Merchant Sinfonia AGM Minutes

Tuesday 14th November 2023 6:30pm

Studio 1, City Halls, Glasgow

	Agenda	Discussion
1	Welcome and apologies received	Chris welcomed everyone present and noted that the meeting was quorate No Apologies received Members Present: Dominique Somers, Moira Walker, Alan Wade, Maria Clarke, A Fairfull, Hazel Joy Stoakes, Ceri Sellers, Tony Strachan, David Sinclair, Anne Sanderson, Grant Nairn, Allison Grant, Vaidehi Shah, Fiona Kindness, Antje Karl, Sandra Crawford, Jennifer Kenny, Anne Richards, Gillian Batters, Gill Cooke, Bill Gray, Andrew Bradley, Alan Hutchison, Gib Fitzgibbon, Steven Millar, Joe Broussard, Niall Morris, A P MacLachlan, Kevin O'Hare, Louise Martin, Chris Gledhill
2	Adoption of previous year's AGM minutes and examined accounts	Minutes Proposer: Maria Clarke Minutes Seconder: Alan Hutchison
3	Chairperson's report and activities of the past year	Chris gave a huge thanks to everyone over the last year which has been a busy one. Highlights have included two concerts in the City Halls with each featuring a new composition, the first by Eddy McGuire and the second by our own flautist Hazel Stoakes. The Committee has been busy behind the scenes and we have welcomed new faces to the committee as well as assigning roles to committee members. A lot of the Committee's time has been taken up with looking into Charitable Status and what this will involve and we are still working on this and will return to it in the New Year. We now have a library team to support our librarian Fiona and this is working well. Sadly we have also lost committee members – thanks to Caroline and also Anne Marie. Chris also acknowledged and thanked the external support we receive. First Making Music they provide us with insurance as well as advice and resources to use. Glasgow Life continue to be fantastic supporters of the Merchant Sinfonia and we are lucky to have this and are very grateful for their support. We are looking to maintain and develop this further. Looking ahead to the coming year we need to find a more sustainable approach to ensure that we can continue as an orchestra. To this end we have been looking at charitable status

		and will return to this and feedback to the membership in the New Year. We also need to find a replacement treasurer as this is a key post on the committee. At the moment Anne, Jenny and Allison will work together to keep things moving. Chris ended his report by thanking all the Committee for their hard work. He also thanked Louise – "our foundation" and Gibb for auditing the accounts.
4	Report by the Musical Director	Louise echoed what Chris said and added that she is excited that the orchestra is now back and has regrown post covid. In our two recent concerts she has tried to ensure that we play pieces by underrepresented groups – this year it has been a woman and black composers. The BBC Ten pieces have been helpful with this. Louise thanked the Committee for all their hard work. Moving forward Lousie is keen for the orchestra to look at developing partnerships with other local groups that Glasgow Life are supporting. Finally, Lousie thanked all the playing members as it is a joy to work with everyone.
5	Election of the Members of the Committee	Two nominations Jenny Kenny 3 years Niall Morris 3 years
6	Election of an Honorary Independent Financial Examiner	Gib Fitzgibbon has agreed to stand as an Honorary Independent Financial Examiner Proposer: Steven Millar Seconder: Ceri Sellers Thanks you to Gibb for doing this
7	AOCB	Accounts were approved Proposer: Bill Gray Seconder: Tony Strachan Discussion around concert expenses - It costs £5000 to put on the concert The Box Office charged an administration fee of 10% a ticket plus VAT – do we need to use their ticketing system? Hopefully if the orchestra gains charitable status there may be possibilities to get extra funds for the orchestra through Gift Aid, Orchestral Tax Relief. We will bring this to the members to consider in an EGM in February/March next year. Our constitution will need to be changed– it has too many regulatory details. What we have

		in our current constitution can be put into a Members Handbook.