



THE FRIENDS OF ST CECILIA'S HALL AND MUSEUM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held in Alison House, Edinburgh,
on 22nd November 2014.

Present: Pam Jackson (Chair), Dianne Fraser (Hon. Treasurer), Paula Allison (Minutes) and the following members: Veronica Bailey, Rosemary Carter, Coila Clyne, Gill French, Roger French, David Jenkins, Janet Jones, Isobel Lodge, Jacky MacBeath, Lucinda Mackay, Darryl Martin, Arnold Myers, Jenny Nex, Eleanor Smith, Ian Stirling, Lance Whitehead, Dorothy Wright.

1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to Alison House.

Apologies for absence were received from:

J.I. Anderson, Jean Archibald, Sheila Barnes, Malcolm Bateson, Paul Baxter, Ann Bond, Toni Bunch, Pat Cox, Margaret Dawson, Jenny Drummond, Willie Hendry, Martin Hillman, Charlotte Johnston, Chris Judson, David Kimbell, John Lester, Charles Mould, Kathleen Newis, Esther Reid, Anne Stirling-Whyte, Peter Verity, Bryan Wade, Flora Wallace, Mary Wetherick, Peter Williams, Paula Woods.

The **deaths** were announced of : Joan Scott, Edinburgh; and Christopher Hogwood, Cambridge. Condolences to their friends and families were expressed.

2. The Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting were approved. (prop I Lodge; sec D Wright).

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a. **Festival Concerts 2015:** The chairman reported that, after a lengthy search for a suitable venue, St Andrew's and St George's West Church on George Street had been chosen. The following programmes would be presented:

- On Sunday, 16th August, Gordon Ferries and Stephen Morrison would perform classical duets on historic guitars.
- On Saturday, 22nd August, John Kitchen would demonstrate highlights of 17th- and 18th-century French harpsichord repertoire. Harpsichord maker, Willie Hendry, had generously offered the use of his own double-manual instrument for this recital.

The cost of hiring St Andrew's and St George's West would be £300 for each event. Additionally, costs of Fringe registration at approximately £100 per concert, plus the expenses of publicity, would be incurred.

b. **Organ Restoration.** The chairman reported that, following the recommendation of the 2013 AGM, a fund to restore the organ in the concert hall at St Cecilia's had been established. Initial contributions had been received and further were invited. Specific musical events would be arranged to raise money for this cause. The organ would be restored during the second half of 2015 by the specialist organ builders, Goetze and Gwynn.

4. Committee Changes.

The chairman reported that Dr John Kitchen, after retiring from Edinburgh University music department, had relinquished his role as university representative on the Friends' Committee. He had subsequently been co-opted to serve in his own right. Dr Gill French had also been co-opted to the committee. These changes were endorsed by the AGM, and Drs. Kitchen and French were welcomed to committee and invited to stand for formal election in 2015.

5. Report from the Redevelopment Team.

Jacky MacBeath, Head of Museums, began by displaying an updated architect's model of St Cecilia's Hall as it would appear following redevelopment. She explained that initial proposals for reconstruction of the section which formerly housed the kitchen and caretaker's premises had been rejected by Edinburgh City Council on grounds of height, but that the architects had risen to the challenge, successfully submitting revised designs which did not compromise any functionality. She assured the meeting that the proposed iconic harpsichord-shaped entrance gate would still feature prominently.

Following university permission to commence building work, all instruments had been decanted from St Cecilia's and dispersed to three locations:

- The University Library Annexe at South Gyle, where restoration and conservation work could proceed as normal;
- The Centre for Research Collections in the Main Library; and
- The Reid School of Music, where a small number of instruments from St Cecilia's were accessible.

The time schedule for stages of the project remained on track, and the Friends would be able to hold their 2016 AGM in St Cecilia's. However, the Hall would not re-open in time for the 2016 Edinburgh Festival and Friends' Fringe concerts.

In conclusion, J McB intimated that, while two thirds of the necessary funds had been obtained so far, £2million still required to be raised before the project could be completed successfully. Further phases of fund-raising would be announced shortly.

6. Chairman's Report.

Presenting her previously circulated report, Pam Jackson thanked the many volunteers whose generous efforts had helped greatly to ensure the smooth running of Friends' events and to encourage interest in the historic Hall, its instrument collections and associated activities. She noted that the year had provided splendid music through the University Lunchtime concerts, the Sypert Series, and the Friends' Fringe series. The awarding of **Student Bursaries** to young musicians remained a vital aspect of the continuing work of The Friends. In 2014, the four students who had been given support were:

- Edward Dewhurst, for detailed study of the construction of a mother-and-child virginals held in the German National Museum in Nuremberg.
- Luke Falconer, for summer school attendance in Florence, to study the iconography of music from Classical Antiquity, through the Renaissance and into the Baroque.
- David Gerrard, for participation in a summer course in early music performance practice at Ringve, Norway, to study advanced harpsichord techniques and repertoire.
- Amanda MacLeod, for travel to Prague to sing with the RSNO Chorus and Czech Radio Orchestra, and to study vocal and staging techniques in Handel and other operas.

Bursaries would continue to be awarded during the period of closure of St Cecilia's Hall. The Friends were especially grateful to The Trusthouse Charitable Trust, who under the beneficial influence of Lady Balfour of Burleigh, had given £3,500 to the bursary fund.

2013-14 had several unusual features. There could be no Doors Open Day in September '14, due to the closure of St Cecilia's for major refurbishment. There had been, however, a major celebration (lecture, concert and reception) in December 2013, to mark the **250th Anniversary** of the first public concert held at St Cecilia's; and a special *Goodnight, Sweet Cecilia* **pre-closure concert** was held in September '14.

Summer 2014 brought the **retirements** of two highly valued people who had long been at the centre of activities in St. Cecilia's: John Raymond, Assistant Curator, and John Kitchen, Senior Lecturer in the music department of Edinburgh University.

The **appointments** of Sarah Deters as Learning and Engagement Curator and of Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet as Conservator were welcomed. Appropriately, they had chosen to hold their wedding celebration at St Cecilia's Hall in September.

Paul Baxter and Delphian Records had enjoyed an exceptionally successful year, winning the immensely prestigious *Gramophone* Label of the Year award. PJ expressed the hope that the mutually supportive relationship between St Cecilia's and Paul Baxter would continue, and that further Delphian recordings would feature historic instruments from St Cecilia's Hall Collections. In turn, the Friends would showcase and sell such recordings.

Looking to the future, the chairman speculated that when the concert hall organ was in the workshop of Goetze and Gwynn, clues as to the exact identity of its maker might be discovered. She stressed that the **Organ Restoration Fund** was still open and urged Friends to send contributions to the treasurer. She expressed gratitude to John Kitchen for raising funds through his delightful House Concert and to Lynne Mirrey for starting off the fund very generously.

A new phase of **fund-raising for the main Redevelopment Project** would be launched to appeal for small scale donations from Friends and public alike. Members were urged to spread the word. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Leisa Thomas, Leisa.Thomas@ed.ac.uk

Regarding the **Fringe Concerts** to be given at St Andrew's and St George's West Church in 2015, the chairman foresaw little likelihood of generating profit. However, the profile of The Friends of St Cecilia's would be maintained. If audience reception proved favourable, more concerts might be presented there in 2016.

Looking to future local occasions, PJ announced a **joint social evening** with supporters of the Georgian Concert Society at The Scottish Arts Club on Friday, 20th March 2015. A programme featuring Scots song arrangements by Haydn and German arias by Handel, to be performed by Jenny Nex, soprano, Christopher Field, violin and John Kitchen, harpsichord, would be followed by a supper for those who wished to partake.

Planning for a **spring/ summer event at Ballencrieff Castle**, courtesy of Drs George and Joy Sypert, had begun. An afternoon of music performed by John Kitchen, followed by substantial refreshments was envisaged. Proceeds would go towards the Organ Restoration Fund. The chairman asked members to offer suggestions for further social events.

In her final remarks, PJ reminded members that all the usual St Cecilia's merchandise would be sold from the Reid School during the period of St Cecilia's closure. She expressed deep satisfaction at the good relations the Friends had established with the Keyboard Charitable Trust and great pleasure in the continuing close connections with St Cecilia's Hall Curators.

The Chairman's **report was approved** by the meeting. (prop: I Stirling, sec: V Bailey)

7. Treasurer's Report.

Presenting the year's statement, Dianne Fraser noted that membership numbers totalled 183: Honorary members 13; Life members 105; Ordinary members 64; and 1 Student member.

She reported that the general and restricted funds were basically in good health. In addition to the four student bursaries, noteworthy expenditure over the year had included a grant of £1000 towards the purchase of a rare ivory set of 18th-century pastoral pipes for the university collection and a donation to the Piping Centre. This outlay had been more than balanced by the transfer of profits from the sale of scale drawings of stringed and wind instruments, courtesy of Professor Arnold Myers, into the Friends' coffers.

The Friends had also purchased a player's stool designed and made by W. Hendry for the Keene Virginal, to match the stand which had been similarly commissioned for it in the previous year.

Co-presenting the 250th Anniversary Concert with the Georgian Concert Society had required significant expenditure. In addition, the Friends had funded a small reception beforehand for benefactors.

DF reported that donations to the Organ Restoration Fund had reached £6175. She emphasised the importance of urging donors to gift-aid their contributions. These donations would be held in a reserved account, similar to the Bursary account, in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCAR). The final cost of the restored Organ, plus Blower, would be approximately £15,500.

The Treasurer underlined her intention to stand down at the 2016 AGM. Intimating that she would be delighted to train up a successor, she invited members to consider taking on the role.

The Treasurer's **report was approved**. (prop: G French; sec D Wright), and DF was thanked for her sterling work over the year.

8. Confirmation of Examiner of Accounts for 2014-15.

Malcolm MacRae had indicated his willingness to continue for another year in this role.

9. Curator's Report.

Presenting the formal annual report (previously circulated), Darryl Martin commented on staff changes and the continuing progress of the Redevelopment Project. A full account of curating, teaching, research, conference and publishing activities was given, including an encouraging list of post-graduate successes. Visitor numbers (both general public and specialist groups) had remained high. Instruments from the collection were recorded by Radio 3 for a programme on the music of Rameau.

The year had been dominated by planning and implementing early stages of the Redevelopment Project. In September St Cecilia's Hall closed and the collection was decanted variously to the Library Annexe store, the Main University Library and the Reid Concert Hall. The collection staff had moved to offices in the Main University Library where they would be based until the re-opening of St Cecilia's in 2016.

The Curator highlighted the retirement of long-time Assistant Curator John Raymond in July, and the recent, permanent appointments of Sarah Deters as Learning and Engagement Curator and of Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet as Conservator.

DM confirmed that the organ from St Cecilia's concert hall was now in the restorer's workshop and that a final quotation for that work would be received early in 2015. He ended by thanking Jacky MacBeath and the Friends for their hard work, support and encouragement.

DM's report was appreciatively received. Dianne Fraser, on behalf of the Friends, thanked all the curatorial staff for their tireless efforts throughout the year.

10. Publications Report.

The Chairman presented Martin Hillman's previously circulated report, confirming that there had been a year of steady sales and that, during the redevelopment, stock was stored at the Reid Hall. She highlighted the benefit to the Friends of the continuing excellent relationship with Delphian Records, and expressed gratitude to Professor Arnold Myers for transferring to the Friends significant profits from the sales of technical drawings of stringed and wind instruments.

PJ reminded the meeting that MH had indicated that he wished to be released from his post in 2017, by which time he would have served for 20 years. A suggestion from the floor, to the effect that students might be invited to volunteer assistance with some aspects of sales and marketing, was welcomed. The committee undertook to explore this possibility with the university coordinator for student volunteers.

It was announced that those wishing to purchase CDs by cheque should post their order plus cheque to the treasurer, Dianne Fraser. Otherwise orders followed by payment by PayPal should be sent directly to Martin Hillman via e-mail: StCeciliaFriends@ed.ac.uk

The **publications report was welcomed** and MH was warmly thanked, in his absence, for all his efforts in promoting the Friends' merchandise. (prop: E Smith; sec: P Jackson)

11. Date of next Annual General Meeting.

The next AGM of The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall would be held on **Saturday, 21st November, 2015**.

12. Any Other Business.

Concern was raised from the floor over the noisy and distracting central heating in the Reid Hall. It was agreed to explore arrangements for turning off the heating mechanism during concerts.

Roger French reported that, having investigated the Friends' website, he had volunteered to modernise it. He asked for suggestions for website improvements to be sent to the committee. The meeting expressed grateful thanks for his very kind offer.

The formal meeting was preceded by a brief social gathering and was followed by an appealing recital given by Jenny Nex (soprano) and Lance Whitehead (piano). Their well contrasted programme of songs by Schubert, Hugo Wolf and Benjamin Britten, by turns lyric, dramatic, and lightsome, was much appreciated. The characterful performance of the first of Poulenc's *Trois Novelettes* for solo piano was also very much admired.