NOTICE OF AGM 2017 – 17 October 2017.

In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir Ltd. will be held on 17 October 2017 at Mulberry House, Margaret Street, Wakefield, at a time to be set during the choir’s rehearsal (7.30 to 9.30pm).

**CHAIRMAN:**

Derek Howell has informed the Directors and the wider Committee of his willingness to stand for re-election as Chairman of Directors and Chairman of the Choir and has been nominated by them.  
In accordance with para 27 of the Articles of Association, as amended following the 2012 AGM, any member wishing to propose another member of the choir to become Chairman should do so, in accordance with para 27, to the Minutes and Membership Secretary by **Tuesday 3rd October 2017**.

***Members will be asked to agree to Derek’s reappointment as Chairman.***  
***( If the right under para 27 has been exercised, a secret ballot will be held, in accordance with para 29(4) of the Articles of Association. The resulting successful candidate will become Chairman).***

**DIRECTORS:**

In accordance with the Articles of Association, one third of the Directors are eligible for re-election each year.

The current Directors, who are also Trustees under the Charities Acts, are: Derek Howell (Chairman), Graham Heley (Company Secretary), Mary Oldham (Treasurer), Jenny Stephenson (Asst Treasurer), Anne Oldham & John Whelan.

Although the Articles of association permits the company to have up to 7 Directors, it is not proposed to increase from the present 6 at the moment.

* ***Standing for Re-election this year are John Whelan & Graham Heley***
* ***Members will be asked to agree these re-elections***

***SPECIFIC COMMITTEE ROLES***

The members currently elected to fulfil a specified role are John Whelan (Vice Chairman), Pat Rosser (Social Secretary) Anne Oldham (Choir Administrator), Graham Heley (Minutes and Membership Secretary), Chris Haigh (Concert & Venues Secretary), Mary Oldham (Choir Treasurer), Jenny Stephenson (Concert Treasurer).

Chris Haigh has expressed her wish to retire from the Committee as from the beginning of this season (2017/18). Chris has been a valued member of the Choir committee for many years undertaking a number of specific roles within the organisational aspects of the choir and in most recent years concerning Venue organisation and liaison.

I would wish not only to thank Chris for a years of service to the choir on committee and in the roles she has undertaken, but to also pay tribute to her support and her endless enthusiasm for the YPC and in particular to ensuring everything within her organising remit runs smoothly.

Recent changes to how our primary venue operates its booking and reservation systems now means that the post of Venues and Concert Secretary is no longer required to operate as previously. Therefore the specific committee position will not be replaced. Chris will continue to assist as necessary on and around concert days to ensure smooth running and will hopefully pass on these aspects to others within the choir for future benefit.

* **Members are asked to approve the reappointment of**

***Pat Rosser, Anne Oldham Graham Heley, Mary Oldham, Jenny Stephenson & John Whelan to continue in their named roles on Committee.***

## MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

There are up to 4 places available for members’ representatives to be elected to serve on the Committee for 2 years. *(as a guide, commitment includes attendance at Committee meetings [normally held approximately every 6 weeks], input and support for and at Choir activities, link with choir members, possible involvement on a sub committee).*

Diane Heath, Anthony Osborne & Ruth Strydom currently have one more year to serve..

Janette Fraser’s 2 year term comes to an end at this AGM.

Therefore there is **1 Member Representative Vacancy on committee.**

* Nominations for these member representative positions can be made to the Minutes and Membership Secretary (Graham Heley) up to the start of this meeting on 18 October 2016.   
  *(In accordance with para 6.5 of The Choir’s Governance and Administration document, Janette Fraser has decided to stand for immediate re-election and has been nominated, but must stand against any other member proposed as a result of this notice).*   
  *If there is more than 1 nomination, members will be required to vote (by show of hands) to elect the representative.*
* Items for ‘Any Other Business’ to be with the Minutes and Membership Secretary’ by 10 October 2017.

# **Agenda for the AGM**

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the 2016 AGM (attached)**
3. **Election of Chairman**
4. **Treasurer’s Report and presentation of the Accounts**
5. **Chairman of Director’s Report**
6. **Conductor & Artistic Director’s report**
7. **Re-election of one third of Directors**
8. **Annual Election/re-election of members to specified roles on the Committee.**
9. **Election of member representative to committee.**
10. **Proposal (see below) : Membership subscription for 2017/2018 season**
11. **Any other business (to be with Minutes and Membership Secretary by Tues 10 October 2017).**

**Proposal by Choir Committee:**

After due consideration of the current financial position and the estimated income and costs for the coming year, the Choir Committee proposes a small increase to members subscriptions for the season 2017/18 as follows:

* + the full adult annual subscription for 2017 – 2018 be increased from £156 to £168, and that the annual concession subscription be increased from £114 to £126  
    For those who pay by the 6 monthly instalment method (Nov to April), this will now be £28 per month, full and £21 per month, concession.  
    Members should note that NO OTHER instalment arrangement is now permitted unless personally agreed with the Treasurer.
  + the annual subscription for students under the age of 25 and young members under the age of 16 and in full time education be increase from £15 to £20.

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 18th October 2016**

Apologies for absence were received from Ros Cochrane, Patrick Ganley, Angela Griffith, Bob Mardling, Chris Peace, Hilary Peach, Muriel Peacock, Colin Powell, Pat Rosser, Meryl Smith, Kate Ward and Joy Waters.

The minutes of the 2015 A.G.M. were adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.  
The meeting approved the re-election of Derek Howell as Chairman.

In her Treasurer’s Report, Mary Oldham reported an overall loss for the year of £4,935 on Y.P.C. concerts, plus £8,150 being our share of the Yorkshire Voices concert loss. Cash at the bank and in hand on 31.8.2016 was £11,843, but this included £3,000 for bursaries and £9,000 for orchestral sponsorship for the 2016-17 season. Expenditure over the 2015-16 season had been £3,000 greater than income. Total assets of the choir – including the value of stock, CDs, books, uniform and staging – stood at £19,175. During the season three Y.P.C. concerts had shown a loss – mostly due to orchestral costs – with two making a profit, though the Christmas profit had been smaller than usual because of the costs of venue and organ hire. The variety of different venues had resulted in ticket sales over the season being £1,290 down on the previous season. Fundraising activities had brought in £1,486 and engagements £800, while Gift Aid had brought in £2,717. The choir had given £1,000 to the Cathedral’s Project 2015 renovation fund, and had bought 100 carol books to save future hire costs. The summer tour had not broken even – as originally hoped – due to unexpected extra costs. Mary thanked Derek Howell, Jenny Stephenson, Pat Rosser and Chris Hewitt for their work during the season, and made a special mention of Bob Mardling’s efforts as Librarian during what had been a very difficult year.

Derek had previously circulated his Chairman’s Report by email; no questions were raised concerning this report. Derek reported that since the last A.G.M. the choir had lost seven members but had gained twenty new ones; the proposed limit for membership had been agreed as 110, and the current total was 103. Thanks to the work of Bryan Hutton the Patrons had also increased, and some patrons had become sponsors of concerts. Derek spoke about the financial position, and stressed the importance of selling tickets for concerts. Derek thanked members for their support and encouragement, and particularly thanked John Whelan for all his work.

Andrew Padmore, in his **Conductor’s Report,** echoed Derek’s disappointment in the audience numbers, saying that we must all think about how we can build our audience base. He said that the choir balance – both vocally and in terms of age – was as good as it had ever been, and was the envy of many choirs. He welcomed the 2016- 17 Margret Markland bursary holders, and said that the steady influx of good new voices and members had fit well into the choir socially. He had initially been concerned by the lower than usual numbers subscribing to the summer tour of Northern Ireland, but had been pleasantly surprised by the balance of voices and the high standard of singing, while the social aspect of the tour had been exceptional. Much of the success of this tour had been due to Derek’s meticulous attention to detail and planning, and he congratulated Derek on continuing Richard’s legacy of the smooth running of the choir. He expressed thanks to Tom Moore for his expertise and assistance, which he greatly appreciated, and he reported that one highly respected musician in Belfast had said “we have not heard the organ sound like that in decades – it has been a real inspiration.” Finally he thanked members for their co-operation, commitment and friendship, saying that “for 27 years this choir has been an important part of my life, and I look forward to another year of exciting music making with you.”

**In accordance with the Memorandum of Association** two of the directors were due to stand down, and it was the turn of Mary Oldham and Derek Howell to seek re-election this year; both were unanimously re-elected.

Derek reported that Ian Cadman had resigned as a Director of Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir Ltd.; this left the number of Directors at six, the minimum permissible being five. It was agreed that there should be no change in the Directors.

**Members fulfilling specified roles** not undertaken by the Directors were John Whelan (Vice-Chairman), Pat Rosser (Social Secretary), Anne Oldham (Choir Administrator), Graham Heley (Minutes and Membership Secretary), Chris Haigh (Concert and Venues Secretary), Mary Oldham (Choir Treasurer) and Jenny Stephenson (Concert Treasurer) and it was agreed that all be re-elected. Derek reported that Gary Morley had agreed to continue looking after the choir’s excellent website, but without being on the committee.

**Three members’ representatives** served on the Committee for two years. Sally Forrester had resigned from the committee, but had agreed to take responsibility for all front-of-house business. Diane Heath had reached the nd of her two years on the committee but was prepared to stand for a further two years, and nominations had been received for Ruth Strydom and Antony Osborne, and it was agreed that these three be elected.

Derek said that the finance sub-committee had decided to recommend that our **subscription** should be increased from £150 to £156 a year with the concessionary rate rising from £108 to £114 a year. There was some discussion about this, with Ruth Kent suggesting a mid-season review and Derek Ward suggesting a secret ballot to determine how much members would be prepared to pay, Derek said that the committee would consider these suggestions, after which the proposal was approved by the meeting.

Derek emphasized the value to the choir of the ‘Give as you live’ scheme, and urged all members who shop on line to sign up to the scheme. He also encouraged members to think about the choir when drawing up a will. He said that the tour had been very valuable, and said that Meryl and John Smith had suggested Portugal as a possible destination for the next one, as they had contacts and could guarantee support there. A majority of members indicated that they would be prepared to consider this possibility.

eDerek said that Sarah Thomas would appreciate more help with the tea rota and Gary Morley would appreciate some help with the website; anyone interested in helping with either of these should speak to the people concerned. Derek then closed the meeting at 8.18 p.m..

  