



UWA CHORAL SOCIETY

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The University of Western Australia Choral Society held on Wednesday 22 May 2019 in Winthrop Hall, University of Western Australia

1 Welcome

The President, Jan Kirkman, opened the meeting at 9.04 pm and welcomed 72 members of the Society.

2 Apologies

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from the Society's Patron: Hon Robert French AC, life members: Dulcie Kemp, Prof David Tunley, June Bremner and Charm Phillips, and members Lindsay Foster, Chris Jeffery, Gina Davidson, Sue Tuana, Adrian Momber, Carolyn Neil, Daryl Heron, Annie Burke, Philip Vincent, Judy Reid and Valerie Lyon.

The following additional apologies were noted by the meeting: Margaret Benness (life member), Pam Buselich, Stephen Turley, Margaret Jones, Beryl Stone, Ruth Lira, Eve Barton, Dianne Sivewright, Meredith Wilkie, Sister Perpetua Della Marta and Heather Jowett.

3 Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting

The meeting resolved to confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 May 2018 (moved Sabia Tilli, seconded Simon Woodley).

4 Report of the Committee for the period since the previous Annual General Meeting

The President, Jan Kirkman presented the report on behalf of the Committee. That report is reproduced in full at the end of these minutes.

Tom Stephens expressed thanks to the President and Committee and proposed that the direction taken by the Committee and proposed to be taken be endorsed by the meeting.

The meeting resolved to receive and endorse the Committee's report (moved Tom Stephens, seconded Roger Veary).

5 Annual accounts

The Treasurer, Margaret Wood, presented a report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018. That report is reproduced in full at the end of these minutes.

The Treasurer advised that the audit of the report had been completed and that nothing adverse had been reported.

During discussion, Sabia Tilli suggested that socials could be funded by the Society, rather than by individual members. Robert Barrett-Lennard queried whether value for money was being obtained from the amount paid for publicity, in response to which the President explained that, taking into account the lack of volunteers to perform such work, the Committee considered that that expense was justified. He also queried the lack of articles in *The Post* newspaper, in response to which the President advised that Ruth Williams had put a lot of time into that issue, but with no success. The Treasurer confirmed that an eye needed to be kept on the Society's total revenue having regard to any potential liability to pay GST.

The meeting resolved to receive the Treasurer's report and the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2018 (moved Marie Martin, seconded Henk Giele).

6 Patron

The meeting resolved to ratify the re-appointment of the Hon Robert French AC as Patron of the Society for the period to the date of the next Annual General Meeting (moved Angela Carr, seconded Trish Simms).

7 Report of the Committee on the election of Office Bearers and Committee members

The meeting noted that the following nominations had been received:

Position	Nominee
President	Jan Kirkman
Vice-President	Chris Jeffery
Secretary	Tim Mason
Treasurer	None
Registrar	Julie Campbell
Assistant Registrar	None
Librarian	Bronwen Channon
Committee member	Bill Carr
Committee member	Irena Dillon
Committee member	David Lin
Committee member	Terence Love
Committee member	Philip Vincent
Committee member	Ruth Williams

There having been no further nominations, the above members, all being eligible for election, were therefore declared to have been elected to the positions shown until the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The meeting resolved to receive the report of the Committee on the election of Office Bearers and Committee members (moved Angus Holmes, seconded Ian Woodley).

8 The positions of Treasurer and Assistant Registrar

The President advised the meeting that no nominations had been received for the positions of Treasurer or of Assistant Registrar. In those circumstances, the Society's Constitution allowed for the meeting to consider any resolution for the filling of those positions.

Sally Grice indicated that she was prepared to fill the position of Treasurer.

The meeting resolved to declare Sally Grice elected as Treasurer for the period to the date of the next Annual General Meeting (moved Helen Dean, seconded Trish Simms).

The President indicated that it would be necessary for the Committee to decide whether to appoint one of its members to fill the position of Assistant Registrar or co-opt a member of the Society for that purpose.

9 Auditor

The President advised the meeting that the Society's Constitution required an Auditor to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Mr Greg Ledger, who had acted as the Society's Auditor on an honorary basis for the last four years, had indicated very recently that he would like to step down. It would therefore now be necessary for the Committee to identify another accountant that was prepared to take on the role of Auditor for the period to the date of the next Annual General Meeting. Once that had occurred, a Special General Meeting would be called at which that person could be proposed for election.

The meeting resolved to thank Mr Greg Ledger for his significant contribution to the Society as its Auditor for the period from 2015 to 2018 (moved Margaret Wood, seconded David Lim).

10 Ratification of positions

The President confirmed that a process was under way to recruit a new Conductor. Once that process has been completed, the Committee would call a Special General Meeting for the purpose of seeking ratification of the proposed appointment.

However, it was necessary for the meeting to ratify the appointments to the positions of Accompanist and Archivist. The Committee proposed that Irene Shaw and Megan Barrett-Lennard continue as Accompanist and Archivist respectively. Each of them was prepared to do so.

The meeting resolved to ratify the appointments of:

- Irene Shaw as Accompanist for the period to the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Society; and
- Megan Barrett-Lennard as Archivist for the period to the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Society

(moved Leonie Chadwick, seconded Dianne Newman).

11 Winners of the Society's 2018 prizes

The President confirmed that, each year, the Society funds two prizes for students at the UWA Conservatorium of Music.

The President said that she was pleased to announce that the winner of the UWACS prize for the highest aggregate mark for the three Western Art Music units was oboist Alexandra Allen. This was one of three prizes won by Alex in 2018, which (the Head of the Conservatorium, Professor Alan Lourens had said) demonstrated what a wonderful talent she was. He had added that she was hardworking and dedicated and that the staff of the Conservatorium believed that she had an exciting future in music.

The President said that she was also pleased to announce that Nathaniel Wood was the recipient of the UWACS prize for the highest aggregate mark in the two final year units of the composition specialisation. Prof Lourens had said that Nathaniel is an original talent and that, in 2018, he had also won the Dorothy Ellen Ransom prize for composition and that he was now focusing on electronic music.

The President advised the meeting that letters had been sent to both of the prize-winners congratulating them on behalf of the Society and wishing them all the best for their future careers in music.

12 General business

The President advised that the Secretary had not received any written notice of items of general business. However, in response to questions from the floor, she outlined the process for selecting a new Conductor (a few applications having been received) and said that she was not aware what progress had been made with installing handrails up to the Winthrop Hall stage and that that would be followed-up with the University of WA.

14 Close

The President declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm and thanked all those present for their attendance.

UWA CHORAL SOCIETY AGM 2019

COMMITTEE'S REPORT: 22 May 2019

Welcome everyone to the AGM marking the UWA Choral Society's eighty eighth year. As President and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to present the following report.

1.0 2018/ 2019 PROGRAM

Following the AGM of 2018 we had a year full of glorious music, starting with a collaboration with WA Brass performing Orff's Carmina Burana in July. For UWACS, collaborations are something in which we are always very pleased to participate. They foster positive relationships with the musical community in Perth and beyond and can offer us the possibility of doing a work that we wouldn't normally contemplate performing.

September saw us back in St Patrick's Basilica for what we called our Italian concert: Verdi's Sacred Pieces and Puccini's Messa di Gloria. This was a very popular program that resonated particularly with the Italian community in Fremantle.

A group of choristers, led by Kris Bowtell, participated in the University's Armistice Centenary event in November, supported by funding through the UWA Cultural Precinct. This kind of activity is one that the Committee is keen to foster as we continue to work on strengthening ties with the University.

The year ended on a triumphant note with Haydn's Creation in December, followed by festivities in Whitfeld Court. The Committee wants to promote the end of year concert as an 'Event', combining the music and activities afterwards as something to look forward to in the Perth cultural calendar.

Lastly, for our first concert of this year, we had yet another collaboration, this time with the Fremantle Symphony Orchestra to perform Brahms Requiem. This was a clear example of how we could mount such a big work, by collaborating FSO – something that normally we would have considered way too costly to put on. Thus we look forward to more of this kind of activity where appropriate.

2.0 2018 IN REVIEW

The end of the year saw the end of an era (of eight years!) with the leaving of our Conductor, Chris van Tuinen.

The contribution that Chris made to UWACS was significant and came in many forms; musically, we improved substantially; he inaugurated the musicology classes for the members, which have been most beneficial to those attending; he came up with programs that challenged and uplifted us; through his contacts, he enabled us to participate in such events as The Perth Festival, The Canning Foreshore Festival and a WAYO concert in the Perth Concert Hall and he continued to foster collaborations with other Perth organisations. We consider ourselves to have been fortunate to have had him with us for as long as we did and we wish him great success in his new role at WA Opera Company as its Musical Director.

Musically, as I have said, we offered a year of riches: from the drama and spectacle of Carmina Burana, the gorgeousness of the Verdi and Puccini, the spectacle of The Creation and the grandeur of our most recent concert, the Brahms Requiem under the baton of Kris Bowtell.

Kris Bowtell was able to step into the role of conductor for our first program this year and it has been notable how the choir has responded to his very positive approach in rehearsals and the impact this had on our concert performance. Kris indicated how happy he had been with the work the choir had put into preparing for this work and how that had been reflected in the concert.

Our membership continued to be very strong, suggesting that UWACS has a very solid future. The Society's good financial position is also pleasing.

The afternoon workshops were very well attended and members indicated that they would like them to continue.

The Committee undertook a review of the Society's marketing and publicity procedures and some adjustments were made. They included the way in which the website was managed and brochures produced.

Our new Patron, The Honourable Robert French (the Chancellor of UWA) has been delighted with the choir's performance when he was able to attend and has indicated that he will certainly do so in the future, subject to his other commitments.

3.0 WHAT LIES AHEAD?:

The key to our immediate future is the appointment of a new Conductor. The Committee has put out a call for expressions of interest, which was advertised throughout Australia and overseas. Applications will close in mid-June and the process of selection via a panel, which will then make a recommendation to the Committee, will follow.

Through its previous Conductor, Chris van Tuinen, UWACS was invited to go on tour in China and to perform several concerts. As a consequence, a large contingent of members (and accompanying persons) will be heading off in October. UWACS members have gone on a number of overseas trips before, but there has been nothing quite like this one and the Committee sees it as a great opportunity.

The Committee continues to look for ways to be more effective and efficient and appreciates suggestions and feedback from members to assist in that regard. With new offerings in the way of technology emerging constantly, they will be explored as to their suitability and value to UWACS.

Registration as a charity has been obtained and the process of obtaining donor gift recipient status (allowing individuals to make tax deductible donations to UWACS) is now well under way – so we dream of millions pouring into the coffers! Sponsorship and various projects, such as providing support for emerging young artists, are also being pursued.

4.0 THANKS:

We expressed our thanks to our departing Conductor, Chris van Tuinen late last year, but, on behalf of the Committee, I would like to formally record our thanks to Chris for his eight years with the choir – his expertise, his hard work and his patience and humour. He gave us much and we benefited greatly from it.

A big thank you too, to Irene Shaw, our accompanist, who has continued to amaze us all with her playing – and her patience.

To the Committee in general and to the departing committee members in particular, a big thank you for all your work and commitment in ensuring that the Society functions so well as

an organisation. To rely largely on volunteers to keep it running effectively is a big task, as many of our members know, having served on the Committee in the past. A special thank you to Margaret Wood, who has been the Treasurer for the past three years. To keep the books is one thing, but to develop budgets and financial projections is another, which Margaret has done wonderfully. In addition many thanks to Valerie Lyon for all her IT work and her contribution to the Society's social media.

Others to thank for last year are Kris Bowtell and Sarah Mills-Menogue, who stepped in as guest conductors last year when needed. We were very fortunate to have had them come and work with us. Then of course, many thanks for Kris Bowtell for stepping in this year for this first concert. The choir has been very appreciative and grateful.

I'd also like to thank several choristers who are not on the Committee, but provide invaluable support: Marie Martin, who provides the name tags, Peter Kerr, for the musical support in the form of CD's and uploads on the website, Megan Barrett-Lennard, the choir's Archivist and finally, but not at all least, the Choral Stewards who keep tabs on us in the nicest way possible.

Of course, the last thanks go to you, the members, who make a not insignificant commitment to the wonderful and unique choir that is UWACS and without whom it would not exist. Long may it continue!!

Jan Kirkman
President

22nd May 2019.



UWA CHORAL SOCIETY

UWA Choral Society

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st December 2018 presented at the AGM on 22nd May 2019

For those new to the choir I should explain that we aim to cover our running expenses from membership subscriptions and non-concert income, and to cover our concert expenses from ticket sales. Our financial year runs from January to December, so that is what this report covers.

First I would like to look at our concerts:

Our first concert for 2018 was *John Rutter's Magnificat & Requiem*. These works are still in copyright, so the hire of orchestral scores was expensive, and we had to pay a significant sum in royalties. Ticket sales were very disappointing. Various factors may have contributed to this, including competition from other events, and UniTheatres being unwilling to supply hard-copy tickets for choristers to sell. Note that any door sales were handled by UniTheatres, who did not report them separately, so they are included in ticket agency sales. We made a loss of almost \$10,000 on this concert.

Our second concert for 2018 was *Orff's Carmina Burana*, which was a joint venture with WA Brass. This was a very successful concert. Hard-copy tickets were supplied by UniTheatres which made it easier for some choristers to sell them and our audience was increased by regular WA Brass supporters. Although we again had to pay royalties and significant hire score costs, our other costs were low, as WA Brass did all the design work for publicity materials and programmes for free. The figure for professional fees includes the share of the profits which we paid to WA Brass. We had a surplus of over \$6000 for this concert.

Our third concert for 2018 was *Verdi's Ave Maria and Stabat Mater and Puccini's Messa di Gloria*. This concert was held in St Patrick's Basilica in Fremantle, with some tickets being sold online via *TryBooking*. Overall costs for this concert were low, due mainly to the very good deal we got for the venue, so although ticket sales were not particularly high, we still had a surplus of well over \$6000.

Our final concert for 2018 was *Haydn's Creation*. This is another expensive concert to put on, because it requires a large orchestra. However ticket sales were good, and we also received \$1500 in sponsorship from some of our members, which kept our loss to just over \$4000.

Combining the 4 concerts we made a loss of \$1,460. This is significantly better than in 2017, but we should aim to do even better this year.

Now I will look at the day-to-day income and expenditure, concentrating on amounts which are significantly different from the previous year.

Membership income was very high this year.

Score hire represents income we receive by hiring out scores from our library, so varies from year to year according to demand.

The bank interest this year includes a full year's interest on both our term deposits, whereas last year's only included 12 weeks interest on the old term deposit when we cashed it out.

Credit card charges have reduced significantly, since many choristers have switched to paying by direct deposit.

Publicity costs for this year include one-off costs for video production.

The costs for Music Education were a lower this year. This item covers the musicology classes before rehearsal and any weekend events we hold. In 2018 we had two half-day workshops which made significant surpluses which were used to offset the cost of the musicology classes.

The website costs for last year included a one-off payment for a total redesign of the website by Glide Creative, so this year's costs are significantly lower, We have also been able to make more savings because Bronwen Channon has undertaken some of the website updates previously done by Glide.

The amount listed as "Social" relates to the Social Event in the Winthrop Hall Foyer after the 2017 AGM.

We made a surplus of \$6,562 on our day-to-day income and expenditure. When combined with the loss from the 2018 concerts, our final surplus was \$5,082.

Finally I will mention few items on the Balance Sheet.

There is no mention of the "Tours" bank account used to collect deposits for the China tour, and make payments for it. This money does not form part of UWACS' Income and Expenditure.

The debtors item on the Balance sheet represents money owed to us for concerts in 2018, but not received until 2019, and also a reimbursement from UWA for the fees paid to the professionals who took part in the Armistice Day event.

The creditors item refers to money we owed in respect of our rehearsals in Callaway which were not invoiced for until 2019, and some expenses related to the use of the fortepiano in the *Creation* concert

The prepayments are deposits we paid for the Social event earlier this year, and for the 3 concerts in Winthrop Hall in 2019. Both of these will be included in the expenses in next year's report.

The advance payments are the money received before the end of 2018 for hiring Brahms scores for this year's concert, and will be included in the income in next year's report.

I would like to finish my report by thanking:

- Everyone who has paid for their membership, tickets and other items by making a direct deposit to our bank account. This saves me a lot of time, and also reduces our credit card charges.
- Tim Mason, Jan Kirkman, Irena Dillon and Chris Jeffery for the time they have spent approving online banking payments.

Margaret Wood – Honorary Treasurer, UWACS

22nd May 2019