



# THE WAGNER SOCIETY

President: Dame Gwyneth Jones DBE Kammersängerin  
Vice President Sir John Tomlinson CBE  
Registered Charity: 266383 Founded 1953

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# 70

## 69<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WAGNER SOCIETY

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.30pm

Submitted by Susie Liles:

### **Proposal that face-to-face meetings be live-streamed and or recorded**

Membership levels have been in the region of 1,300 whereas attendance at the last face-to-face meeting was around 70 (but let's call it 100 to be generous). Even allowing for some variation in the people attending meetings, this means that fewer than 10% of members are accessing the face-to-face meetings. Put another way more than 90% of current members do not benefit from the London lectures. The main purpose of The Wagner Society is to 'advance education in and appreciation of the works of Richard Wagner'. The aim of advancing appreciation of Wagner's works could be better achieved if meetings were live-streamed or recorded. I posit that taking the step of streaming and/or recording would also advance the aim of increasing membership which has been a stated aim in last year's report. Furthermore, I suggest that recording/streaming would increase revenue for the society with increased membership and occasional visitors. Given funds of £156,00 finances should not be a barrier to obtaining appropriate equipment. Assuming members agree this is a good idea can the committee please report back to members if they have looked into this matter at all and where they are up to with this?

### **Website**

Members were promised on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 that the website would be sorted out 'soon'. According to the accounts money has been spent on website development and Zoom amounting to around £7,500. Please could the committee advise members the exact figures for spending on website

development in 2021 and 2022. Please could you also let members know who the contract for website development is with, and the end-date of that contract. To the untrained eye it does not appear that any progress has been made with the website for the money which has been spent on it. Please could the committee specify what has actually been carried out for the money spent. Do we need to get another provider as this seems a long period of time to be working on the website and not completing it?

### **Flow of communication from the committee to members**

This point links to the question about the website. In the past minutes of committee meetings have been posted on the website so that members could see what was going on with the society. This lack of information for members has been difficult during the last year given that there was only one meeting. It would be really helpful for members if the posting of committee meeting minutes on the website could be reinstated. If the website were up-to-date it would be possible for members to access many recordings of Zoom meetings which there have been in the past.

### **Proposal to alter the clause in the constitution allowing the committee to refuse membership without giving a reason**

In the constitution there is a clause relating to equality and diversity where it is stated that members are accepted who have any protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010. If the committee can then refuse membership without giving a reason, then they could be potentially be discriminating on the grounds of any protected characteristic. For example, if someone were to make a complaint about discriminatory behaviour at the society. I believe that refusing membership to anyone would be a very rare occurrence, so the committee should be able to justify the reason for doing this if it were to happen.