Merchant Sinfonia AGM Minutes

Tuesday 19th November 2024 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 Apologies – Hugh Campbell Members Present: Jane Livingston, Sandra Crawford, Maria Clarke, Alison McIntosh, Emma Stockman, Vaidehi Shah, Rebecca Pye, Davina Sosnowski, Ann Fairfull, Steven Miller, Fiona McEwan, Alan Wade, Gill Cooke, Jennifer Kenny, Anne Richards, Bill Gray, Megan Kelson, Gib FitzGibbon, Patrick Hamm**,** Niall Morris, David Sinclair, Hazel Stoakes, Mick Puddepha, Min Zhang, Stephen Pounder, Peter McLean-Buechel, Kevin O'Hare, Rebecca Kay, Lesley Hay, Joe Broussard, Louise Martin, Anne Sanderson, Allison Grant, Kieran Coyle, Carol Young, Emma Aitchison, Ceri Sellers, Stewart Stevenson, Chris Gledhill, Dominique Somers
2	Adoption of previous year's AGM minutes and examined accounts	Minutes Proposer: Bill Gray Minutes Seconder: David Sinclair
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. The Committee has been busy behind the scenes with full meetings as well as "huddles". We have a new treasurer Becka and a small group is going to help her. We lost Fiona as librarian and are missing her. However, thanks to Bill and the library team. Thanks also to other non-members – Niall for help with Marketing and PR We are grateful for all their support and help. Glasgow Life have been supporting us since 2014. We thank them for all their support and help. Chris has spoken to them, and they are committed to supporting us. However, due to Covid and other difficulties support may not be as much as it was in the past, for example we may have to start paying for rehearsal space but we don't know yet. We had a great summer concert and received positive feedback. Our playing membership is unique and unfortunately, this autumn we had to ballot out players. This was not easy, but we achieved it.

		Due to fire regulations we are limited to 75 people. Thanks to Allison Grant for her work as membership secretary and for organising the balloting. Thanks to Louise for her enthusiasm, commitment and patience. Thanks to the members – you are the ones that make the orchestra. Charitable Status this is not ready yet, but we will update you once it is. Governance – Our Constitution was written in 2014, and we have found that there are gaps between it and what we do. In the New Year we will be looking at it and will come back to you with the necessary changes and suggestions. Niall raised a question about balloting – when people are balloted out are they guaranteed to have a place in the next term? This is an area we will be looking at when we review the constitution.
4	Report by the Musical Director	Louise thanked the Committee for all their hard work. Louise thanked all the playing members who are positive and inclusive to each other. Thanks for the suggestions for music from players – please keep them coming. Next year we have an exciting project as we have been approached by a musician who is supported by Drake Music Scotland. They want to write a piece for a community orchestra as well as Drake Digital Orchestra. This is a great way to collaborate with others.
5	Review of Accounts, Budget and Treasurer's Report	Rebecca thanked Jenny and Anne who helped her when she took over. We are in a good position financially, £15,000. Savings account £10,000 - £6,000 of this is reserved. Surplus of over £3,00 Waiting on back payments from concerts from Glasgow Life. Projecting a budget from August – this is unknown as it is the first time we will be doing our own concert. Please keep promoting concert. Accounts checked by Gib Chris thanked Becka and Gib

5	Election of the Members of the Committee	Committee has 8 members and we need another 4 One Nomination Rebecca Pye Nominated by Bill Gray Seconded by Chris Gledhill
6	Election of an Honorary Independent Financial Examiner	Gib FitzGibbon has agreed to stand as an Honorary Independent Financial Examiner Thanks you to Gib for doing this Proposer: Allison Grant Seconder: Steven Millar
7	AOCB	Thanks to the Professionals for their help and support. We now have a logo for the orchestra; thank you to Norman Mills who designed it.