This has been a very good year for SCMS, with an efficient and effective committee. Sunday evening concerts have been diverse, imaginative, and well advertised. I also know that students and staff alike have been excited by the music-in-the-bar evenings, and I hope that they continue after the refurbishment – indeed, the catering department has purchased a decent second-hand piano from Cambridge Pianoforte to replace the old ‘beater’ that was there, for that very purpose.

The Junior Secretary’s report has outlined the many musical highlights of the Sunday recital series, so I will not repeat them here, apart from mentioning the January launch of the Cambridge Female Composers’ Festival. This was an outstanding event for SCMS to be involved in, particularly from the point of view of exposure to the wider university and the town – and indeed beyond. There was a huge amount of international coverage of the festival, and of our concert, and the audience was not only packed, but also included large numbers of people who had never been to Selwyn before. The festival’s academic angle was important as well, and having Professor Katharine Ellis give the pre-concert talk was inspired (as was the talk itself). Musically it was certainly a highlight of my career to date, and I will be forever grateful to the committee for allowing me to conduct it. That both Professor Ellis and I are fellows of Selwyn – and women – was definitely an added bonus!

I would particularly like to thank this year’s committee for their hard work in making SCMS look and feel more professional and better organised. The society was in need of a rebranding, and their new logo and tidied-up term cards and social media presence have been excellent. In addition, the imagination that has gone into the advertising of the concerts has been outstanding. There has been plenty of excellent traditional advertising, as well as plenty of human-interest and humour, which has drawn attention to our offering in creative and original ways. Who will ever forget the YouTube promo video for the Trout Quintet concert for which the players all swapped instruments…

I am extremely grateful to all of the students on the committee for their cheerful and efficient running of SCMS. In particular I would like to thank Alex Jones, who regularly answers emails at even less sociable hours than I do myself, and whose ‘SCMS’ folder on the university server must surely have taken him well beyond his memory quota.

Sarah MacDonald
Senior Secretary
22 April 2019