



**Committee meeting
7.00pm 31 March 2015**

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Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

No apologies had been received. present were: Caroline Annesley, Jeremy Crump, Liz Cleary, Sarah Bort, Tessa Crilly, Roland McCabe, Hannah Northern and Paula Tysall (leader)

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were adopted unamended, other than to note that Leigh's name had been spelled with a small 'l'.

The secretary undertook to get an update from Brendan O'Neill of progress on the Rite of Spring Day.

3. Treasurer's report (including outcome of the March concert)

The Treasurer reported that so far this year we have made a loss of £700, and this is likely to be the position at the end of the year, unless the audience for the summer concert is larger than for the last two concerts. We can cover this loss from the balance of £3,500 carried forward from last year, and we have a "cushion" from reserves, but the position is not sustainable in the longer term. The chair agreed that the long term stability of the orchestra's finances required careful attention. It was agreed that a number of measures should be taken to strengthen the position, viz.

- there should be no expenditure on specialist tutors in the summer term
- the budget for extra players should be carefully monitored, and future choice of repertoire should be made with a view to keeping the cost of extras down
- an effort should be made to reduce the cost of printing the programme, either by reducing its size or by getting sponsorship for it. The secretary would pursue the possibility of getting an advertisement from the Dulwich Bookshop to this end.
- it should be made clear (but in a subtle way) that concessions were available to those of limited means, ie those on pension credit or, for those of working age, who were unwaged. There should however be no attempt to check entitlements on the door.
- the price of a concessionary ticket should be held at £8 for the time being, but there should be a further effort at the next concert to gather data on the number of concessions.
- the Treasurer would review the history of increases in membership subscriptions, with a view to putting a proposal to increase subscriptions to the October AGM to £65, the

concessionary rate remaining at £30.

Consideration was also given to increasing the numbers attending concerts. The secretary would circulate the flyer for each concert by email to all members as well as those on the mailing list inviting them to email it to their friends and acquaintances.

Hannah Northern would compile a list of places for leafleting on the basis of sites identified by committee members, and that list would be used to divide up responsibility for ensuring that leaflets and posters were distributed.

4. Outreach

Sarah Bort reported that there had been no applications to the Young Composers Award Scheme. Sarah is going to send a reminder to the schools she previously circulated about the YCA.

Tessa Crilly reported on her meeting with Sarah Rivetts of Elmgreen School. It had been agreed that there should continue to be a relationship between DSO and the school's music department. In the foreseeable future, this should be done with a relatively light touch. There should be an open rehearsal, and tessa would consult Leigh o'Hara to identify a suitable date. Further suggestions for making a small group arrangement of some of the music played at a DSO concert could be considered. Opportunities for individual DSO members to visit to demonstrate their instruments might also be identified.

5. Gaza/Guernica

The secretary reported that, following consultation with the membership by email, only 2 members had raised any objection to the title of Alan Taylor's piece, and that one other had expressed strong views that we should not consider changing the title of the piece. Of the two, the secretary had spoken to one and ascertained that it was not an objection that would be sustained were the consensus of the orchestra to be that the piece should be played.

It was agreed that the piece should be played, with the title as expanded by Alan Taylor. The chair undertook to contact the remaining member who had objected to the title to explain the decision on the basis of the committee's views and the lack of objection by all but two members of the orchestra.

6. Making Music Adopt a composer Scheme 2015

It was agreed that the secretary should complete an application for the scheme and bid for collaboration with a composer to begin work with DSO at the end of the summer term 2016 for performance at the winter concert that year.

7. Officers for 2015-16

It was agreed that as a matter of some urgency the committee should canvas for replacements for the posts of Chair and Secretary for nomination at the October AGM as both these officers intend to stand down. The secretary undertook to provide a breakdown of what the job involved.

Roland McCabe and Hannah Northern announced that they did not intend to stand for the

committee next year. Hannah was happy to keep managing the Twitter account.

8. Any other business

Roland McCabe undertook to set up a Facebook page for DSO.

It was agreed that there should be another meeting well before the next concert which Leigh O'Hara could attend.