

Report of the Trustees for the year ending March 31st 2011

Constitution & Status

The Society is an unincorporated body and a registered charity, number 802393. Its main address is that of the Secretary at 55 The Avenue, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1QU.

The Committee of Management (Trustees) is empowered to act as necessary in order for the Society to achieve its objects.

The objects of the Society are to advance the study of music, and in particular to promote an annual series of concerts.

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

In pursuing its aims the NYS benefits audiences by presenting high quality performances which provide a pleasurable cultural experience, and which will sometimes educate them by extending their musical knowledge. For musicians, we provide the opportunity to perform to live audiences thus developing their technique and musical repertoire. There are no restrictions on membership or those performing.

The Committee is conscious that concerts must be affordable, so concessionary rates are available for membership and single tickets, for students and unemployed people. Any increases are only implemented in order to continue to afford first-class artists' fees.

Review of the Year

The Society again provided five concerts for members, involving internationally known artists. The season opened in October with a concert by the Aronowitz Ensemble, a combination of string sextet and piano, providing an excellent start to the season. The next concert was given by Florilegium, one of Britain's most outstanding period instrument ensembles. The January concert given by pianist, Paul Lewis attracted a great deal of interest, resulting in an increase in members and high income from ticket sales. This was followed in February by the delightful Frith Piano Quartet. The violinist, Soojin Han and her pianist, Sholto Kynoch brought our season to a fine close.

The concerts' programme notes, produced by various members of the Society are comprehensive and informative. The musicians often introduce some of their pieces with additional information. The Concert Secretary, in consultation with artists and agents, arranges for a wide range of composers (including contemporary) and instruments to be heard.

The concerts have again been held at Sussex Downs College. Pianists attending the Performing Arts section of the College can use the piano jointly owned by the College and Nicholas Yonge Society. On several occasions it has also been used in concerts organised by other organisations in the community.

Concerts continue to be advertised in local newspapers, posters and an excellent website and there is a display in Lewes Tourist Information Centre before the start of each season. Brochures are distributed widely to locations such as libraries, schools, information centres and other music societies.

The healthy state of finances at the end of 2009/10 season enabled the Society to defer a small increase originally planned for 2010/11. The improvement continued this year, due in part to the success of the Paul Lewis concert, an increase in the number of sponsors and generous donations from many members. It is hoped that this level of income will be maintained or improved in order to guarantee the continuing provision of concerts of a very high standard.

Committee of Management

The following have served on the Committee during the year:

Nicholas Tucker (Chairman), Janet Lyle (Secretary), Roger Clement (Treasurer), Sylvia Coward, Chris Darwin, Jenny James, Michael Marwood.

9th May 2011