

Selwyn College Music Society

Annual General Meeting – 1st May 2017 (Easter Term), 9:30, Lyttelton Room

Present

The Master Mr Roger Mosey (Chair)
Ms Sarah MacDonald (Senior Secretary)
Dr Alan Howard (Senior Treasurer)
Dr Andrew Jones
Kieran Reed (Junior Secretary)
James Martin (Junior Treasurer, Orchestral/Concert Manager)
Beckie Sturge
Clarissa Wei
Keir McGregor
Charlie Saunders
Yoyo

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence were received from
Aileen Adams
David Charters
Penny Morris
Mrs Renée Morris Young
Daphne Ridge
Seleni Sewart
Shanna Hart
2. Minutes of 2016 AGM and matters arising
These were accepted as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
3. 2016-17 Senior Committee Reports
 - 3.1. Senior Treasurer, ADH
The Master commented that there was a credible loss due the West Road orchestral concert, but that could have been avoided if the organisation had occurred in conjunction with the college as alumni could have been informed (he was unaware of the concert until not long before it happened). SEAM commented that the concert was mainly Roc Fargas-i-Castells' project. ADH agreed that the society could have done better to publicise it with college support. ADH indicated that the society has a modest amount of money, but this should be used for these events as a float for their organisation, but that it could be sustainable if the concerts were able to break even or be profitable.
4. 2016-17 Junior Committee Reports
 - 4.1. Junior Secretary, KDR
The Junior Secretary commented on a successful year with a good variety of concerts, though he was aware of the lack of pop or jazz music, which had proved successful in the previous year. The drop in audience numbers was acknowledged, and possible explanations were the lack of email publicising as well as the mainly classical music list. The introduction of weekday late-night concerts in Chapel had been successful, and recommended perseverance with and greater planning of these short concerts. He also raised the suggestion that one major concert be held each year with college support for funding (akin to the Stile Antico concert). He concluded by thanking JWM for helping to run the society this year, and wished the incoming committee luck. The Master reiterated his suggestion of linking up college plans to try to increase the footfall to the concerts, for example coordinating them with alumni dinners or other major college events. SEAM agreed but noted that moving the days of the normal concerts (i.e. Sunday evening) is tricky so this limits to some extent the scope for such coordination.

5. Election of the 2017-18 Committee
Seleni Sewart – Junior Secretary
Clarissa Wei – Treasurer
Keir McGregor – Concert Manager
Charlie Saunders – Orchestral Manager
James Martin – Programme Writer, Advisor

JWM's precise role for next year was explored. He expressed his willingness to support and offer advice to the new committee members, and give suggestions of possible directions for the society, for example making the society known as a welcoming platform for niche musical styles, which would attract specific audiences from around Cambridge. The Master commented that it is beneficial to maintain a relatively consistent nature of music featured in the weekly concerts so that the average audience member can enjoy as many of the concerts as possible.

6. New format for May Week Concert 2017
SEAM outlined the changes, which were made to try to address concerns raised at AGMs in previous years about this concert: the concert would start later (18:15) but with enough time before High Table, with a more substantial reception, and a suggested donation of £10 for adults and £1 for students. The programme includes familiar or 'popular' music in the hope to attract audiences. The benefits of these changes were noted as: the later time would allow more possible audience members with jobs to be able to attend while still allowing for a free evening for students, and the suggested donation may help encourage a larger collection for the concert. The problems of the changes were noted as: the necessity of the concert being in the Chapel due to cafeteria service occurring at this time would mean that there can be no piano pieces/concerti. It was suggested that the Master could host drinks before the concert for Alumni or others to make the event more substantial for visitors.
7. Furniture moving proposal
SEAM expressed concern about asking the committee members to move the tables and chairs in the Hall before and after each concert, not least due to health and safety issues, but also as it takes a long time and often some committee members will not have had a break since 16:15 due to choir and/or will be performing. The Master stressed the importance for health and safety reasons of the committee members having the correct training if they are moving tables and chairs. SEAM will speak with catering and housekeeping to explore options and to ensure that proper training is provided. It was mentioned that perhaps for more major concerts dinner could be moved to the Borradaile Room to allow more time to set up the hall. The Master suggested identifying the potentially major concerts well in advance and organising with college to make such arrangements.
8. Proposal to have one major professional concert per year (KDR/JWM)
KDR and JWM proposed that the success of the Stile Antico concert be repeated in future years by inviting professional musicians to perform, with their fees covered by the college. These could be anniversary concerts by those who gave early-career performances at Selwyn. ADH requested that the Treasurer be informed of the full cost to allow for greater planning of future concerts by knowledge of who to invite to perform, and also suggested organising these concerts well in advance. The Master expresses that the college, and possibly some alumni, would be willing to support such concerts. He reiterated that this would involve coordination with college organisers, and that it would be beneficial to devise pricing structures and to consider the commerciality or profitability of these events. SEAM agreed to put together a proposal to have the Chilingirian Quartet in the 17-18 academical year.
9. Any other business
JWM recommended reinstating the use of the mailing list in order to ensure all those interested are aware of the concert series. SEAM and KDR to action this.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.