

Chair's Report to Ely Sinfonia members' Annual General Meeting Oct 11th 2020

The purpose of Ely Sinfonia is: *to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and an appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of concerts, workshops or other such charitable activities as the charity may from time to time decide. These activities will be undertaken to the highest musical standards attainable by the participating players.*

From our constitution, reviewed Sept 15th 2020

It is no under-statement that circumstances beyond our control have affected what we have been able to achieve this year. All started well with our September concert followed by a workshop for our wind players and an orchestral mass for Remembrance Day in the cathedral. Then, in line with our stated purposes, we held a successful Orchestral Workshop Day. (Dave McLeish reports on the day and an assessment of our artistic achievements can be found in Steve Bingham's report.)

But then, Covid-19 struck. And everything since then has either been postponed to next year or cancelled. The financial implications from this can be seen in the treasurer's report. Being in a secure financial position, we were able to offer cancellation fees to soloists and conductor. So, the plan is to perform the planned Mahler 1st Symphony and Haydn's Cello Concerto programme on May 2021 and Colin Riley's new Violin Concerto (which we commissioned) and Brahms 4th Symphony programme on September 2021. Both soloists (Joshua Lynch and Philippa Mo respectively) have agreed to the revised dates. Also still in the diary is a collaboration with Ely Choral Society on July 10th 2021 in a programme to include Beethoven's Choral Fantasia and his 8th symphony.

Looking forward, I met with David Butcher of Britten Sinfonia who has agreed to a joint venture in 2024 to commemorate our 25th anniversary. He was full of enthusiasm and eager to hear of our successes. He had several suggestions for an exciting programme with opportunities for combined and separate forces, including Into the Ferment by James MacMillan which we performed with them in 2002.

Your committee continues to meet and would be delighted to have new members and to hear any suggestions for programmes. We are looking forward to being able to get us all together to play again.

Roz Chalmers