

# Eighty fifth Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Music Societies, trading as Making Music

Tuesday 8 September, 6.25pm by Zoom

## MINUTES

**Present:** Directors of the National Federation of Music Societies, Making Music representatives from affiliated societies, and guests

**Apologies:** none

**Chair:** Dorothy Wilson

1. The Chair welcomed delegates to the meeting, including Amy Healey from the auditors, LFF.
2. The Minutes of the eighty fourth Annual General Meeting at Conway Hall, London WC1R 4RL on Wednesday 3 July 2019, having been circulated in advance, appeared on screen. Dorothy Wilson asked if the minutes provided an accurate record and for any questions to be typed in the chat. None were received. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Marion Morley (LABBS) and seconded by Neil Dennis (Wimbledon Choral Society). A poll to adopt the minutes appeared on Zoom. Dorothy reminded everyone that only member representatives (denoted by an asterisk next to their name on Zoom) were eligible to vote at this meeting and Barbara clarified that it was possible to abstain by not taking part in the poll. The minutes were accepted *nem con*, including five proxy votes cast by Dorothy Wilson.
3. Dorothy Wilson presented the Board's annual report for 2019 and Honorary Treasurer Clare Birks presented the accounts for 2019.

Dorothy reported that 2019 was a very successful year for Making Music, expanding resources, delivering services to more groups and thereby supporting more members.

- The Making Music Platform was launched and delivered to enable groups to have an online public presence through one integrated web platform
- Twenty-four groups benefitted from the Making Music OTR service, claiming almost £60,000 in total tax relief towards their future services
- The Making Music Together exhibition was presented at the Barbican Music Library. This has been digitised to be available for the long term
- Make Music Day 2019 provided members with the opportunity for a national and international platform. It doubled in size to over 1100 performers and 29,000 performers, with an audience of over 140,000
- Debbie Wiseman was welcomed as Making Music's new President; Debbie presented the Sir Charles Groves Prize to United's Takeaway Scheme
- The Making Music team collated member responses to the PRS consultation on the live tariff for classical music. The results of the consultation have been delayed but are expected in due course.

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for 2019 were displayed on screen.

Clare Birks thanked the Making Music finance team and auditors for completing the audit process remotely and reported another clean (unqualified) set of accounts for 2019.

- The restatement of the 2018 accounts was purely a reformatting exercise to align them with current activities and best practice
- Net income for 2019 was nearly £13,000; a change from the reported deficit in 2018 of £13,000
- Membership increased again in 2019, providing more membership subscription income to spend on services to members, lobbying and advocacy
- At the end of 2019, reserves represented 4.9 month's expenditure, a small increase on 2018 and within the policy limit of between 3- and 6-months' expenditure
- Covid-19 didn't impact until 2020 but is referred to in this annual report to provide assurance that Making Music continues as a going concern. While Covid-19 continues to be a huge challenge, subscription income for 2020 was received during the winter, so Making Music is in a strong position as far as cash is concerned.

Clare asked for questions and none were asked.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting *nem con*, proposed by Tim Johnson (Imperial Male Voice Choir) and seconded by Peter Lawson (Norwich Chamber Music).

4. Dorothy Wilson asked that the Board be authorised to appoint the auditors. The proposal was accepted *nem con* proposed by Clare Birks (Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Choral Society) and seconded by Derrick Rowlands (Cor Meibion Dyffryn Tywi).
5. Dorothy Wilson asked that the Board be authorised to agree the auditor's remuneration. This was accepted *nem con*, proposed by Pam Harper (Perth Chamber Music Society) and seconded by Caroline Fulton (Wokingham Choral Society).
6. Dorothy Wilson was delighted to receive an extraordinary twenty-one candidate nominations for election to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Music Societies and there followed a lively poll. Dorothy announced the appointment of the successful candidates, namely:
  - Clare Birks (Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Choral Society)
  - Celeste Berteau (Cadenza Choir)
  - Rhiannon Harrison (Worsley Concert Band)
 Dorothy expressed her gratitude to all who had participated in the election.
7. Dorothy Wilson then invited questions, submitted in advance and via the chat function:
  - Could information about the trustees and the groups they represent be provided on the Making Music website? *An Our Board page will be on the website soon*
  - How does Making Music ensure promoter members are fairly represented at Council level? *Council membership is proportional to the distribution of Making Music's members but 70% of full members are performing groups*
  - When will there be more information on the Folk project for 2021? *This has been put back a year due to ACE funding and internal capacity issues.*

Barbara thanked all members for contributing to the lobbying required to allow member groups in England to meet again in-person.

Dorothy noted the appreciative comments received in the chat for the support provided by the Making Music team over the previous six months and thanked staff, Board and members for their commitment.

8. There were no further questions from members present and there being no further notified business, the meeting closed at 6.55pm.