

SCMS Senior Secretary Report 2016-17

This has been a very good year despite the small size of the committee. Kieran and James have worked extremely hard throughout the year to ensure the everything has run smoothly, and I'm grateful to the various extras, including a number of members of last year's committee, who have helped move chairs at various point, since that is certainly the least glamorous job that the committee has to do. Indeed, chair moving will be discussed later on the AGM agenda...

Our celebration marking 40 years since women's matriculation continued, and recitals were given by alumnae Lynn Carter (piano, the Goldberg Variations) and Fiona Stuart-Wilson (soprano, early European songs with lute accompaniment). The highlight and culmination of this series was the concert by Stile Antico, in which alumna Katie Schofield sings, to a packed audience in the hall. They are an exceptionally accomplished group, and it was a real honour to have them here. The performance was dedicated to the memory of alumna Selene Mills, who read Music here in the 1970s, and gave Stile Antico their first professional gig.

The Lent Term saw particularly varied and imaginative programming, ranging from a major orchestral concert of Tchaikovsky and Brahms in West Road through a complete performance of Schubert's 'Winterriese' in the hall, and ending with Victoria's 1605 Requiem in chapel. We also had various instrumental, vocal, and chamber recitals, as well as a wonderful organ recital from Shanna Hart, Percy Young Senior Organ Scholar, who won the Williamson Prize this year. Audiences have been disappointing but student planning and programming has remained ambitious and impressive despite this.

I am especially grateful to James and Kieran for their quiet dedication to SCMS, and for their administrative skills. The society has had a good year, and they are entirely responsible for that.

Sarah MacDonald
25/04/17