



Registered Charity No. 264425

**The Annual General Meeting of the Norwich Philharmonic Society will be held on
Tuesday, 1st July, 2025, at 7.00pm, at The George Hotel, Arlington Lane,
(off Newmarket Road), Norwich, NR2 2DA**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 9th July, 2024

(Attached)

3. To receive the Chair's Report for 2024/25

**4. To receive and approve the Accounts, including the Financial Report, for 1 May 2024-30 April 2025
(Accounts will also be available via the Society's website one week before the meeting)**

5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair*

Members are invited to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Society for a three-year term, from July, 2025. The current Chair, Caroline Dixey, and Vice-Chair, Catrina Nixon, were re-appointed in June 2022, for three years. Caroline and Catrina have both indicated their willingness to be re-appointed Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for a further three-year term to June, 2028, in the event that no other nominations are received.

**Note 1: The Society's Constitution states that: 'The members of the Society shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman every third AGM who must have already served on the Committee. At the end of the three-year period the Chairman shall not be eligible for re-election or co-option to the Committee for one year unless there is no other candidate for Chairman. At the end of the three-year period the Vice-Chairman shall be eligible for election as Chairman but not for re-election as Vice-Chairman unless there is no other candidate for Vice-Chairman.'*

6. Election of Officers for 2025/26**

6.1 Present Officers seeking re-election are:

Treasurer: Kate Anetts

Secretary of the Benefactors and Friends of the Society: Kate Anetts

Orchestra Sub-Committee Chair: Catrina Nixon

Chorus Secretary: Sally West-Lindell

Orchestra Secretary: Christopher Elston

Orchestra Librarian: Caroline Furniss

Front of House Manager/Head Steward: Alison Guy

Committee Secretary: Alison Rhodes

6.2 Election of Publicity Officer

There is a vacancy for a Publicity Officer for which nominations are invited.

***Note 2: The Society's Constitution states that: 'The Officers of the Society, (excluding the Chairman and Vice Chairman) shall be elected annually at the AGM.'*

7. Election of Ordinary Members***

7.1 There is one vacancy for a **Chorus representative**, vice Paul Henderson. Paul is willing to serve a further term of three years if there are no other nominations.

7.2 There is one vacancy for an **Orchestra representative**, vice Judy Tryggvason, who is retiring from The Philharmonic Society. Nominations are invited.

7.3 There is one vacancy for a **Public Representative** (in addition to Peter Callf and Simon Suter) for which nominations are invited.

**** Note 3: The Society's Constitution states that: 'The ordinary members, whether elected or co-opted, shall retire after three years' service and shall not be eligible for re-election or co-option for one year unless there are insufficient candidates to fill all the vacancies and the Chairman exercises his or her discretion to invite further nominations which may include nominations for retiring members.'*

The role of Committee Members

All elected members of the Committee are Trustees of the charity. Information about the role of a Trustee may be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do>

The Committee normally meets five times a year. During 2024/25, four meetings were held in person, and one meeting was held via Zoom. The ability to meet remotely enables the Committee to continue to conduct business in the event of bad weather or if there are any urgent matters to discuss.

The Committee welcomes new members. If members are interested and/or are aware of members of the public who might consider getting involved with the Philharmonic, they are welcome to talk in the first instance to the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or other members of the Committee to find out more.

8. Appointment of an Independent Accounts Examiner

To confirm the re-appointment of Mr Crispin de Boos.

9. Presentation of Long Service Awards to Members, and Farewells

10. Looking ahead to the 2025/26 Season

11. Any other business (See Note 4 below)

Alison Rhodes
NPS Secretary

Note 4: AOB items, written questions or comments on the Minutes or Accounts may be submitted to the Secretary up to **5pm on Monday, 30th June, 2025**, by email to alison.rhodes@btinternet.com or in writing (see address below)

Note 5: Nominations should be sent to: Alison Rhodes, Norwich Philharmonic Society, c/o 24, Burgess Way, Brooke, Norwich, NR15 1JY

to arrive no later than **Tuesday, 17th June, 2025** (the closing date).

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORWICH PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY HELD AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, NORWICH, ON TUESDAY, 9TH JULY, 2024, AT 6.30PM

Caroline Dixey, Chair of the Society's Committee, took the chair for this Annual General Meeting (AGM) on behalf of the Society's President, Antony Jarrold, who was unable to attend. Caroline warmly welcomed Members, Benefactors and Friends to the meeting.

1. Apologies

It was reported that apologies had been received from 42 members. 33 were in attendance.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 4th July, 2023

The Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated along with the agenda and other papers, via email, post and the Society's website, the requisite period of notice having been given. The Minutes were **approved**, proposed by Jayne Evans and seconded by Christine Gillham. There were no 'matters arising' to report.

3. Chair's Report on the 2023/24 Season

Caroline Dixey (CD) presented her Chair's Report on the 2023/24 season (attached). Particular attention was drawn to the following:

- i) the continued loyal support, commitment, enthusiasm and flexibility shown by Members, Benefactors and Friends during another exciting and challenging season;
- ii) the announcement of the retirement of Antony Jarrold as President of the Society. Antony had been a stalwart supporter of and ambassador for 'The Phil' over many years;
- iii) David Dunnett's last year as Chorus Conductor before handing over the baton to Ashley Grote from 2024/25 and the farewell celebrations and gifts that marked his 'retirement' ;
- iv) the retirement of another 'Phil' stalwart, Gerald Cooke, who would be stepping down from his role as Head Steward, along with other leavers and continuing members whose long service with 'The Phil' was also being recognised (see Minute 9 below);
- v) other changes of personnel, including the appointment of a new Leader of the Orchestra, Chris Rayfield, and a new Orchestra Secretary, Christopher Elston, following the retirement of Rob Barnes;
- vi) new venues for concerts - at the Kings Centre, The Events Centre at The Norfolk Showground and at the Cathedral, following the closure of The Halls in January, 2024, for refurbishment;
- vii) the range of concerts offered, from Elgar's beautiful 'The Kingdom' to the colourful orchestral pieces of Rimsky Korsakov's 'The Snow Maiden Suite', Dohnanyi's 'Variations on a Nursery Song' and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F Minor; the jollity of the Family Christmas concert; the highly successful Children's concerts ('The Knight who took all day' and other heroic deeds in music); the performance of Beethoven's atmospheric 5th Symphony and Mozart's poignant Requiem in D Minor as we bade farewell to David; and finally to the tremendous evening as 'The Phil' went to the Movies;
- viii) the eagerly-anticipated visit to Koblenz by members of the Chorus (and some supporters) between 3rd - 7th April, 2024. to perform 'Elijah' with the Musik-Institut. This first visit since 2017 had been hugely enjoyable: the concert had been very successful; hosts delightful; travel arrangements smooth; and there were some memorable excursions, particularly to Maria Laach Abbey. Grateful thanks were extended to the planning group of Sally West-Lindell, Telse Beckford and Michelle Martin;
- ix) the Society's financial position at the end of 2023/24 (see also Minute 4 below), noting that, despite all the challenges of increasing costs, audiences not having consistently reached pre-Covid19 pandemic levels and changes of venue, a modest net surplus of £1551 had been achieved. There would be a modest increase in the price of most (but not all) tickets. Prices would range from £15 to £30 for the Cathedral concert; £15 and £22 for the early December orchestral concert, the Family Christmas and the April concerts; and £17 and £25 for the February orchestral concert in view of the additional costs involved (see Minute 10 below). There would be no change with regard to the Children's concerts (£12

and £5) nor to the rates for students and under 26s (£8). In addition, it was hoped that the discount on Members' tickets could be doubled to £2 per ticket, limited to a maximum of two tickets per Member, excluding the Christmas concert, but this would be dependent on the Committee's final review of the budget. The feasibility of re-introducing season tickets was also being examined. Furthermore, subscription rates for Members would remain at the level for 2023/24, viz £95 (or £100 if paying in two instalments of £50 per term). The Chair took the opportunity to thank Kate Anetts, for her sterling work as the Society's Treasurer and as the Secretary to the Benefactors and Friends;

x) programmes for the new season, which were varied, exciting and challenging and included another Children's concert. (See Minute 10 for more details). The Chair congratulated the Vice-Chair and Chair of the Orchestra Sub-Committee, Catrina Nixon, for leading on the arrangements at the new venues which had posed additional challenges for the staging of the concerts. CD also thanked Chorus Representative Paul Henderson, for his efforts in securing The Blake Studio or The Chapel of Norwich School for chorus rehearsals, following the closure of The Hewett Academy for rebuilding and refurbishment;

xi) the current position regarding a possible new commission for the Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2026, based on The Strangers of Norwich. CD explained that the project was currently in abeyance primarily because of the difficulty in raising the substantial funds needed to commission the work and also the additional pressures of securing and staging concerts in new venues. Donations of £7k towards the cost of a new commission were ring-fenced. If the project did not proceed, the donations would have to be returned or might be used for other projects if the donors agreed. The Committee would consider the options;

xii) the very generous donation of £7.5k which had been received for the development of choral singing with young people. CD noted that the Committee would be giving further consideration to the development possibilities;

xiii) future fund-raising efforts, including a wine-tasting evening, inspired by the visit to Koblenz, to be held at Harper Wells of Ber Street, Norwich, on Wednesday, 18th September. Organised by Sally West-Lindell, tickets cost £15, with numbers limited to 40. In addition, there would once again be the Annual Quiz led by Matthew Andrews and Caroline Furniss, on Friday, 24th January, 2025;

(xiv) the hard work and commitment throughout the year of: members of the Committee; the Society's Vice-Chair and Chair of the Orchestra Sub-Committee, Catrina Nixon; the Treasurer and Secretary to the Benefactors and Friends, Kate Anetts; the Chorus and Orchestra Conductors, David Dunnett and Matt Andrews; the rehearsal pianist, Tim Patient; the Chorus, Orchestra and Committee Secretaries (Sally West-Lindell, Rob Barnes/Chris Elston, and Alison Rhodes); Judy Trygvasson, the web-manager and erstwhile editor of the Newsletter ; Moira Eagling, new editor of the Newsletter and creative expert behind the Society's publicity leaflets and programmes; Gerald Cooke, Head Steward and his team at The Halls. Matt Andrews and Caroline Furniss were thanked for once again devising and leading the annual quiz. The continued loyal support and generosity of all Benefactors, Friends and Members were gratefully acknowledged.

4. Annual Accounts, including the Financial Report for 1 May, 2023 to 30 April, 2024

4.1 The Treasurer, Kate Anetts, referred to the Annual Accounts and the Financial Report that had been circulated. In her report, the Treasurer highlighted the following, that:

i) there was an end-of-year surplus of £3320 which, after liabilities had been taken into account, would produce a modest working net surplus of £1551 - a better-than-expected result given that the budget had envisaged a small deficit of £723; ii) the accounts included a ring-fenced sum of £7k for the proposed 'Strangers' project. If this project did not proceed, the money would need to be returned or, with the donors' agreement, used for other purposes;

iii) the budget had envisaged an average attendance of 74%; in the event a creditable 72% average had been achieved;

iv) the Christmas, March and February Children's concerts had performed well and this had helped offset the costs of the other concerts in November, December and April which had yielded lower income

and higher costs than expected;

v) a capital purchase had been made during the year for a set of tubular bells at a cost of £1650;

vi) the aim was to achieve a break-even budget with any concert deficit(s) off-set by subscriptions, fundraising, donations and Gift Aid. Welcome donations included £500 from the Elgar Society and also from Shirley Newton and the late Patricia Mockridge towards the costs of 'The Kingdom' and £650 towards piano hire costs. Fundraising events such as the Annual Quiz and a jazz concert had also been very helpful in covering concert deficits;

vii) the policy relating to the Society's reserves was to aim to maintain unrestricted net current assets of around 100% of the concert season expenditure (anticipated to be in the region of £60 - 65k in 2024/25) to cover any significant shortfall in cash flow and as a contingency against any unexpected events. Restricted funds were treated in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor(s). Any unrestricted cash above this was treated as designated funds, set by the Committee, for development, training, education, projects and encouraging younger members. Current unrestricted assets at the end of the year totalled £75647; restricted funds amounted to £1302 (excluding the Strangers project funding); fixed assets were valued at £4829 and there was £33854 invested in relatively low yield/low risk investments. Total net assets amounted to £115632. This policy was kept under review by the Committee;

viii) the Society still faced significant costs next season, arising largely from changes of venue as a result of the closure of The Halls for refurbishment. The Events Centre at the Norfolk Showground – large as it was - was still an unknown quantity in terms of its attractiveness as a location whilst the Cathedral had fewer seats to offer. Nevertheless, the 2024/25 programmes looked very appealing (Minute 10 below refers) and it was hoped that the concerts would once again capture the interest and support of audiences, old and new..

4.2 On behalf of all members, The Chair thanked the Treasurer for her very hard work once again, in another challenging year.

4.3 The Accounts and Financial Report were **approved**, proposed by Colin Pordham and seconded by Caroline Furniss.

5. The President and Vice-Presidents of the Society

5.1.1 Noting that the current President of the Society, Antony Jarrold, had decided to step down from this role after many years, the Chair warmly thanked Antony on behalf of all Members, Benefactors and Friends, for being a wonderful ambassador for 'The Phil' and for his stalwart support.

5.1.2 A message from The President was read out to those present. In it, Antony recalled his early memories of being taken to 'Phil' concerts and his eventual appointment as the Society's President. He had learned much over the years, enjoying wonderful concerts, and praised 'The Phil' for its high standards and happy spirit. A particularly poignant memory was the Chorus's visit to Koblenz to sing Britten's War Requiem with the choir of the Musik Institut. Antony looked forward to many more excellent concerts.

5.1.3 The Chair announced that Antony's formal connection with 'The Phil' would continue as he had accepted an invitation to join Colin Pordham and Julian Webb as a Vice-President of the Society. A card and gift from the Society would be presented to Antony.

5.2 With regard to a successor as President, CD was delighted to announce that an invitation had been made to former Chorus Conductor, David Dunnett. David had been very pleased and very honoured to accept.

6. Election of Officers for 2024/25

6.1 It was reported that the Officers (Kate Anetts, Catrina Nixon, Christopher Elston, Caroline Furniss, Alison Rhodes and Sally West-Lindell), had indicated that they were seeking re-election. Proposed by Rosemary Sanford and seconded by Ruth Dodds, they were **duly re-elected**, en bloc.

6.2.1 The role of Front of House Manager was still vacant, vice the late Sue Prutton. A review of the role

in the light of the impending retirement of Gerald Cooke as Head Steward (see Minute 9 below) had led to the proposed amalgamation of both roles. In addition to 'The Phil', the roleholder would also act as FoH Manager for other local Societies, including the Britten Sinfonia, Academy of St Thomas, and The Mozart Orchestra.

6.2.2 A nomination for the revised FoH Manager role had been received from Alison Guy. As Alison was already a member of the Society's Committee as a Public Representative, a vacancy for a Public Representative would arise if her appointment as FoH Manager were confirmed. Proposed by Catrina Nixon and seconded by Caroline Dixey, Alison Guy was **duly elected** to serve as the new Front of House Manager for a term of three years.

On behalf of all members, the Chair thanked Alison for her continuing commitment to and support of 'The Phil'.

6.3 There was a vacancy for the role of Publicity Officer. As no nominations had been received, this position remained unfilled.

6.4 The Chair encouraged members to consider whether they might be able to volunteer for the role of Publicity Officer or pass on the names of anyone who might be interested, noting that they did not need to be members of the Society. The Chair and Vice-Chair would be pleased to discuss the role with enquirers.

7. Election of Ordinary Members

7.1 Public Representatives

The Constitution provided for three Public Representative members of the Committee. Of these, Simon Suter had completed his term of three years. He had indicated his willingness to continue in this role. As no other nominations had been received, the Chair had exercised discretion under the provisions of paragraph 7 of the Constitution to invite Simon to submit a nomination once again. Proposed by Caroline Furniss and seconded by Alison Rhodes, Simon Suter was **duly re-elected** to serve as a Public Representative for a further term of three years.

A second nomination had been submitted by Peter Callf who was retiring from membership of the Chorus. As a former member of the Committee and with a wealth of experience to offer, Caroline Dixey proposed and Alison Rhodes seconded Peter's nomination. Peter Callf was **duly elected** to serve as a Public Representative for a term of three years. ,

As no other nominations had been received, the third Public Representative position remained vacant.

8. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner

The Chair reminded those present that at the AGM in July, 2023, Crispin de Boos had been re-appointed as Independent Accounts Examiner for 2023/24. CD proposed that Crispin de Boos be re-appointed for a further year (2024/25).

Proposed by Pat Stephenson and seconded by Jayne Evans, Crispin de Boos was **duly re-appointed** Independent Accounts Examiner for 2024/25. .

9. Long Service Awards

9.1 The Chair announced that in a new development this year, members with 40, 50, or 60 years' service would receive a further certificate in addition to the 25-year long service award, in recognition of their tremendous contribution. Recipients – some of whom were leaving the Society this year - were:

Dorothy Philpott (Chorus) - 62 years (leaving the Phil)

Lizzie Ridley-Thomas (Chorus) - 50 years (leaving the Phil)

Josephine Fillery (Orchestra) – 50+ years

Andy Newman (Orchestra) – 40+ years

Chrissie Owens (Orchestra) – 40+ years

Judy Tryggvason (Orchestra) – 40+ years

Peter Halls (Chorus) - 40 years (leaving the Phil)

Peter Callf (Chorus) - 25 years (leaving the Chorus but returning as a Public Representative member of the Committee (Minute 7.1 above refers))

Sally West-Lindell (Chorus member and Chorus Secretary) – 25 years

Judy Tryggvason, Peter Callf and Sally West-Lindell were presented with their certificates by The Chair.

Also leaving 'The Phil' after 34 years was Chorus member Rachel Laue Knudsen.

All were warmly thanked for their outstanding contributions and the Society's good wishes for the future were conveyed to those who were leaving. To those whose association with 'The Phil' was continuing, CD hoped that they would enjoy many more happy years with the Society.

9.2 Gerald and Thelma Cooke

Another special presentation was then made to Gerald Cooke, who was standing down as Head Steward (see also Minute 6. 2 above), and his wife, Thelma. The Chair expressed the Society's grateful thanks and very best wishes for the future and hoped that Gerald and Thelma would continue to attend Phil concerts where they would find a very warm welcome.

10. Looking ahead to the 2024/25 Season

10.1 The Chair invited the Vice-Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Orchestra Sub-Committee, Catrina Nixon (CN), to give an overview of the programmes for 2024/25. CN observed that the season promised to be another exciting and varied one, with some challenges arising from the switch to new venues. Creativity and flexibility remained the 'watchwords'. It would thus be very important, including for financial reasons, to publicise the concerts as widely as possible.

10.2 Turning to the list of programmes that had been circulated with the agenda, CN noted that:

i) the first concert, on 9th November, 2024, would, as last year, be a full-scale choral work (Haydn's *Creation*), this time in the glorious surroundings of the Cathedral. The concert would be Ashley's first as Chorus Conductor;

ii) the Orchestra would give its concert on 7th December in the Kings Centre (the venue for last season's Children's Concerts). The programme consisted of Mahler's *Symphony No.4* (continuing the Orchestra's long-running project of performing Mahler symphonies), with soprano soloist; a rare, unpublished score of Holst's '*Indra*' in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth; and Sibelius's '*Pohjola's Daughter*';

iii) keeping up the 'Phil' tradition, the great Family Christmas concert would take place on Tuesday, 17th December, this time at The Norfolk Events Centre at the Showground;

iv) in an exciting development, the Orchestra would present its 15th February concert in the large space of the Events Centre of The Norfolk Showground. The full programme was being finalised but would include Stravinsky's challenging '*Rite of Spring*' accompanied by dancers from the Workshop Studios Dance Company. It was planned that the audience would be seated on three sides with the dancers occupying the space in the middle and the orchestra at the back;

v) continuing the new tradition of Children's concerts, the Orchestra would return to the Kings Centre on 22nd March, for what was hoped would be another successful children's concert (two performances), attracting a new audience (adults as well as children) to classical music. On offer this year would be *Gaspard's Foxtrot*, Jonathan Dove's setting of the children's book *Gaspard the Fox* by Zeb Soanes. Zeb Soanes would be the narrator, with live illustration by James Mayhew.

vi) the season's finale would take place on 5th April, again at the Events Centre, in a mixed Orchestral and Choral programme with a 'jazz' feel. The Chorus would perform Lambert's '*Rio Grande*' and Rutter's

'Feel the Spirit' whilst the Orchestra's programme would include Gershwin (An American in Paris and Rhapsody in Blue) and Marquez's Danson No 2. Pianist Jill Morton would be the instrumental soloist.

10.3 Members present welcomed the above programmes and looked forward to another interesting season. They also looked forward to welcoming and working with Ashley Grote, the new Chorus Conductor.

11. Any other business

11.1 The Chair reported that no items of other business had been formally notified. She invited those present to sign a thank you card for Antony Jarrold and encouraged those who had not got any or wanted additional copies, to take 9a) spare programme(s) produced for the March, 2024, concert, this concert being the last one conducted by David Dunnett.

The Chair particularly wished to thank the Hon Secretary, Alison Rhodes, for her considerable hard work in organising the meeting and keeping the affairs of the Society in order, often behind the scenes, and gave her a small gift on behalf of the Society.

Bringing the meeting to a close, Caroline re-iterated her very grateful thanks to all members of the Committee for their hard work and support during the year; to Benefactors. Friends and Members for their continued loyal support of the Society; and to all who assisted the Society in a wide range of roles. She also thanked everyone for attending the AGM and looked forward to a very enjoyable and uplifting season ahead with Matt and Ashley at the helm, whether at The Cathedral, The Kings Centre, or The Norfolk Events Centre at The Showground.

11.2 Members present expressed their very grateful thanks to The Chair for her leadership of and work for the Society.

NORWICH PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY
CHAIR'S REPORT ON THE 2023/24 SEASON

A very warm welcome to you all to this AGM. It's wonderful to meet again in person. We can also celebrate the completion of another full year of Phil concerts.

What a year it has been - for a number of reasons. We began knowing that our beloved Chorus Conductor, David, was embarking on his very last season with The Phil after 28 years at the helm; during it, we marked the retirement from the committee of Rob Barnes, stalwart Secretary of the Orchestra Sub-Committee; and we bade a temporary farewell to The Halls which closed for refurbishment after Christmas. We also went to new venues for our concerts for the remainder of the season; we welcomed a new Orchestra Leader, Chris Rayfield and a new Secretary of the Orchestra Sub-Committee, Chris Elston; and next season we welcome our new Chorus Conductor, Ashley.

We shall also be saying 'thank you and farewell' to the President of our Society, Antony Jarrold, who has decided to step down after many years' service to the society. As a supporter (I expect that his mother, my grandmother, brought him to concerts as a child (as she did with me), Chairman and President. Thank you, Antony, for your support over the years and for being a great ambassador for 'The Phil'. We also say farewell to Gerald Cooke, who is stowing away his Head Steward's sash after a phenomenal 50+ years initially as a Steward and later as Head Steward. A huge thank you on your behalf to Gerald and Thelma.

There are a number of other members who have decided to say 'farewell' and we shall have an opportunity to thank them for their support later in the meeting. There is also another person who is celebrating her 'silver' anniversary this year with the Phil – of which more anon.

Looking back over the season, we opened in November with a change from our usual practice of sharing the concert between orchestra and chorus by coming together to perform Elgar's 'The Kingdom' at The Halls in order to make maximise the impact of this beautiful but less well-known piece. We were joined by distinguished guest soloists including former Cathedral chorister, Elizabeth Watts, for this performance. We were fortunate and very grateful to receive financial support from The Elgar Society and from Shirley Newton in memory of the late Patricia Mockridge to help the Society present this work. We are very grateful to the donors.

The opening concert was followed by the orchestra's presentation of three colourful pieces: Rimsky-Korsakov's The Snow Maiden Suite; Dohnanyi's Variations on a Nursery Song – beautifully and amusingly performed by Martin Roscoe in a welcome return to Norwich; and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F Minor. Audience numbers were reasonable given the clash with 'The Messiah' at the Cathedral, although of course, we wished that more had been able to enjoy this treat of an evening. Well done, Matt and the orchestra.

Our last concert before the closure of The Halls was The Phil's Family Christmas Concert. St. Andrew's Hall, albeit not completely sold-out, was certainly very busy and in good voice as the audience happily joined in with well-known carols. They were certainly appreciative of the festive items by choir, orchestra, the Drayton CofE Junior School Choir and, of course, Tim 'fingers' Patient on the organ. Who could forget the surprise on David's face when, as we began 'When Santa got stuck up the chimney' members of the choir donned an assortment of Santa hats and threw them in the air at the end. A wonderful moment as the evening came to a joyful close.

In February, in another change to our usual programming, the orchestra put on 'Children's Concerts' at a new venue, The Kings Centre. Featuring 'The Knight who took all day' and other heroic deeds in music, wonderfully narrated by Bernard Hughes, there were two afternoon concerts for young people (and older ones too). Both were sell-outs and both enthusiastically received. There was great excitement during the intervals when the children were encouraged to try out a range of orchestral instruments, Unsurprisingly, the timpani were very popular!

In a return visit by The Phil to Norwich Cathedral in March after an interval of some years, Matt conducted Beethoven's atmospheric 5th Symphony in C Minor and David conducted the choir and orchestra in Mozart's Requiem in D Minor, as he brought to a poignant close, in this magnificent setting, his outstanding career with The Phil. There was, rightly and very deservedly, a standing ovation for David and many plaudits were received. There was also an opportunity for around 150 of us to say collective and individual farewells and thank you to David at the after-concert party superbly organised by Sally (thank you, Sally). As you may have read in the recent Newsletter, David and Nicky were overwhelmed by your generosity as they were presented with an array of gifts including a bottle of bubbly; a cheque for David to buy something of his choice; a garden voucher and a rose bush aptly named 'Truly loved'; plus a voucher towards a Celebration Meal at Delia's. The choir had earlier presented David with a mug and a card both with a photo of the choir wearing our Father Christmas hats (we're determined that David won't forget this moment in his conducting career!) and Nicky with a pair of earrings hand-crafted by our very own Catrina Nixon.

The Norfolk Events Centre at the Norfolk Showground was the place to be in April as Matt and the orchestra brought the season to a thrilling close as 'The Phil 'went to the movies'. Performing classic and popular film music scored for some of the greatest hits in cinema (including from the Bond movies, The Magnificent Seven, The Sea Hawk, North by North West, Schindler's List, The Scent of a Woman and Out of Africa and more). Matt skilfully added to our enjoyment and understanding of the pieces with background and contextual information. Our Norwich-born international soloist, Hannah Perowne, played exquisitely and handled with aplomb a broken string – she simply borrowed the Leader's violin! Whilst well-attended, there were others 'out there' who missed a real treat! We received very positive feedback, including from audience members and invited guests who had never before attended a Philharmonic concert and were completely bowled over by the performance. This, together with the children's concerts, suggests that we are reaching a new pool of audience, including youngsters who may well be Phil members of the future.

In early April, members of the Chorus and supporters made a welcome return visit to Koblenz between 3rd - 7th April 2024, to perform Elijah with the Musik-Institut. After such a long gap since our last visit in 2017, it was a joy to be there, to sing, to meet up with friends old and new and visit some beautiful places. The concert was enthusiastically received, travel arrangements worked well (in the end!) and our hosts were delightful and a trip to Maria Laach on a beautiful day was a special excursion. On your behalf, may I thank the working group (Sally West-Lindell, Telse Beckford and Michelle Martin) which worked so hard to ensure that everything went without a hitch. We anticipate that we shall welcome friends from Koblenz to Norwich during the 2025-26 season.

May I now take this opportunity to congratulate all of the performing members too on delivering an interesting, varied and enjoyable season. You rose to the challenges posed by changes of venue and personnel, demonstrating commitment, flexibility and determination. I want to say a particular thank you to Catrina who led on the arrangements at the new venues, which posed many additional challenges for the staging of concerts. Congratulations.

All the above, as you know, comes at a cost. The Society's finances, having previously been affected by the Covid19 pandemic, continue to be affected by rising prices. Our audiences, although encouraging, still have not consistently returned to pre-pandemic 'norms', although the children's concerts exceeded our expectations. Looking ahead, we continue to face increased prices across a range of items, including hire of performance space. In addition, we have had to seek alternative rehearsal accommodation for the choir at Norwich School following the recent announcement of the closure of The Hewett Academy for rebuilding and refurbishment. I should like to express thanks to Paul Henderson, one of the Chorus Representatives, for negotiating with the school.

Despite the financial challenges, I am pleased to report that the Society concluded the 2023-24 financial year with a modest surplus. Our Treasurer, Kate Anetts, will give more detail about the financial position in the Financial Report, but I should like to highlight that the Society aims to produce a 'break-even' budget each year. Although The Society holds a good level of reserves, it aims to maintain between £50,000 and £60,000 to cover the potential downsides of a poor season. Any additional reserves may be designated towards specific projects, such as supporting a commission, supporting the development of a youth choir or young musicians to ensure that the Society can continue to thrive into the future. I am delighted to announce that we have recently received a generous donation of £7,500 towards the development of choral singing with young people. The Committee will be giving further consideration to the development possibilities.

Having reviewed projections for next year and bearing in mind last year's increase, I can confirm that the Committee has taken the decision not to raise Membership subscriptions for next season. They will thus remain at £95 (if paying in one instalment) or £50 per term (if paying in two instalments). Instead, the Committee has agreed to raise ticket prices slightly as, in addition to general inflationary costs, we bear the added costs of hiring new venues and trying to increase audience numbers. In this regard, it is worth noting that the Cathedral does not have the capacity of St Andrew's Hall and the Norfolk Events Centre, although we have used it before, is still to some extent an uncertain quantity in terms of attracting an audience. We will continue to keep a close eye on the financial performance of the Society, as always, but do rely on effective publicity and the support of members in bringing in audiences. We really need someone to lead on the publicity but, as no one has yet been identified or put themselves forward, please make every effort to spread the word through telling your friends, social media, putting up posters and any other means you can think of!

In summary, ticket prices are expected to be: £15, £25, £27 and £30 for the Cathedral concert; £15 and £22 for the early December orchestral concert at the King's Centre and for the Family Christmas and April concerts at the NEC; and £17 and £25 for the orchestra's February concert at the NEC as there will be additional costs – including dancers (about which more later). There will be no change for the children's concerts at £5 and £12. In addition, we will continue to peg prices for students and under 26s at £8. We are hoping to double to £2 per ticket on Members' tickets, limited to a maximum of two tickets per Member, excluding the Christmas concert, but this is dependent on the committee's final review of the

budget. Although we didn't offer them last season, we are now looking into the feasibility of offering season tickets, once again. Thank you, Kate, for doing this, and for all your work as Treasurer and Secretary to the Benefactors and Friends.

Looking ahead to programmes for the 2024-25 season, we shall be returning to The Cathedral in November for a performance of Haydn's wonderfully evocative 'Creation', conducted by Ashley. The orchestra will revisit The King's Centre for its early December concert featuring Holst, Sibelius and Mahler (there will be more about the orchestra's programme from Catrina later in the meeting). This will be quickly followed by the first Family Christmas Concert to be celebrated in the spacious auditorium of the Norfolk Events Centre, which will also be the venue for an exciting concert in February which will feature Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring' accompanied, we hope, by a group of talented local dancers. March sees the return of the Children's concerts to The Kings Centre and we conclude the season at the Norfolk Events Centre with the orchestra and chorus coming together in a range of pieces, including Gershwin. Lambert, Rutter and Marquez and featuring pianist Jill Morton.

You may recall that we had been looking into the possibility of commissioning a new work for orchestra and chorus, based on The Strangers of Norwich, for the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, in 2026. Although we have been fortunate to have received some generous donations, we still need to raise significantly more money to make the project viable. I should also say that the additional work involved in staging concerts at different venues has also made it difficult to give the time to approaching other major donors. At this stage, therefore, the project will not be going ahead in 2026 as envisaged and may not go ahead at all. The Committee is considering other options and will be approaching the donors with proposals, in due course.

Finally, I should like to record my most grateful thanks to: members of the Committee who have worked exceptionally hard this season: our Vice-Chair and Chair of the Orchestra Sub-Committee, Catrina; our Treasurer, Kate; our conductors, David and Matt, and rehearsal pianist, Tim; Sally, Rob, Chris and Alison, our Chorus, Orchestra and Committee Secretaries; our Publicity Group; Judy, our website and erstwhile Newsletter maestro; Moira who puts together such interesting publicity leaflets and programmes and who has taken over from Judy production of the Newsletter; Gerald Cooke, Head Steward and the stewarding team; Caroline and Matt for once again challenging our 'little grey cells' in the Phil quiz (*date for your diaries: the next quiz will be held on Friday, 24th January, 2025, so you have plenty of time to prepare!*); Sally for organising David's after-concert party and other fund-raising efforts, including another date for your diaries: *a wine-tasting evening – inspired by our visit to Koblenz - at Harper Wells, Ber Street, Norwich, on Wednesday 18th September. Tickets cost £15 and there is a maximum of 40, so hurry and book your place*; our generous Benefactors and Friends; and to you, all the members, for continuing to maintain and develop the strong and cherished traditions of 'The Phil'. 183 years and counting!

Caroline Dixey
Chair
Norwich Philharmonic Society



Norwich Philharmonic Society

Registered Charity No. 264425

Financial Statements

Year ended 30th April 2025

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025

Charity's principal address

Mrs C Dixey

Rushlight Barn, Birch Way, Mundham, Norwich NR14 6EN

Website <http://www.norwichphil.org.uk>

Charity Trustees

Mrs Caroline Dixey

Chairman

Ms Catrina Nixon

Vice Chairman

Ms Alison Rhodes

Secretary

Ms Kate Anetts

Treasurer & Friends' Secretary

Mrs Sally West-Lindell

Choir Secretary

Ms Alexandra Atherton

Choir Representative

Mr Paul Henderson

Choir Representative

Mr Chris Elston

Orchestra Secretary

Mrs Judy Tryggvason

Orchestra Representative

Mr Steve Kent-Davies

Orchestra Representative

Ms Caroline Furniss

Orchestra Librarian

Mrs Alison Guy

Front of House Manager & Head Steward

Mr Simon Suter

Public Representative

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Norwich Philharmonic Society is constituted as an arts and music trust with the Charity Commission under charity number 264425. It is governed by a constitutional document.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are elected annually at the AGM (excluding the Chairman and Vice Chairman who are elected every third AGM).

The trustees are responsible for the recruitment of new trustees, who are elected at the AGM. If the Society needs to replace a trustee mid-season, the trustees will appoint as they see best for the Society.

Potential trustees are invited to attend a meeting and/or meet with the chairman to discuss the position in greater detail. This allows due consideration of the person's eligibility, personal competence, specialist knowledge and skills. On appointment to the committee all new members are briefed on the aims of the Society and the responsibility they hold.

Organisation Structure

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity, covering the running of the Society and the concerts held. They give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits other than reimbursement for expenditure on behalf of the Society.

The trustees meet together as a body at least four times a year and are responsible for all the decisions taken in relation to the running of the Society and the concerts held. To assist in the smooth running of the charity the trustees have set up sub committees to oversee aspects of the concert organisation, including publicity, choir and orchestra.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the risks the charity faces and have implemented systems to mitigate these. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place, or arrangements are in hand, to manage the risks that have been identified. In particular insurance cover is in place, and the finances are kept under regular review.

The Society maintains and regularly reviews a risk register.

Objectives and Activities

The Society aims to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

The Society holds a minimum of five concerts each year; concert income is supplemented by the subscriptions of the Society's members together with fundraising events held during the year.

The trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have complied with their duties as detailed in the Charities Act 2011 with regard to public benefit. Careful consideration has been given to the accessibility of the Society to as wide a community as possible. Reduced membership rates are offered to student members of the Choir and Orchestra and reduced-price admission to all concerts is offered to students and to members of the Norfolk County Youth Orchestra. For the last two years, the Orchestra has presented two popular concerts for families, bringing in new audiences.

Financial Review

We budgeted to break even, with a concert deficit to be offset by subscriptions, fundraising and Gift Aid. These offset sources of income were as budgeted. Disruption was caused due to the need to use other venues caused by the unavailability of St Andrew's Hall, resulting in concert income less than budgeted although this was partly offset by lower concert costs.

We are delighted to acknowledge donations of £9,821, (including £2,321 in memory of former Choir member James Visick); these donations are held as Restricted funds. The season overall resulted in a surplus of £2,390 (with £1,708 in unrestricted funds and £2,978 restricted).

A further £5,000, originally donated towards the now-cancelled Strangers project, was, with the agreement of the donor, transferred to support the Rite of Spring project which was produced in conjunction with Dance Workshop. £2,000 remains allocated to the Strangers project – we are in consultation with the donor regarding its distribution or return.

Net receipts for the year are an overall surplus of £4,686 comprising £1,708 unrestricted funds plus £2,978 restricted funds.

Reserves Policy

The committee has agreed that the Society should work to a break-even budget each year, once the concert financial performance and other sources of income have been taken into account.

The Society aims to maintain unrestricted net current assets of around 100% of the concert season expenditure, (currently around £70,000) to cover any significant fall in income and as a contingency against unexpected events and any shortfall in cash flow. The Society holds a relatively small sum (£33,854 historic cost) in investment managed funds, which are held to generate income, currently around £1,500.

Restricted fund reserves are maintained in accordance with the benefactors' wishes.

Any remaining net current assets are treated as designated funds, set by the committee for development, education and training and for capital projects. Development, education and training covers special performances, development and sustainability, commissioning choral and orchestral works and encouraging a younger membership. Capital projects covers the purchase and replacement of instruments and equipment, also renewals and repairs.

Norwich Philharmonic Society holds an adequate level of unrestricted net current assets as reserves (£70,092). – this is the sum agreed for the reserves policy, so no further designated funds are yet in place.

Total net assets (£124,349) comprise unrestricted assets (£113,069) net current assets, debtors, investments and retained (fixed) assets plus restricted assets £11,280).

This policy is subject to periodic review by the committee

Bankers	HSBC	Bank of Scotland	Lloyds Bank
	18 London Street	PO Box 1000	PO Box 1000
	Norwich, NR2 1LG	BX2 1LB	Andover

Independent Examiner	Crispin de Boos
	The White House, Sandfield Lane, Eccles, Norwich NR16 2PB

Declaration The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

L C Dixey

L C Dixey (Chair) date 21 May 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

		2024/25			2023/24
		unrestricted	restricted	total £	£
Receipts					
	Concert income	40,008		40,008	42,747
	Family concerts income	5,550		5,550	6,336
	Subscriptions	19,303		19,303	18,221
	Fundraising	3,373		3,373	9,674
	Gift Aid	3,910		3,910	3,970
	Donations & Legacies	915		915	574
	Interest	739		739	724
	Investment income	1,539		1,539	1,199
	Choir training, Koblenz		9,821	9,821	
	Orchestra training	-		-	
	Prior year receipts	743		743	-
	Receipts next year	-		-	-
	Strangers project			-	5,000
	Total receipts	76,080	9,821	85,901	88,445
		2024/25			2023/24
		unrestricted	restricted	total £	£
Payments					
	Concerts costs	68,275		68,275	60,268
	Family concerts costs	6,477		6,477	4,735
	Fundraising	2,034		2,034	6,474
	Membership administration	235		235	91
	General administration	1,206		1,206	664
	Insurance, subs, audit	755		755	738
	Capital purchases	-		-	1,650
	Choir training, Koblenz		1,843	1,843	2,051
	Orchestra training	-		-	57
	Choral conductor selection	-		-	250
	Deposits prepayments	-		-	57
	Prior year	389		389	3,091
	Strangers project			-	-
	Total payments	79,372	1,843	81,215	80,125
Net Receipts before funds transfer		(3,292)	7,978	4,686	5,371
Cash funds brought forward		68,384	8,302	76,686	63,013
interim cash funds for carry forward		65,092	16,280	81,372	68,384
Transfer of restricted/designated funds		5,000	(5,000)		0
Cash funds carried forward		70,092	11,280	81,372	68,384
Net receipts		1,708	2,978	4,686	5,371

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 April 2025

		2024/25			2023/24
		unrestricted	restricted	total £	£
Current assets					
bank balances	COIF deposit account	11,408		11,408	10,870
	Virgin Money deposit	20,858		20,858	20,666
	Cash at bank	42,217	11,280	53,497	36,848
liabilities & accruals	1	(4,391)		(4,391)	1,763
Net current assets		70,092	11,280	81,373	66,621
Other monetary assets (debtors)	2	5,500		5,500	5,500
Investment assets (at cost)		33,854		33,854	33,854
Retained (fixed) assets	3	3,623		3,623	4,829
Total assets		113,069	11,280	124,349	110,804

NOTES

(1) Liabilities & accruals	Concert costs		(4,391)		1,763
			(4,391)		1,763
(2) Debtors	Gift Aid		5,500		5,500
			5,500		5,500
(3) Retained assets	net book value	Additions £	Depreciation	£ NBV at	
Timpani, Triller, Equipment	168		42	126	
Instruments, Cases	167		42	125	
Celeste, Glockenspiel	1,252		313	939	
Staging & Acoustic Screens	1,949		487	1,462	
Music Stands	56		14	42	
Tubular Bells	1,238		310	929	
	4,829	-	1,208	3,623	

L C Dixey

K B Anetts

L C Dixey (Chair)

K B Anetts (Treasurer)

Norwich Philharmonic Society
Year ended 30 April 2025

Independent Examiner's report

I report on the accounts of the Norwich Philharmonic Society for the year ended 30 April 2025 which are set out on the preceding pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner



date 27 May 2025

Crispin de Boos
The White House
Sandfield Lane
Eccles
Norwich NR16 2PB



Registered Charity No. 264425

NOMINATION FORM

We, being members of the Society, hereby nominate

.....

(Block capitals)

To serve as.....

Proposer's name..... Signature

Seconder's name..... Signature.....

Nominee's signature Date.....

Please ensure that each proposer/seconder/nominee is aware of and agrees to their name being put forward.

Nominations should be sent to:

*Alison Rhodes,
Norwich Philharmonic Society,
c/o 24, Burgess Way,
Brooke,
Norwich, NR15 1JY*

to arrive no later than Tuesday, 17th June, 2025 (the closing date).