

## Junior Secretary's Report

It has been an exciting year for SCMS with our concert series including several substantial concerts performed by students, alumni and external performers. Promotion of each term's concert series has consisted of posters and flyers within the college, announcements at Chapel supper each Sunday, major concerts being advertised on the Cambridge Concert Calendar and by posters around the town, and also the continued use of the Facebook page to publicise the concerts on a weekly basis.

Michaelmas term 2016 saw three concerts forming part of the "40 Years of Women at Selwyn" celebrations, which were performed by Lynn Carter, Fiona Stewart- Wilson and Sefano Rocco, and Stile Antico respectively. These were all excellent concerts, attracting large audiences, and demonstrated the benefits of continuing to invite alumni to perform in SCMS in future. The particular success of the Stile Antico concert may be worth repeating in the coming years – hosting one ticketed concert a year with well-known professional performers provides an excellent opportunity for students, attracts large audiences and also builds upon the College's musical reputation. The main student concert of this term combined the Christmas and the Baroque concerts of previous years into the Festive Baroque Recital, which, despite complications due to a temperamental harpsichord, was a very enjoyable end to the term.

In Lent term there was a greater focus on student participation with the exception of the first recital by the treble close harmony vocal ensemble High Five from Haderslev Cathedral, Denmark. There were another four vocal concerts including two recitals (Winterreise with James Martin and Sarah MacDonald, and a duet recital with Helena Moore and Chloe Allison), and a performance of Victoria's Requiem. As with last year, the auditions for the Williamson Prize were held at the end of Michaelmas term, with this year's winner Shanna Hart giving an excellent recital in February. As in previous years, there was another excellent recital by performers from the University Instrumental Award Scheme, this year by two string quartets of very high standard. One of the highlights of the term was the concert held in West Road Concert Hall in January: 'An Evening of Russian and German Romanticism'. Roc Fargas-i-Castells put a huge amount of effort into organising and conducting the concert, and it certainly paid off, as it was a very special and enjoyable performance involving many Selwyn musicians. Roc demonstrated a viable model for future concerts in West Road for the society and this provided a great opportunity for Selwyn musicians to perform in a venue outside of the college.

The concerts this term (Easter) look set to be very enjoyable. Adjustments have been made to the format of the May Week concert with the intention of addressing the concerns raised in recent years about attracting larger audiences including fellows and external members, as it is one of the main concerts of the year.

In addition to the normal routine of Sunday concerts we have put on a number of late-night performances in the Chapel during the week specifically aimed at

Selwyn students, including a violin and viola duo recital and a performance of music composed by students. Though the audiences have been small, with a little more planning these concerts could become a more regular occurrence, providing a nice opportunity for a break from work, and for more students to give short, informal performances.

I am aware that it has been a distinctly classical year, and in hindsight we could have stepped further into the twentieth century, especially given the success of last year's Jazz Evening.

To conclude, it has been a successful year for SCMS as there has been such a high standard of music throughout the concert series. James and I have worked closely within the society this year to ensure everything ran smoothly. I am grateful to Sarah for her support throughout the year, and I would like to thank everyone involved in SCMS, particularly last year's committee – Beckie, Shanna and Roc – for their support in the organisation and logistics of concerts this year. There have been some issues due to the small number of committee members this year, for example when moving chairs and tables in the hall, and my thanks go to the previous committee members and others who helped out in these times - hopefully this won't be such a problem next year. I wish the incoming committee the best of luck for what will doubtless be another successful year for SCMS, and will be more than happy to offer support over the coming year.

Kieran Reed, Junior Secretary of Selwyn College Music Society 2016-17.