

the friends of St CECILIA'S HALL and MUSEUM.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th November 2010.

Present: Martin Hillman (Chair), Dianne Fraser (Hon. Treasurer), Pam Jackson (Hon. Secretary) and twenty-two members.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to St Cecilia's Hall.

Apologies for Absence were received from twenty-one members.

1. The **Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting** were **approved**.
(proposer: Isobel Lodge; seconder: Toni Bunch)

Matters Arising from the Minutes: **none**.

2. Chairman's Report

Announcing that Sheila Barnes was standing down from the committee after long service, and that Asma Khan had indicated willingness to be co-opted in her place, the Chairman asked the meeting to ratify this arrangement. **Agreed**.

Toni Bunch expressed congratulations to the Chairman for achieving, after long negotiation, the erection of banners to identify St Cecilia's Hall. Their temporary status caused concern, however, and permanent signage remained desirable.

Asma Khan reported that visitors still experienced some difficulty in finding the Hall, particularly when approaching from the High Street via Niddry Street. The Chairman undertook to continue to press Edinburgh Council for signage from nearby streets. He indicated that redevelopment plans for the Hall would, in any case, affect its eventual environs and signage.

The Chairman reported on briefing meetings concerning the Redevelopment Project. The University's own investment would need to be enhanced by contributions from major benefactors and more modest private donors. Substantial Heritage Lottery funding would be sought. The University had promised to consult all stakeholders, including The Friends of St. Cecilia's Hall, over planning proposals. Niamh Donlon would be the University's principal organiser for this fund-raising and would liaise with The Friends .

The Fortieth Anniversary of the Founding of The Friends would be celebrated in November 2011. It would be marked by publication of a new Architectural History of the Hall, based on Joe Rock's research for Simpson and Brown's recent Survey.

Martin Hillman and Toni Bunch had already begun work on this scholarly material to create a narrative attractive to a general readership. Publication costs would be borne by The Friends officially, and it was hoped that individual Friends would support the venture by purchasing copies for themselves and as gifts.

In recognition of the significance of the Fortieth Anniversary, representatives of cultural and civic associations as well as members of the University would be invited to celebrate the occasion with The Friends.

The Chairman's report was **approved**.

(proposer: Willie hendry; seconder: Sheila Barnes.)

3. **The Treasurer's Report**

Presenting the year's statement, the Treasurer indicated pleasure at the high level of attendances at Friends' Festival Fringe Concerts. Profit for the series was in the region of £700. She reported on a busy Open Doors Day (under the umbrella of the Cockburn Association) and on a successful Schools Open Day.

Major expenditure included the award of three student Bursaries and payment to Joe Rock for architectural research material. Mrs Lynne Mirrey had given an extremely generous donation as an expression of her continuing commitment to The Friends of St Cecilia's. Membership numbers remained somewhat static. There were currently 13 Honorary members, 97 Life members, 66 Ordinary members and 3 Student members, totalling 179. The Treasurer asked members to encourage their friends to consider joining the association. In the current financial climate, it was unsurprising that interest on bank accounts was low.

The Treasurer's Report was **approved** (proposer: Martin Hillman; seconder: Toni Bunch) and a **vote of thanks** was given for the Treasurer's detailed work .

4. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts.

The current examiner, **Mr Malcolm Macrae**, had indicated his willingness to continue in that capacity. His appointment for 2010-2011 was **approved**. (proposer: Martin Hillman; seconder: Ian Stirling).

5. Report of the Curators.

Darryl Martin presented the formal report for the year covering a wide range of activities and achievements by students and staff. Prominent among these were the 150th Anniversary celebrations for the founding of the Reid Concert Hall and Museum of Instruments; and the launching of a project on "Musical Instruments at Your Fingertips" with funds from the Scottish Government to enhance ICT and web resources to encourage young people to access the Collections more readily.

European Union funding was obtained for the MIMO project (Musical Instrument Museums Online) in which Edinburgh University plays a key role. Papers were given by staff and student Bursary recipients at conferences in diverse places including Florence, Rome, Valencia, and Washington. Essays and articles were written for a major book on "The Historical Harpsichord" published by Pendragon Press(USA), and for the Galpin Society Journal.

The constant essential tasks of cataloguing, technical drawing and conservation of instruments continued. Restoration work had begun to bring the anonymous 1620 Italian harpsichord back into full playing condition. The 1764 Hass harpsichord, various instruments from the Mirrey collection, and a French baroque guitar were used for new CD recordings made during the year.

The University's Autumn and Spring concert programmes had been successful, and the early summer Syper Concert series had been much enjoyed. Thanks were expressed to the Friends for their help with stewarding, hospitality and other associated tasks.

The Curators' Report was **appreciatively received**.

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6. Publications Report .

Martin Hillman reported on a high volume of CD sales associated with the Festival Fringe concert series. The sales of technical drawings for plucked string instruments and for keyboard instruments had also been gratifying. The receipt of a large donation contributed substantially to publications funds. The Friends continued to enjoy excellent relations with Paul Baxter of Delphian Recordings and with Anne McAlister of McAlister Matheson Music.

The Publications Report was **welcomed**, and **Martin Hillman was thanked** for all his efforts in promoting the Friends' merchandise.

9. Date of next Annual General Meeting.

The next AGM will be held in St Cecilia's Hall on **Saturday, 19th November, 2011.**

10. Date of Fortieth Anniversary Celebrations.

Celebrations for the fortieth anniversary of the Founding of The Friends will be held in St Cecilia's Hall on **Saturday, 26th November, 2011.**

11. Any Other Business.

Sheila Barnes reported that plans for the next Festival Fringe Concerts were under way. Artists would include Laura Tivendale, the winner of the Broadwood Competition for solo harpsichord, held at Fenton House.

Isobel Lodge proposed a warm vote of thanks to the Chairman and Committee for their hard work on behalf of The Friends.

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The meeting concluded at 4pm, and was followed by a recital given by Elly Smith (soprano) and Gordon Ferries (lute and theorbo) entitled *Tune Your Lute and Raise Your Voice*. The intimate setting of the Laigh Room proved appropriate for their cleverly balanced programme of songs by Dowland, Locke and Purcell, illustrating wittily erotic indulgence and melancholic meditation as characteristic contrasts of seventeenth century temperament. The audience's appreciation of the programme was evident.