

## ANNUAL REPORT OF RICHMONDSHIRE SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

Annual report of Richmondshire Subscription Concerts (t/a Richmondshire Concerts), Registered Charity 1034173 ('the Society'), for the year 1 May 2016 - 30 April 2017.

Registered office: c/o Philip Wicks, 2 Chandler Close, Richmond DL10 5QQ, North Yorks.

### Trustees:

- Andrew Bedford
- Eric Dale (resigned October 2016)
- John Furniss (resigned June 2017)
- Janet Hall
- Anna Jackson: Concert Secretary
- Judy Moorhouse
- Patrick Pridmore
- Nicholas Reckert: Chair
- Christopher Shaw (co-opted September 2016)
- Philip Wicks: Treasurer

### Structure, governance and management

The Society is managed by a Board of Trustees, all of whom are volunteers, receiving no fees or emoluments for their services. Members (persons who pay an annual subscription to the Society) may also vote at General Meetings.

The guiding strategic document for the Charity is its Constitution.

### Objectives and activities

The Objective of the Society as set out in its Constitution is "*to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such ways as the Society through its Board shall determine from time to time.*"

To achieve the Objective, the Society puts on classical concerts in an annual season from September to April. The concerts are actively promoted and regularly attract audiences of over 200 from a radius of about 50 miles. Members of local societies are invited as guests to every concert. As funds permit, the Society also arranges masterclasses and projects given by visiting artists for local schools.

In support of the Objective, the Trustees have aimed:

- to provide local audiences with high-quality, affordable professional concerts in a range of styles within the broadest definition of 'classical' music.

- to foster a sense of community among audience members, volunteers, performers, supporters, sponsors and guest societies.
- to provide a platform for young performers and composers, and to encourage new and recent compositions.

In these ways the trustees have shown due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

Financially, the Society aims to operate without recourse to public funding.

### Achievements and performance

The Society put on a programme of six concerts during the year 2016-17:

- The Allegri Quartet, with Graham Oppenheimer (viola)
- The North East Brass Ensemble
- The Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, with David Greed (conductor, violin)
- The Frith Piano Quartet, with John Tattersdill (double bass)
- The Piatti Quartet
- The Carducci Quartet

Audiences were the highest on record. Membership numbers fell by 10%, while single-ticket sales were strongly up. This may turn out to be a long-term trend, but the Society's aim is to retain a strong core of Members. Aggregate ticket sales revenue (from season tickets and singles) was up, as a result of the increased prices which were needed to offset three successive years of steep venue-hire hikes.

The programme was widely felt to be of excellent quality. There were suggestions that it may have been too heavily weighted towards string ensembles, and the balance will be adjusted next season.

### Policy on reserves

The Society has reserves of £15,000 on deposit. Of that, £5,000 is intended to cover discretionary, exceptional expenses, and £10,000 would cover a season's operating costs in the event of a sharp drop in revenue.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 June 2017 and signed on its behalf by:



Nicholas Reckert, Trustee