely programme the music we were unable to play last season.

You will be hearing from Ernest shortly and I would like to express our grateful thanks for your continued support; we hope and pray that we will be able to enjoy music in the flesh in the not too distant future.

Comments:

Lynn Carter asked whether the performance of the concert, recently put on the website, acknowledged Brigid Kirkland Wilson as Director and Alex Scott as Bass soloist.

**Action: Robin Carpenter.**

**6. Treasurer’s Report:**

2020 has been a very difficult year, with only one concert in February. The Corona Virus came along in March and from then on we were not able to give concerts.

As we enter 2021, there is no guarantee when we can have a concert with a ‘live’ audience. Covid 19 is still on the rise but as vaccination has begun we hope this will slow down the infection.

I want to thank the support from our Patrons and Friends with their contributions, which have helped us to have a healthy bank balance of £3,306.95 at the end of 2020.

Due to lockdown, I was able to catch up with our Gift Aid rebate claims, which HMRC has repaid us: a sum of £2, 005.90, thus giving us a total balance of £5,312.85. This is very encouraging and will help us to sponsor more concerts in the coming months when live performances are possible.

Patrons and Friends, who have standing orders have been contributing towards 2021 and this will help us build up a strong financial base for the future.

I wish everyone of our supporters good health and to keep safe during this most uncertain and difficult time. My prayers are with you.

Sincerely, Ernest Kong.

Fran Hemmings asked the Hon. Treasurer if a standing order was changed would Gift aid also have to change?

EK: No.

**7. Election of Committee**

Chairman: Robin Carpenter

Hon. Treasurer: Ernest Kong

Secretary: Anne Cleves,

Librarian: Sandra Sutton

Chris Sampson

Sarah Gleadell

Orchestra Fixer: Nicola Smith (Ex -officio)

Sarah Gleadell is invited to join the committee and accepts. The committee is delighted to welcome Sarah on board.

Ernest has moved to join family in London but is able to stay on as Hon.Treasurer

Chairman, Robin, pointed out that two more members would be welcome to join the committee.

It was proposed by Andrew Carter and seconded by Julia Cann that the committee be elected and all were in favour.

**9. AOB**

1)Allan Schiller added his thanks to Ernest’s for the support of the P/Fs.

He was also President of another society, which had been successful for 75 years but had had to close through lack of committee members.

2) Ernest Kong said it had been a great pleasure to him, as a non-instrumental player, to be involved with the Taunton Sinfonietta; he has much enjoyed his connection with the orchestra and

despite moving to London, will come to the concerts when he can.

3) Anna Bushell seconded Allan’s thanks to Ernest for the Hon Treasurer’s behind the scenes work and also warmly thanked the committee for all their work over the year.

4) Sandra Sutton (the Librarian) suggested that repertoire should be chosen from the orchestra’s own library or music should be bought as hire charges are very expensive.

Sandra also said that, sadly, viola player Keith Jones could no longer play with the Sinfonietta as his eyesight had deteriorated. His friendship and musicality during his time with the orchestra would be greatly missed and we should consider creating an event to recognise this.

**TREASURER’S REPORT FOR AGM 2021**

Hello everyone who is on this Zoom AGM gathering.

Another year has passed by and we begin a New Year 2022.

How is our financial situation during this very difficult and uncertain year you may ask.

Let me briefly give you a simple view of the situation.

In 2021, we had two Concerts, one in February and another in December.

Due to the restrictions and uncertain situation regarding gathering, we had

a small attendance and hence the deficit for each Concert.

Here are the simple figures. For the Concerts we received the following:

February December

Concert Income……………………………………………£ 520 £ 659

Sponsor donation………………………………………… £400 £400

TOTAL INCOME………………………………………………£920 £1,059

Total Players’ fees and Venue rental………… £1,945 £2,090

TOTAL DEFICIT……………………………………………..(£1,025) (£1,031)

During the year we received from HMRC for Gift Aid rebates of £2005.90 for the previous 3 years which helped with our finances. With the contributions from the Patrons £2,267 and Friends of £402 in 2021 we now have a closing balance for the year of £6,068 carried forward to 2022. We will claim the rebate for 2021 during then year.

I want to thank all our supporters Patrons and Friends who willingly and generously paid their 2021 contributions to the Sinfonietta to help us. On behalf of the Sinfonietta, I want to thank you for your support. This funding will go a long way to help us for the Concerts for 2022.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Concerts for 2022 hopefully and the viruses are contained to allow us to meet again.

With thanks

Ernest Kong

(Treasurer)

06.01.2022