

**WPO Annual General Meeting  
27 April 2025**

**1. Minutes of the previous meeting on 21 April 2024 and matters arising**

The minutes of the AGM held on 21 April 2024 were approved (Fran/Kate)

**2. Chairman's Report**

Adrian Wheeler (Chairman) gave his report for the 2023-24 season:

Concert 1 was at St John's Waterloo.

We played Wagner's Prelude and Liebestrod from Tristan and Isolde and Mahler's Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen, both with Janice Watson as soloist, and Rachmaninov's Symphony 1.

Concert 2 was at St Giles Cripplegate.

We played Sibelius' Symphony 7, Saint-Saens' Violin Concerto 3 with Youngwoo Choi and Elgar's Symphony 3.

Concert 3 was at St John's Waterloo.

We played Tchaikovsky's Francesca da Rimini Overture, Debussy's Danses Sacree et Profane with Heather Brooks and Strauss' Ein Heldenleben.

Finally concert 4 at St Johns Waterloo.

We played Berlioz's Royal Hunt and Storm from The Trojans, Elgar's Cello Concerto with Edwin Gatward and Walton's Symphony 1.

Once again huge thanks go to all in the committee who put a lot of work into keeping the show on the road.

Particular news is that Frank is sadly stepping down both from the orchestra and his role as Librarian. Huge thanks for everything he's done, which goes much further than people might realise; we'll miss him.

Meg (Flute) is standing down as Secretary; Belinda has agreed to take over from her and is already taking the Minutes today.

Special thanks to Dug whose job of doing the refreshments is very important.

And we're very glad to have Jonathan back with us after missing a couple of concerts, even better than before.

We need to emphasise that clearing up after the concerts needs everyone's help. People do clear their chairs and stands but we need more helpers to stay behind to move back the heavy church furniture around the altar, so it is not just left to a few to struggle with (such as Derek and Dominic).

**3. Election of officers and committee members**

The following retired from office and stood for re-election:

Adrian Wheeler	Chairman
Nathan Blackwell	Treasurer
Alexia Constantine	Membership Secretary
Dominic Nudd	Programmes
Deborah Elliott	Box Office
Anna Saprykina	Marketing
Dug Warn	Publicity

They were re-elected by a block vote (Barbara/Gabby).

Meg Storer resigned as Secretary and Belinda Kembery was elected (Deborah/Jemma)

Frank Burgum resigned as Librarian (with a gradual handover) and Derek Holland was elected (Jemma/Kate)

Derek Holland resigned as House Manager and Geraldine Marshall was elected (Jill/Kieran)

#### **4. Accounts**

Adrian introduced the Treasurer Nathan Blackwell by expressing how grateful the orchestra is to him for all his work in doing the accounts and also running the box office and washing up wine glasses at concerts!

Nathan presented the WPO Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 August 2024. His summary was that it had been another solid year, with all income up substantially and totalling over £28,000. We've added a further £3,700 to funds, which are now over £21,000. He uses Making Music to help do the accounts.

He drew attention to two donations of £500, one of which was by a former cellist Monica Vincent in memory of her neighbours who came to many of our concerts. She requested that it go towards supporting a soloist. Adrian interjected that this will be in the programme for our upcoming May concert, as the soloist will be a cellist and Monica will be at the concert. However only part of the fund will be used as this soloist is already receiving some other support.

Adrian added that for this current financial year we have received from Islington Choral Society £3,000 for the first concert accompanying them and £3,300 for the second one. Huge thanks to everyone who put in the effort and played for these; they were great concerts. We haven't yet heard if they will want us to do more.

Adrian also mentioned ticket prices for our concerts. There is a discrepancy in that there is a reduction for full price tickets if they are bought in advance, but the concession tickets are always the same price, so there is no incentive to buy them in advance. He will discuss this with the committee.

The report and accounts were adopted by the orchestra (Alexia/Gabby)

#### **5. Membership Subscription for 2025/26**

The Chairman confirmed that the annual subscription rate for 2025/26 will remain at the same rates and discounts as currently.

#### **6. Schedule for 2025/26**

There were no comments or objections to the draft Concert Schedule for 2025/26, circulated beforehand. Jonathan Butcher explained that he looked at all the suggestions submitted by the orchestra and put the playable ones into 8 potential programmes. Then the committee decided which 4 of these should be chosen. He was particularly excited by the Bantock and the Lili Boulanger.

Jonathan thanked Christian and the guest leaders for doing a brilliant job. He thanked Frank, saying he hadn't worked with a Librarian as efficient and helpful as him and that he always went to a lot of trouble. He called him a joy and one of the nicest guys to work with.

Jonathan also said that Jonathan, the 4<sup>th</sup> Horn, had found no less than 137 amateur orchestras listed at Companies House! He said that the WPO was a success story because we are very efficient, we have good volunteers and there is loyalty – it is really important that everyone carries on being loyal to this orchestra.

#### **7 Members' resolutions**

No resolutions were proposed.

#### **8 Any Other Business**

Fran commented that the recent system of requesting particular sections to clear up after a concert perhaps has not been helpful as it encourages everyone else to leave.

Derek said the problem was that there was a gap when the chairs and stands have been cleared but nothing can be done to put the altar back until all the percussion has been cleared out of the way.



Dominic said that the stacks of chairs also need to be moved back, these are heavy too.  
Roger commented that he and probably others would be willing to help, but needed instructions on exactly what needs to be done, so please do give us directions.

Minutes 27 April 2025.