

# Notice of 2018 Annual General Meeting

## Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society

2 pm, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (*postponed from 1<sup>st</sup> March*)

following the lunchtime piano concert

Venue: Lower Hall, Leatherhead Methodist Church

### A G E N D A

- 1) Present, Chair
- 2) Apologies Received
- 3) Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes
- 4) Treasurer's 2017 Financial Report
- 5) Election of Trustees for 2018/2019: Proposed are: Elisabeth Barnes, John Burrows-Watson, Anthony Cairns, Peter Horsfield, Leslie Prescott, Peter Steadman
- 6) Motions
  - a. The Trustees propose that, after retaining appropriate contingency reserves, a fund equivalent to £45 per event hosted during 2017 be shared between the hosting Churches *[Note: £20 per event has already been paid as rent to LMC and as a matching donation to Christ Church - making a total of £65 per concert. Previous year's sums were 2016 £70, 2015 £64 per concert.]*
  - b. Approval of Cheque Signatories (Proposal: all elected Trustees as per LCAS policy.)
  - c. The Trustees propose amendment of the Constitution to allow for the appointment of a President and Vice-President of the Society.
  - d. The Trustees will propose an appropriate person as the first President of LCAS.
- 7) Secretary/Concert Manager's Report on 2017 and Plans for 2018.
- 8) Any Other Business
- 9) Close

**Minutes of Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society Annual General Meeting  
at 2 pm, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, Venue: Lower Hall, Leatherhead Methodist Church**

- 1) **Open Meeting:** Peter Horsfield in the Chair opened the meeting at 2.03pm.
  - a. PH asked Members to please be sure they have signed in & taken a coloured voting slip.
  - b. Non-Members were asked to enter their name on a sheet passing around
  - c. Everyone present may speak at this meeting, only Current Members may vote in elections and on Motions
  - d. Agenda and Reports were displayed on a screen above the Chairman.

**a) Members Present:** Janet Baker, Elisabeth Barnes, Pamela Barton, Carolyn Boulding, Laurie Bridges, John Burrows-Watson, Anthony Cairns, Mollie Canning, Ann Cardew, Lynda Chang, Claire Corben, Graham Fisher, Jane Forrester, Veronica Hardwick, Gwen Hoad, Peter Horsfield, Margaret Jones, Fred Meynen, Christopher Pelley, Joan Pelley, Les Prescott, Judith Sandoe, Peter Steadman, Rosaleen Sutherland-Waite, Peter Tarplee, John Thornely, Audrey Willis.

**b) Non-members:** Phyllis Collins, Bernard Hawkins, Shirley Preuveneers.
- 2) **Apologies for absence:** received from Members Elspeth Arden, Sheila Ford, Sheila Hill, Gaenor Jones, Maggie Lowe, Richard Miller, Patricia Morgan, Ann Thomson, Anne Walker and non-member Jan White.
- 3) **Approval of 2016 AGM Minutes:** Approved on a show of hands. Signed by the Chairman.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report on 2016:** Treasurer Elisabeth Barnes (EB) reminded Members that at the 2016 AGM we had agreed to re-align the Society's financial year end to the calendar year and that therefore the accounts she would present represented 9 months of activities.

EB then explained the accounting lines on the year-end financial report, which were shown on the screen, stopping for questions at the end of each section.

The two lines relating to Church donations are blank on the report because the last donation was in the preceding financial year, and at this meeting we would vote on the level of donation resulting from the surplus funds from 2016's activities.

Peter Steadman (PSt) explained that 2016 Rent, Heat & Light costs were higher than in 2015 because of a change in the relationship between LMC and LCAS. LMC needed us to sign a contract, to pay a nominal £20 weekly rent, and demonstrate that the Society holds appropriate insurance – principally, Public Liability. The amount of rent already paid out would be reflected in the amount of cash surplus remaining at the year-end, and thus the level of donation to the Churches voted on at this meeting.

Fred Meynen asked how publicity costs are shown in the accounts. PSt replied the costs appear under Print & Copying and Web Costs, but that web costs are on differing 2- and 3-year cycles. Last year was a light one, but we would see two of the cycles – and thus costs – coinciding in 2017.

EB explained Retained Funds which are earmarked for future activities.

There being no further questions EB proposed the accounts be accepted, seconded by Mollie Canning. Passed on a show of hands.
- 5) **Trustees' First Report to the Charities Commission:** The full text had been circulated before the meeting and is printed here as Appendix C. PSt asked if there were any questions on the report. Les Prescott (LP) thanked PSt for the work in preparing this extensive document. Applause followed. PSt proposed the report be accepted. EB seconded. Passed on a show of hands. None against.
- 6) **Election of Trustees for 2017/2018.** Those standing: Elisabeth Barnes, John Burrows-Watson, Anthony Cairns, Peter Horsfield, Leslie Prescott, Peter Steadman. The meeting agreed to vote these as a block. On a show of hands the Trustees were unanimously elected with no objections and no abstentions.
- 7) **Motions: a) Church Donations from Year End Surplus:** The Trustees propose that, after retaining appropriate contingency reserves, a fund equivalent to £50 per event hosted during 2016 be shared between the hosting Churches. *[Note: £20 per event has already been paid as rent to LMC and as a matching donation to Christ Church - making a total of £70 per concert. Previous year's sum was £64 per concert.]*

John Thornely asked how many concerts there had been. EB replied 25 in LMC and 9 in Christ Church. After adjustments, this means £1078 to LMC, £450 to Christ Church. Carolyn Boulding asked what the nature of this sum was, whether it was a donation. EB agreed it is a donation.

LP explained that LMC locally had been content to allow LCAS to operate at LMC. and LCAS therefore had the policy to share its annual surplus with the Churches. Since 2015 Methodist Church Property centrally had required that Churches must charge every user a rent and demonstrate that they had adequate insurances in place. The £20 charge was agreed between LMC and LCAS as a respectable minimum that would continue to be topped up by a year-end donation from the charity.

PSt added that in the first year LCAS had been at LMC there was no donation as funds were not sufficient, and the Churches had not objected to that. Also, the amount of the total donation remains similar to the rent we would pay at other venues, such as the Chapels of St John's School.

Proposed: John Thornely. Seconded: Janet Baker. Approved on a show of hands.

**b) Approval of Cheque Signatories:** Peter Steadman proposed the Motion that all (six) elected Trustees be registered with HSBC Bank as cheque signatories. Seconded: Judith Sandoe. Approved on a show of hands.

**8) Poll: Would Members prefer future AGMs at (please rank your preference 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) :**

- i. 11 am before one of the Thursday concerts in April or May, move to
- ii. 11 am on a February Thursday (followed by 12.30 concert), or continue with
- iii. 2 pm on a February Thursday (followed by a 3 pm concert) ?

Members were given voting forms which were counted by Bernard Hawkins during the following Agenda item. Members agreed that the votes of two absent members be included in the count. The result was strongly in favour of the status quo – option iii. 15 voted for the status quo, 8 for a morning in Feb/March, and 4 for a morning before a standard concert. Redistributing the 4 to their second preferences closed the gap to 12 for a Feb/March morning and 15 for the status quo.

**9) Secretary's Report on 2016 and Plans for 2017:** Peter Steadman asked for his closing speech from 24 Nov 2016 to be taken into the Minutes as Appendix A. Approved on a show of hands. He then read the speech at Appendix B. Motion to accept these reports proposed by Graham Fisher, seconded by Janet Baker. Approved on a show of hands.

**10) Any Other Business** – Mollie Canning proposed a vote of thanks to all who work so hard for the concerts. Applause.

**11) Meeting Closed at 2.44pm**

## **Appendix A - Peter Steadman, Trustee & Secretary, 24th November 2016**

*Closing speech at concert 25 Nov 2016 in LMC. Subsequently read into the Minutes of the AGM 23 Feb 2017.*

Wales - 2 / Brittany – 2 \* France – 4 / Romania - 1

Canada – 1 / Colombia – 1 \* Royal Academy of Music – 12 / Yehudi Menuhin School – 1

Hardly the ideal way to sum up our year of concerts, is it ? What to say about the season? A little more brass than usual, rather less singing. The addition of musical theatre needs thought, introducing jazz week was a runaway success. Above all we enjoyed an array of prodigious talent from both student & professional worlds. We met 2 harpists, 3 trumpeters, and heard our 1<sup>st</sup> piano duet. 4 hands on one piano went so well we invited Jan & Ian Assersohn to play for our AGM concert in February.

Which brings us to one of our proudest achievements, the LCAS/Leatherhead Trinity School Project. Back in June we took 5 brass players into the primary school, today Emily & David started their morning with the pupils. On Feb 23 the Assersohns will start the day at Trinity before coming here for our 3 pm AGM concert.

Let me plug the project once more - we do need your help to fund that work. We will divide your donation today equally between the project and the costs of today's concert. If you prefer a different split for your donation, please write that preference on the back of your Gift Aid envelope.

We are extremely grateful to Julie West Solicitor for the practice's significant sponsorship of the Project, and also to our stalwart weekly sponsor Patricia Morgan Optician. It is a lovely thing these two local lady-led firms do, putting money into the community in this way.

A year ago we were becoming a fully registered charity. I said we needed a proper Treasurer. I am pleased to say Liz Barnes volunteered. It has been a real pleasure working with Liz, and I invite you to show your appreciation for her contribution to our work. The hard work for both of us comes between now and the AGM!

Liz would like to put together a small team of Finance Assistants, helping her in her work after a concert. I've put my name on the list, and it would be nice to have enough people for a rota, with reserves for holiday and illness cover. Please talk to me, or to Liz (ideally), if you would like to help in that way.

In January we joined Making Music – the National Federation of Music Societies – mostly for their well-priced insurance! However, through the year we have seen more advantages. I attended the AGM this summer and met organisers of similar concert societies – most small like us, a few really quite substantial. We heard about Making Music's plans, and we listened to some young musicians they were recommending.

A month or so back Liz & I went to a Making Music seminar about working with young people. With the help of a couple of members here we hope to develop more on that front in 2017. Then a fortnight ago 4 of us went to the Brighton Early Music Festival to hear 5 ensembles – 3 hours listening to music, hard work but somebody had to do it. One act – Fresh Ayre – we knew already - lutenist Wezi Elliott who was here in September, and his mezzo-soprano friend Nancy Cole. You can expect some injection of early music over the next couple of years.

Lots of people help keep these concerts rolling along. Carol Stoves, administrator here at LMC, deserves particular mention for so many practicalities, but I will just pick out the fact that she remembers to bring in extra music stands when we have larger groups of performers. Honestly, I often forget.

Then there are volunteers on the refreshment rota, overseen by Les Prescott and Linda Roberts. John Burrows-Watson and Laurie Bridges are our two programme stewards whose cheery smiling faces greet you each week. These days I am rarely the first to arrive here on concert day. The piano-shifting-fairy – I should probably say 'elf' – often comes in earlier to set up the room. If you can help him put everything back afterwards I know our elf will be very grateful. I can reveal that this deed is performed by our very own Chairman – Peter Horsfield.

After concerts, Ann James attends to a little list of tidying up needs, and then she updates the notice-board outside. These are all things I used to do myself, so I am very grateful to Ann and to Peter for their help.

Anthony Cairns put together an excellent series of concerts this year, with guest organists from far & wide, and it was pleasing to see greater numbers in Christ Church for the last couple of concerts. Anthony also provides the after-concert drinks at Christ Church.

We had our August trip to the organ in St John's School Chapel. That required extra helpers but we all felt it had been worthwhile, with lessons learned for future outings to the School. Let's thank all of our Trustees and all of our volunteers for their input - especially those I have forgotten to describe here!

Next let me highlight three dates. The LCAS AGM will be here at 2 pm Thursday 23 Feb 2017. It's a 3-line whip for members, please ! Your reward is the piano duet concert by Jan & Ian Assersohn at 3 pm. Non-members are very welcome to attend the AGM, or the concert, better still both. Or you could choose to become a member !

The next date: 15 March at Christ Church, first Wednesdays at Christ Church organ concert at 12.30. Organ concerts continue to Nov. Hope to include an Aug excursion to St John's. Anthony's list for the year includes several younger organists along with regulars. Then it's Thursday April 6, the first MoT concert here at LMC.

Please be sure we have a way of contacting you to tell you about next year. If you write your email address on the back of a GA envelope we'll add you to the e-mail list. If you don't have email and you are not a taxpayer, please use an envelope to give us your name & address. We will then send you a copy of our 2017 programme.

Finally, remember the Arts Alive questionnaires? I tell everyone we are a community of concertgoers aged 55+ - but no, only 8% ticked 46-60 box, while 92% ticked 60+ box, and I regret to say no other age box was ticked!

In better news: 7.2% rated our concerts as Good, 92.8% ticked Excellent. That's not down to me. It is due to the quality of musicianship Leatherhead's now well-established lunchtime concert series is able to attract.

Thank you all for your support through the year. Let's look forward to 2017, another year of excellent concerts, lovely, friendly, gifted musicians, & an ever-appreciative audience. Thank you all. Peter Steadman 24 Nov 2016

## **Appendix B - Peter Steadman, Trustee & Secretary, 23rd February 2017**

After last year's concerts finished I made a list of the musicians who had been in touch and others who wanted to return. That list was about twice the size of the year's programme, and we need space for RAM students.

I first secured Atéa Wind Quintet for our final concert of the year. It's always a special day and this lively group will be the ideal musicians to share it with us.

Next I visited the London College of Music, Ealing. I found the tutors excited to be linking with us. While the Academy have several suburban churches and music socs on their books, this is a new concept for LCM. It will bring their students performance opportunities never on offer before.

In January I went to meet Rosie Larkins, our contact at the Academy. She was concerned that it was too soon to predict who'd be available next Autumn, so we agreed to split the planning and work on April to August now, and September to November around Easter time. The great thing about dealing with Rosie is that she knows a lot of these musicians. We talked about Emily's husband Francisco Correa, trombonist Richard Buck, about her former flatmate Gwenllian Llyr, who will be taking her harp into Trinity School in November – straight after her honeymoon. Rosie really knows these young musicians.

But a fortnight ago I had no idea what to put in this report. There was silence from the Academy, meaning I couldn't offer any more dates to the musicians on my little list. Then Friday before last an email came in from Rosie booking most of the Academy dates in that first half of the year. Phew !

Now I could see where to slot in the others. Pianist Dan Nicholson took 31 Aug with a concert titled From Bach to Jazz. A good fit - it's a month before our Jazz concert. Tim Ridout & Ting-Ru Lai were in the programme for a viola duo concert, and Jacqueline Phillips & Julian Metzger have a cello duo date too. London College had asked to include Lithuanian accordion player Aurimas Goris. I had already promised Nicola Berg and Alice Bishop early dates. So to cut a long story short, we had most of a programme for the first part of the season. Francisco Correa and David Massey then accepted an October guitar concert, and I was pleased to hear that since their debut duo concert here last year they have indeed developed this aspect of their work.

When one of us books in a specific instrument we engage in a game of strategy. If I tell the conservatoires I have booked a guitar or a harp they can't put another one near it! And the same for me if they booked first.

Anthony has been busy with the organ schedule, introducing some younger performers this year. We heard trumpeter Gwyn Owen and his accompanist Rebecca Taylor in this Church last year. Rebecca is also an organist. They will give us a concert at Christ Church in June. The younger Graham Thorpe was organ scholar at Guildford and is now Asst Director of Music at St Michael Cornhill and a student of the Academy. Former Oxbridge organ scholar, Ed Sutton, returns in November. A newcomer we can just about afford is Gillian Lloyd, organist of Guildford UR Church - a popular recitalist too. We haven't forgotten the best of our regulars with Henley's Gary Sieling returning as well as Mark Brafield, & David Oldfield. For the opening Wednesday concert on March 15 we'll welcome again the excellent Jonathan Melling from All Hallows by the Tower.

A couple of other 'meanwhiles', if I may. In October Liz and I went to a Making Music workshop on reaching young people. With your help we hope LCAS will develop an offering on that front too during the coming year. And you may remember that some of us went to an audition session at the Brighton Early Music Festival. From there we will welcome Lux Musicae London - tenor, soprano, recorders, bass viol - for an August concert in St John's Old Chapel, followed the Thursday after by Buck Brass Trio, also in the Old Chapel. We are still working on the August organ concert in the School's New Chapel. (*Anthony Cairns then signalled that he had confirmed Carl Jackson from HM Chapel, Royal Hampton Court Palace for the August concert in St John's School Chapel.*)

So while Anthony's organ series is virtually complete, the Academy and I still have work to do on the final three months. We hope to have a jazz week at the end of September, the guitar duo and the final concert are booked. And Gwenllian is playing for Trinity School, and a concert for us, in November.

Our opening concert in this Church on 6<sup>th</sup> April comes from students of the London College of Music. They are putting on performances of Will Todd's family opera Alice's Adventures in Wonderland the previous week, so they suggested, as they will be on top form at that point, that they bring us the principal singers for a concert of excerpts from the opera. If you've seen the youtube videos you'll know we should be in for a lively concert. If you don't go for all that olde worlde opera stuff, can I assure you that composer Will Todd is very much alive. I heard him playing on Radio 4's Sunday morning service just a few weeks ago.

If you would like to see their production at the University of West London in Ealing, tickets are £6.45, and the show is on at 1 pm and 7 pm on the final three days of March – 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. Originally written for Opera Holland Park, his opera will be a great start to our season and to our new relationship with the London College of Music. Here's to another great season of lunchtime concerts.

Peter Steadman 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2017