

SCMS 2026 AGM Minutes

6th May 2025, 13:00-14:00

Old Library Room 4, Selwyn College

Minutes taken by Elsa Chung

Present:

Senior Committee: Suzanne Raine (President, SR), Sarah MacDonald (Senior Secretary, SEAM), Dr Alan Howard (Senior Treasurer, ADH)

2025/26 Junior Committee: Magnus Chapman (Junior Secretary, MC), Jessica MacFarlane (Junior Treasurer, JM), Louisa Paterson (Publicity Officer, LP), Elsa Chung (Orchestral Manager, EC), Kit Attwater (Concert Manager/Programmes Manager, AC)

2026/27 Junior Committee: Kim Chin (Junior Secretary, KC), Cindy Liang (Junior Treasurer, CL), Jude Ellacott (Orchestral Manager, JE), Isobel Wood and Iris Threlfall (Publicity Officers, IW and IT), Richard Wolfson (Programmes Manager, RW), Massimo Mitchell (General Member, MM)

1. Apologies for absence

- Prof. Katharine Ellis (Fellow in Music), Dr Andrew Jones (Emeritus Fellow and former Director of Studies in Music)

2. Senior Committee Reports

- SR: going over last year's minutes. SEAM has no further comments. SR approves the minutes
- SEAM: A good year because the report is short. Increase our ambition
- ADH: Think of ways to spend the money we have received in the last few years. The governing body might be saying we should be spending money not collecting them! Make sure all the programmes are in the archive
- JM: We have a spreadsheet with the PRS Fees. Programmes: Kim should put the organ ones in the drive, but all the weekend ones are in the drive
- SEAM: The legacy made our money rocket
- ADH: In future reports the £2000 will be listed as a protected fund. Could use for high profile performer, but the expectation is the donations from the high profile performer is used, £2000 used as a cushion
- KA: Notes may week expenses are not included in the budget
- MC: Talks about refreshments as added expenses
- SEAM: 50 year Anniversary of Women; will need fee
- SR: How to spend the money best to make it grow and not make it go down, how to maximise the revenues from the events that we spend the money on.
- KA: If we are paying for a high profile performer; we don't make a lot of money, we would definitely lose money because donations wouldn't cover the fee.

- ADH: Think about whether we should have an entrance charge if the performer has a significant profile. Brings more focus on our society.
- JM: The concerts with high profile this year has lost money, but we do have our cushion and promotes our society
- SR: Balance between entrance charge and a free concert
- SEAM: The history of SCMS wants to include these high profile concerts, not just some random undergrad doing their Part II performance
- KA: Trinity concerts charge £3 which means not many students
- SEAM: May week; students free, Pinehurst; £25 Roger suggested.
- ADH: Considerable audience that comes every week, if you've been to half a dozen concerts you can come for free.
- KA: Important to get a student audience
- SEAM: Students should come for free and the adults should be making the donations

3. Junior Committee Reports

- MC: Built on last year, strong secure routine. Lots of musicians from Selwyn and across the university and beyond. E.g. Poulenc, Bridgemas, Musicals. Thanks Jao-Yong and KC for conducting and accompanying. Good solo recitals (SEAM recital), Rachel Godsill, instrumentalists. Chamber music concerts, piano duets, string quartets. Big university wide societies - Samulnori + Clarinet society provided more variety. Sometimes can feel insular. Continued the staple events (Freshers Squash, Freshers Recital, Choir Solos). Organ recitals (thanks SEAM, KC, SH) - good varied performers, nice range. Donations higher than last year. Thanks the SCMS committee, had a supportive group, SCMS worked quite efficiently, not many big hiccups.
- SEAM: MC needs to write a report in the calendar
- JM: Tally of everyone at concerts, and money that they gave us Everything is looking good, attendance is higher (see graphs in Treasurer report), fluctuation from the public that attend - links to publicity (posters in town and on the Cambridge concert calendar) were well attended, without this there were lower numbers. Value of publicising something exciting going on!
- SR: Are there railings that are more popular?
- JM: Put them on the well populated areas (outside Jacks, Great St Marys, Botolph Street)
- LP: has a list of locations which she can send to the next committee
- JM: Organ recital attendance has been steady compared to last year's figures. The same people come back, they don't donate, but we still want them to be there. Even when there were last minute step-ins, attendance was the same. People come for the recital, not the performer. Donations: much higher than last year. Poulenc, Bach Motets, Goldberg, Bridgemas made up over half of the entire profits for the year

despite us not spending too much money on them. Goldberg: The CDs went to SCMS not SEAM. There was money we got after choir concerts for CD sales - ADH send to SEAM. We are still getting $\frac{2}{3}$ of our money by cash bucket. Only a handful of people who donate more money on card. Organ recitals generally receive cash (older demographic).

- KA: Organ recital that people have given cash, put the cash under the plate so that people feel bad about an empty plate!
- JM: Line of best fit of donations to attendance. Positive collaborations. Bach motets and Bridgemas concerts were generally more popular. No big surprises there. List of expenses incurred in report. Some figures offset by Rachel Godsill which was a £200 fee, same for organ recitalist who we offered accommodation for. Zelenka concert - we took 10% of the donations as the concert was organised by Magdalene Music Society.
- JM: publicity works! We've given next year's committee lots of money + legacy money
- ADH: Future committee should compare things with last year's minutes
- SR: Any questions for next committee meeting

4. Plans for coming year/50 years of women at Selwyn

- SEAM: Michaelmas 1976 year that women started. College is marking the academic year 26/27 as the 50 year anniversary. Long history of musicians, SEAM wants the society to invite as many as practical to come play a recital. Some will do for a fee, or waive it. SEAM has a list, and in touch with Andrew Jones (Emeritus fellow, Dos) also appointed in 1976 first director of the mixed choir. He has added to the list of names. Alexandra Wood, (Hugh Wood Violin Concerto written for her, premiered at Royal Festival Hall) famous solo violinist. Should be asked first as she would have the busiest diary. Have her as the spearhead of the music celebration. Sarah Suckley, Rachel Stroud, Catherine Greally, Helen Collier Genevieve Ellis, Alexandra Reed, Chloe Allison, Lin Arnold, etc. ask SEAM for the list. Some may be conductors but a lot will be instrumentalists who we can ask. First female organ scholar at a previously all male college (Name). Alexandra Wood should be contacted ASAP, this one should come from SR.
- SR: Happy to send invitations for Celebrating 50 is the short title. SR in exchange with the reps from the 1976 year and various other active alumni who want to get involved. Written to the Archbishop of Canterbury etc.. Happy to do ASAP so that the calendar can be booked up
- MC: Publicity is so important for high profile performers. Would be embarrassing for a professional musician to show up expecting a big audience and there is no-one there

- SEAM: Getting publicity running thorough the college channels. SCMS instagram is not the way forward. College channels have between 6000 and 7000 followers. Getting them in very early with good material is critical. The crucial thing to learn!
- ADH: maybe a dedicated flyer - SCMS celebrating 50.
- SR: there is a logo for celebrating 50, and different strat lines for different forms of media. When alumni is invited back they might want to bring others, so being in lockstep with college communications to make sure we are giving them the opportunity
- KC:
- SR: Sketch out an outline of who we will invite and when. Sit down with Isabel (Head of COMms) and Tabby (development). what is the best way that this is integrated and promoted.
- SEAM: Happy to facilitate this. SEAM gets a list of names (Alexandra Wood first). We stick to Sunday nights and populate most of them 3 or 4 each term that are reserved for Celebrating 50. Will be reliant on their diaries of course. SEAM will sketch this out over the next month and with the framework. Also Maurice Cato (Composer)
- ADH: Try and think of people quite recent
- SEAM: The eminent people who have gone onto to do impressive things
- ADH: Rachel?
- SEAM: Composers are dangerous because sometimes the pieces are really hard
- SR: SR and SEAM will sketch and then liaise with the new committee
- JM: Thought that 2026 was the year for celebrating 50, we did have some quite detailed plans for the SCMS calendar. Thinking of a more broader celebration of women in music. Had interests of Eve Hall (Recorder Ensemble) + Louisa String Quartet - way to marry together Music, Women and Selwyn. There are more ways that concert can be linked than just invited alumni. If more concerts can come from current students that is more in the spirit.
- SEAM: Are these plans writtne down. Write the ideas down and would be good to fill in the concert nights when alumni aren't invited
- JM: Even our committee concert was trying to be focused on women in music
- KA: think about when international women's day, original plan was a choral concert of entirely women composers (good for publicity), ended up being LP string quartet
- ADH: Sonatas of late 18th century women, one copied out by Jane Austen
- SR: The variety that keeps the programme lively and interesting. It should be mixed up. It is a creative process so can be interesting in whichever way you want.

5. Organ recital planning

- KC: A plan of celebrating women organ scholar. Needs to work that out with SEAM. More generally, 3 people planned for Michalemas, but normally it happens closer to term. KC started taking over in Lent after SEAM and SH set up

a good framework. KC will make sure the performers send their information clearly to KC and publicity officer well in advance. The operation has been pretty smooth

- SEAM: New junior organ scholar +
- KA: We should train a new live streaming
- KC: we need two people every time. SOmetimes performers expect a page turn. Because our new organ scholar is expected to be around, we have one deputy member in the committee dedicated to organ recitals. With this years committee is has fell to MC and KC because of lectures. There is a speech and live-stream
- KA: Was the live-streamer, recommends several live-streamer
- MC: Ideally multiple live-streamers
- SEAM: CL could be live-streamer because we need a new one for choir
- JM: Organ recitals can definitely be involved in celebrating 50
- MC: Set up a time at the beginning of the year to have a group training session for the live-stream

6. Election of junior committee

- – Junior Secretary: Kim Chin
- – Junior Treasurer: Cindy
- – Programmes Manager: Richard Wolfson
- – Concert Manager: Massimo Mitchell
- – Orchestral Manager: Jude Ellacott
- – Publicity Officer: Isobel Wood, Iris

SEAM: Traditional way that committee takes over at this point. It makes sense for future committees to be shadowing. Make sure that all the permission of all the Google Drives are handed over.

MC: It's important to make clear who does which role. Little tasks which need to be allocated.

SR: Junior secretary generally allocates them

7. May Week Concert planning

- MC: Starting with Zadok the Priest, Vaughan Williams 5 folk songs, 3 movements from Holst the Planets. Hopefully getting refreshments. Run straight through, no interval.
- SEAM: Get in touch with the Alumni office. Should we purchase the songs?
- JM: we are currently renting for 75p a copy
- SEAM: Just had a donation to go to the choir library (£5000) wouldn't mind splitting if they became chapel copies (Vaughan Williams 5 folk songs). Would it make sense to purchase them?
- MC: Happy to purchase! We have a while before the concert
- KA: Holst reduced orchestration.
- MC: For publicity will get in touch with office, and will put posters up in town
- KA: JYLPT and L'OH to conduct May Week Concert
- SEAM: Alumni office; concert ends at 5pm which ends in time for Alumni to bring in donors with the masters circle. Allows time for alumni to go into high table
- SR: Has put may week in concert. Could do something after concert, before dining. There has to be scaffolding, but managed to push it back to July. As long as its not raining we could do something
- SEAM: If there are important people, drinks in masters garden would be nice
- MC: No plans for food because it is expensive through catering
- ADH: Be in touch with Pinehurst Association, they often sponsor the food but worth getting in touch, making sure they know
- MC: There is no central place to put posters
- SEAM: Eric Nye could help us getting flyers into each of the buildings

8. Any other business

- KA: Request, we have had to cancel the Parry concert this weekend. If there could be a slot for the Parry concert in Michaelmas.
- JM: Advice for committee; have backups because people pull out for various reasons, so make sure that you have options in case someone drops out last minute
- MC: Do nice things for other college music societies, be friends and have good working relationships with musicians in cambridge
- JM: Don't make things too insular e.g. choir focused. Continue reaching out to other people you know.
- LP: Recommend looking for IAS groups for recitals because it's very easy, low effort concert. There will always be an IAS group wanting a concert
- MC: More chamber music concerts last year, George noted that attendance and donations are higher
- KA: Think about how we are at a venue. E.g. we have a harpsichord and chamber organ in chapel; people doing a baroque concert. Talk of B minor mass, then maybe have it here? Steer people's projects
- IW: With the publicity, what kind of image are we trying to give of? E.g CMP videos
- SEAM: Posters, video content, posts
- KC: Notes Emma's content creation
- LP: Perhaps putting out extra content would be good to grow the instagram a little bit
- MC: The splitting of the roles will make it easier
- LM: Go letterboxing
- LP: they all get different audiences, Instagram and Posters cater to different audiences. Even if people don't end up coming, good to have a logo around town
- RW: In terms of programmes, could we collaborate
- KA: The current sketch on the front of the programme is quite old, RW should come up with a new cover page
- SEAM: Anyone who needs access to the computer needs to go to IT