

I hope that players will make the most of the opportunity the AGM brings to all; a forum to hear about the workings of the organisation and to offer up comments on past work and articulate thoughts about the direction of travel for the Society in the future, especially as we head towards a momentous 50th season in 2027/28. Solutions to problems are always welcome as well as creative and/or innovative ideas!

I am sure the new committee will be equally keen to hear your thoughts, as in the past. Maybe you can see yourself as a committee member? We very much welcome new members; please do put your name forward.

The programming for the 47th Season; nine different composers, and eleven works, was as exciting, challenging and audience friendly as anticipated. The audience commented very favourably on choices made and it was fantastic to be welcomed back so enthusiastically to St Margaret's; acoustic really supported the quality of the playing, and served to support the sensitive, controlled and accurate performance.

Please note carefully the Treasurer's Report regarding Waveney Sinfonia's financial position, any thoughts about how we can generate greater income via additional audience members or other methods would happily be discussed at one of our committee meetings. We need to plan for the future! Friends are having a positive impact on our finances so please do let Caroline know of anyone whom you think might like to join this 'merry throng'. As we improve and increase our use of technology, it's even easier to donate to the society; two weekends of music making and performance under the baton of a professional conductor 'don't come cheap'! Maybe a suggested donation of £10 per concert wouldn't be unreasonable? I'll leave that thought hanging. Imagine the difference it would make though! A huge thank you to Christine, Allan and Alison Evans (Friend), who helped create some additional income by preparing and serving concert refreshments. Great work!

Cecilia has done a fantastic job keeping us all 'in touch' via the Newsletter, a well embedded part of the Waveney Sinfonia offer now. I am sure she would be delighted to receive any suitable content for future editions and indeed any feedback.

Other committee members have continued to undertake sterling work, which mostly goes unnoticed but very much 'oiling the cogs' to ensure rehearsals and concerts are planned and delivered effectively; so many strands, too many tasks to list here in this Report. I am also grateful to those who have 'stepped up to the mark' on concert days to help with venue set-up, which is considerable! If you are fit and able, please do consider offering up a willing pair of hands. Set up at the May concert was outstanding. Thanks to all who contributed to both set-up and strike. Particular thanks go to David and Liz for their outstanding contribution as co-leaders.

Adrian, as always goes above and beyond, for which I am sure we are all grateful. His energy and commitment to Waveney Sinfonia is outstanding, helping to keep high quality, varied classical music-making alive in the Waveney and Lowestoft areas. What an exciting season ahead! Including our first performance of a piece by a female composer; long overdue!

I always enjoy our committee meetings which blend serious and creative thinking, problem solving and good humour. The Covid Pandemic necessitated the introduction of Zoom Committee meetings; these have been retained since they are not only much more time efficient, but help to significantly reduce our carbon footprint too. There are always plenty of emails flying back and forth between meetings; it's motivating and energising! A great team to be part of. Thank you!

Thanks to all involved in the family that is Waveney Sinfonia. Onwards and upwards, stronger together with a positive looking future. Please do promote our concerts with family, friends and acquaintances, if they don't know about the concerts, they can't make a choice! The more 'bums on seats' the happier we'll all be.

Keep well, keep safe,

Michael

Chair – Waveney Sinfonia