



*The Association of English Singers & Speakers*

*Honorary Presidents*

*Sir Thomas Allen CBE Michael Chance CBE Sir Nicholas Hytner Graham Johnson OBE*

*Dame Cleo Laine Dame Patricia Routledge*

*Professor Robert Saxton Dame Harriet Walter*

*Registered Charity No. 1106279*

*[www.aofess.org.uk](http://www.aofess.org.uk)*

## **ASSOCIATION OF ENGLISH SINGERS AND SPEAKERS**

### **"AESS"**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2018**

AESS is a Charitable Unincorporated Association, governed by a written Constitution, a copy of which is lodged with the Charity Commission. Any changes to the Constitution can only be proposed and ratified at an Annual General Meeting provided one month's notice has been given to the Secretary. Annual General Meetings are to be held between 1 March and 31 May.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

AESS funds educational events such as master-classes /workshops/ concerts and four national competitions, covering an age range from 13 to 32 years, which reinforce its central aim of helping young performers to communicate in both English song and speech. Events are funded from sponsorship and from subscriptions. The Association has a good relationship with all Music Colleges who frequently provide venues free of charge. All competition finals, masterclasses and concerts are admission-free for AESS members and are open to the public. There is a modest fee for contestants in the AESS competitions to cover administrative costs. Our National Senior English Song Competition for Music Students is sponsored by Dame Patricia Routledge. Her charitable trust has guaranteed funds of £5,000 per annum until 2021. Our National Intermediate Competition, The Courtney Kenny Award, is sponsored by pianist and entertainer Courtney Kenny, to the sum of £2,500. Our Junior Recital Prize is sponsored by Catherine Lambert for £500, with Coral Gould providing a third prize of £100. Both Courtney Kenny and Catherine Lambert have made long-term provision for their sponsorship. The Fell Musical Theatre Competition is sponsored by the Toni V Fell Charitable Trust with the support of the Association. The Speech Competition sponsored by Timothy West and Prunella Scales and named after those benefactors was inaugurated in 2017.

The AESS has no liabilities other than incidental day to day and competition expenses.

## **TRUSTEES**

The Trustees constitute the Committee of the Association and as such make all the decisions for the Association that do not need ratifying by Members under the terms of the Constitution.

The following have served as Trustees of AESS during the year:

Sarah Leonard – Chairman (acts as Chief Executive Officer for the day-to-day running of the Association)

Stephen Varcoe - Vice Chairman

Carol English - Secretary

Patricia Williams - Membership Secretary

Jean Hornbuckle

Stephen Miles (as Competitions Coordinator)

Carolyn Richards (as Festivals Coordinator)

Jane Roberson

Jonathan Courage

Colin Drage – Treasurer

Anthony Dawson

New Trustees/Committee members may be proposed and seconded in time for the Annual General Meeting and voted for by those attending. They would already be members of the Association. The Committee comprises 5 Officers and up to 8 other Members, each of whom is subject to re-election at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee itself may co-opt up to 3 specialist members in any one year.

All Officers / Trustees are volunteers; we have no premises so all activities are carried out by the Trustees from their own private premises.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVENTS 2017-2018**

March 2017 – Final of the Courtney Kenny Award at Tonbridge School (AESS Intermediate Competition).

April 2017 (at AGM) – Entertainment from Hilliard Ensemble with Sarah Leonard

April 2017 (at AGM) – A talk to members by James Bowman CBE on “Clear Articulation of the English Language”

May 2017 – Final of the Patricia Routledge National English Song Competition at the London College of Music(AESS Senior Competition).

May 2017 – Final of the Fell Musical Theatre Prize at The Sylvia Young School, London.

September 2017 – Concert for Unsung Heroes at Robinson College Cambridge

April 2017 – Inaugural Final of the Timothy West and Prunella Scales Speech Competition at Central Bankside Campus, Emerson Street London.

November 2017 – Final of the Catherine Lambert Junior Recital Prize at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (AESS Junior Competition).

December 2017 – AESS Prizewinners’ Concert held at the London Song Festival in the Hide Street Methodist Church, Marylebone London.

Various times in the Year – Association donated AESS Junior Trophies plus a £25 prize at 7 Regional Festival events held under the auspices of British and International Federations.

Educational links continue with the Incorporated Society of Musicians, Jackdaws Educational Trust and the Association of Teachers of Singing. Links are also maintained with all past winners of the competitions. Winners of the Senior Competition are offered honorary lifetime membership of AESS. There are nationwide preliminaries and finals for the four AESS song competitions, with feedback given to each competitor at every stage. The £25 cash prize for the winner of each of the regional Festivals as described above was continued for a further three years from April 2016 and may be extended to include more Festivals in the future. The CD of Betty Roe’s musical compositions, which has been supported by AESS, was released in 2017 under the title “The Silver Hound”. The publication of the final three volumes of ‘A Century of English Song’, delayed last year, which was scheduled for 2016 has now been completed in 2017 and copies are now available.

Further details of all these 2016/17 competitions, of upcoming events and publications are available on the AESS website.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT AND RESERVES**

The Trustees have considered the principal risks to which the charity is exposed. The major risk is that sponsorship for any or all of our competitions ceases. Bearing in mind that sponsorship funds are necessarily treated as restricted funds, where such sponsorship funding is not committed for more than one year in advance, our reserves policy is to maintain sufficient general reserves to enable us to continue to fund unsponsored competitions for a one year period while new sponsors are sought. The Trustees are of the opinion that sufficient reserves are held currently.

The Trustees consider that the financial state of affairs of the Charity as disclosed by the accompanying Statement of Financial Activities is satisfactory

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

**SARAH LEONARD**

**Chairman**

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