

# **"Worthing Music and Arts Festival"**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Held at: Emmanuel United Reformed Church**

**St Michael's Road, Worthing**

**On: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm**

The meeting was opened at 7.35pm by Marcus Martin (President) who welcomed members.

### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Mandy Chapman, Thérèse Williams, Jacky Hetherington, Beth Emery, Margaret Avenall, Pat Edwards

### **2. Adoption of 2019 Minutes**

Proposed by Debbie Smith      seconded Brenda Churchman

### **3. Matter arising from Minutes**

None

### **4. Chair's Report**

Helen Emery presented her report;

Welcome to the Worthing Music and Arts Festival AGM 2021. It is lovely to see members attending our AGM after what has been a very difficult year for all.

WMAAF 2021 was a "Tale of Two Halves". The Piano and Instrumental Section held a very successful online festival in April which was well received by students, parents and teachers. Participants submitted videos of their performances and we received many positive comments saying how nice it had been to have something to work towards during lockdown. Our adjudicator recorded a video for each class with her feedback which was then interspersed with the performances to create our online event. Huge thanks must go to Beth Emery for doing the "technical stuff" to string all the components together. The Dance section had to postpone from the springtime but were able to hold a reduced number of classes in a very successful weekend at Northbrook theatre in July. The dancers were very pleased to have a reduced size audience to perform to and thanks must go to all of the teachers who were committed to making the event a success. Group classes didn't take place but they will be back next year.

The Speech and Drama and Singing Sections both had to be cancelled. Singing because of the transmission fears for Covid from the activity and Speech and Drama because of lack of contact time for the teachers with their students. The cancellation of these sections was very disappointing for many, both students and teachers. I have a feeling that entries for this coming festival may be higher as many people are keen to be taking part in things again.

Moving forward WMAAF will of course make sure that we are up to date with all government guidelines for Covid and that all Health and Safety and Safeguarding measures are suitably in place.

I would like to give heartfelt thanks to the Executive Committee. We have been meeting regularly over the last 20 months via Zoom to keep the festival going in what has been a very difficult time. Thanks also to you, our members for your continued support. Please try and encourage more people to join. Many of you are our stewards and your help and the jobs you do are invaluable.

Here's hoping that our 2022 festival is bigger and better than ever before. Thankyou.

### **Acceptance of Chairmans report**

Proposed Rosemary Hoyle – seconded Jenny Cuer-Greene

## **5. Secretary's Report**

Jan Spooner-Swabey presented her report;

Well the sun has just briefly come out, and let's hope that is an omen for the next year of the festival!

Last year was extremely difficult for all of us, but for the festival it could have been a death warrant. Plans were made for a streamlined and very safety conscious dance festival in January but these were thrown into disarray with another lockdown being announced days before. Sadly much work had been done, including applying for a BOPA licence .

The Piano and Instrumental section was re-organised to take place on-line, with many thanks to Beth Emery for her technical know-how, and the drive from Helen our chair and her committee to get this festival up and running. The final weekend was a great experience with some lovely performances.....and a chance to have a look at the many varied places people keep their pianos!

Due to scientific concerns, it was decided not to hold singing as amateur singing was frowned upon, although it is now proved that shouting (for example, at a football match.....) sends out 12 times more aerosols than singing.

A drama section was planned but again due to difficulties with the teaching of speech subjects was eventually cancelled completely. Our thanks to Adur and Worthing leisure for their understanding of our difficult position.

I must mention that in July we finally did manage a dance festival which was very successful, and thanks to Mandy Chapman for all her work, especially at fighting to get our new BOPA application approved in time. So next year my report will feature an abundance of dance sections!

And so to next year. All sections are now planned and entries are open, so please keep safe and keep those infections down, so we can go ahead!!! See the website for all details.

Three members of our Executive committee have decided to step away this year, two after very many years of service. Julie Bird has decided to step down as she works full time in Brighton and does not drive , so as live meetings are resuming, felt it was for the best. Leslie Green, after many years of supporting firstly the Piano section and then other sections with door duties and refreshments has finally felt that his poor

health stops him from fully participating. We will miss the biscuits particularly Leslie!!!! (lead applause for him)

And then, to Mandy Chapman, who after nearly a lifetime's involvement with WMAAF has finally decided to hand over the dance festival to a new generation of teachers and helpers. Her fantastic range of experience of festival work will be widely missed but we hope to see her around, offering 'bons mots' where needed. Sadly Mandy cannot be with us tonight but I know you will all wish her well.

We missed seeing our volunteers last year but hope they stayed safe and well from this horrible disease and look forward to seeing those, who are able, back supporting us next year, and also a great influx of new members!!!!!! Spread the word, and thank you for your continued support.

### **Acceptance of Secretary report**

Proposed Leslie Cuer-Greene – seconded Carol Suddaby

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

Bob Symtherman

After a difficult year, I'm sure you are not surprised that we made a loss of £2778. There was only one section in the accounting year with an On line Piano and instrumental section with expenses of only an adjudicator and stationery.

Our membership was also drastically reduced as no live events were being held and also with shielding and lock downs being in place.

Unfortunately, our overheads were not reduced despite us not being able to use our office until near the end of the year. We must thank the few officers who kept things 'ticking over', and also our administrator Andrea Martin

Let's hope this coming year will be much more successful

### **Acceptance of Treasurers report**

Proposed Jan Spooner-Swabey – seconded Katherine Mustafa

### **7. Election of Examiner of Accounts**

Ian Walker FCCA, Masters Fuller Chartered Certified Accountants was thanked for examining the accounts and stated that they were happy to examine accounts next year.

Unanimous in favour to examine next year

## 8. Election of Officers

The officers, Helen Emery Chair, Bob Smytherman Treasurer, Jan Spooner-Swabey Secretary were happy to stand again for the year

Helen Emery – Proposed Rosemary Hoyle, Seconded Jan Spooner-Swabey

Jan Spooner Swabey – Proposed Rosemary Hoyle, Seconded Debbie Smith

Robert Smytherman – Proposed Rosemary Hoyle, Seconded Jan Spooner-Swabey

## 9. Election of Executive Committee

	PROPOSED	SECONDED
Katherine Mustafa	Jan Spooner-Swabey	Rosemary Hoyle
John Logan	Keri Garner	Suzanne Logan
Debbie Smith	Rosemary Hoyle	Jan Spooner-Swabey
Judy Sawyer	Mandy Chapman	Rosemary Hoyle
Keri Logan	Jan Spooner-Swabey	Rosemary Hoyle
Rosemary Hoyle	Jan Spooner-Swabey	Debbie Smith

## 10. AOB

- a) John Logan has put forward a Resolution to be added into our Constitution – the wording as follows:

Resolution 1/21

### Resolution to amend Governing Document (Constitution) to enable virtual meetings

We the undersigned propose the following provision to be added to section 11 (i) (Committee Meetings) and section 12 (i) (Annual General Meetings) of the Governing Document.

*Such meetings may be entirely in person, entirely virtual, or a combination of personal attendance and virtual attendance.*

Proposed: John Logan

Seconded: Suzanne Logan

This was unanimously agreed with Members' attending AGM

- b) Proposal was put on behalf of the committee for the members approval that Mandy Chapman would be appointed Vice President in recognition of all her years supporting the Festival

This resulted in a unanimous decision to appoint Mandy Vice President of the Worthing Music and Arts Festival."

The Oliver Buckle Cup awarded annually - Helen Emery

This year I am very pleased to award the Oliver Buckle Cup to a very special lady, Mandy Chapman. Unfortunately she is unable to be with us this evening as she is in London watching one of her students, Grace Hodson Prior, perform in the show "Matilda" on its reopening in the West End. However, I'm sure Mandy won't mind if I share with you a little about her involvement with the festival over the years.

Mandy has been involved with the festival for a long time. She joined the dance sub-committee approaching 50 years ago as a "youngster", (her words not mine!) to bring fresh ideas to the section. During these years she has introduced the Song & Dance classes some time ago and more recently the Lyrical and Contemporary categories. I am sure you will agree that she has been instrumental in making the dance section the great success it is today.

She became a member of the executive committee 23 years ago and has served on it since. Mandy is always at the forefront of driving WMAAF forward and seeing a way through trying times. She has however decided that now is the right time for her to resign from the executive committee. She will be sorely missed. Her dedication to Worthing Music and Arts Festival is second to none. Thank you Mandy for all your hard work.

**Meeting closed at 7.57pm**