

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th November 2011.

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

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

Apologies for Absence were received from twenty-four members.

2. The Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting were approved.

(proposer: Ian Stirling; seconder: Toni Bunch)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a) Re-development Plan for upgrading of St Cecilia's Hall:

Pam Jackson reported positively on recent stakeholder briefing workshops run by the architects Page and Park. She also summarised updates presented to the committee by Niamh Donlon and Jacky MacBeath. The University would shortly receive formalised proposals from architects and museum consultants. Darryl Martin would attend further consultations to establish the best overall design. Fundraising for this capital development project had been planned in detail, with an initial emphasis on substantial charities and trusts and on major individual donors. Help from The Friends would be welcomed collectively and individually. It was hoped that eventually a specific, unique aspect of the re-development would be associated with The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall by name.

b) Fortieth Anniversary :

Martin Hillman issued a further invitation to all members to attend celebrations on the evening of 26th November to mark the fortieth anniversary of the founding of The Friends. *The Temple of Harmony: a new architectural history of St Cecilia's Hall, Edinburgh*, would be launched at this event. A buffet reception for members and invited guests, followed by a concert to be given by present and former music

students and bursary holders, under the direction of John Kitchen, would ensure an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

4. Chairman's Report

Presenting his previously circulated report, Martin Hillman paid tribute to several members who were retiring from committee, in particular to Sheila Barnes for her long multi-faceted service to The Friends, and to Toni Bunch for her sterling work on *The Temple of Harmony*. He also extended sincere thanks to the Curators for their help during his term of office, and to John Kitchen for his unfailing generosity in offering his talents as performer and teacher whenever these would benefit The Friends' endeavours. MH hoped that the University's plan to transfer instruments from the Reid Concert Hall museum to St Cecilia's Hall would encourage more music lovers to visit this historic building and to join The Friends.

The Chairman's report was **approved** by the meeting. (proposer: Dianne Fraser; seconder: Anne Stirling-Whyte) MH was **thanked** for all his dedicated efforts during his tenure.

5. Treasurer's Report

Presenting the year's statement, Dianne Fraser reported that the list of members had been methodically culled, and that there was a current "live" membership of 167. Three music student bursaries had been awarded, and a major commitment (£6000) had been made to assist in funding a new post of Audience Development Assistant for St Cecilia's. The summer season of Fringe concerts had been greatly appreciated, and volunteers had welcomed large numbers of visitors on Doors Open Day, thus raising awareness of our aims.

Most of the publication costs for *The Temple of Harmony* were included in the year's accounts, but final payment to the foundation researcher, Joe Rock, would appear in the subsequent statement. DF warmly congratulated the book's authors (Toni Bunch, Martin Hillman and Joe Rock) on their very attractive publication and expressed the hope that members would support the venture by purchasing copies for themselves and as gifts for their friends.

The Treasurer's Report was **approved** (proposer: Asma Khan; seconder: Willie Hendry) and DF was **thanked** for her detailed work .

6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts.

The current examiner, **Mr Malcolm Macrae**, had indicated his willingness to continue in that capacity. His appointment for 2011-2012 was **approved**. (proposer: Toni Bunch; seconder: Ian Stirling).

7. Report of the Curators.

Darryl Martin presented the formal annual report (previously circulated), identifying notable tasks, achievements and acquisitions. In particular, funding for the construction of a “pantograph” to facilitate the creation of plan-view drawings of most keyboard instruments housed at St Cecilia’s Hall was welcomed. The valuable local and international activities of several PhD music students, including Friends’ Bursary Holders, were recorded, and attention was drawn to the significant outreach work undertaken by Emily Peppers whose post as Learning and Access Officer was partly funded by The Friends. Continuation of work on the Mimo online database was described, and further development of the EUCHMI website was anticipated. Keyboard instruments extensively restored or enhanced during the year included the Anonymous harpsichord, circa 1620, and the Stephen Keene virginals. Staff and post-graduate students had hosted an international summer conference on historic keyboard music.

In response to questions from members, DM indicated that St Cecilia’s Hall was likely to be closed for a period of twelve to eighteen months for redevelopment, probably with effect from the beginning of 2014. During that time, the Reid School would be used for concerts, and appropriate storage for all instruments had been guaranteed by John Scally, Director of the University’s Special Collections. DM expressed thanks to the Friends for their help with stewarding, hospitality and other volunteering tasks throughout the year.

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

8. Publications Report .

Martin Hillman reported on the growth of sales of technical drawings, and on successful sales of CDs particularly in the pre-Christmas period. He drew attention to the highly attractive University Calendar for 2012 which featured sumptuous photographs of instruments in the St Cecilia’s Hall Collections. A proportion of monies raised from sales of this publication at the Hall would accrue to The Friends. Similarly, profits from sales of *The Temple of Harmony* would return to The Friends for disbursement in important projects eg student bursaries. Members were therefore encouraged to purchase copies of the calendar and of the new book, both for themselves and as gifts for others.

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

9. Recognition of Service: Mrs Sheila Barnes

Outlining the astonishing range of volunteer activities undertaken by Sheila Barnes over several decades of association with The Friends, including organising the summer series of Festival Fringe concerts for many years, editing catalogues of St Cecilia’s keyboard instruments, and assisting DF in catering for social events,

Martin Hillman proposed that The Friends should honour Sheila's service by bestowing life-long honorary membership upon her. The proposal was greeted enthusiastically and approved by the whole meeting. Cordial wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement in Ipswich were recorded, with the hope that Sheila would return to visit St Cecilia's Hall and The Friends often.

10. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

The undernoted were elected to serve from November 2011- November 2013:

Chairman:	Pamela Jackson	(prop: M Hillman; sec: D Fraser)
Treasurer:	Dianne Fraser	(prop: P Jackson; sec: A Khan)
Secretary:	Asma Khan	(prop: A. Bunch; sec: M Hillman)
Committee Members:	Willie Hendry	(prop: A Khan; sec: A Bunch)
	Martin Hillman	(prop: D Fraser; sec: I Stirling)
	Isobel Lodge	(prop: M Hillman; sec: I Stirling)
	Elly Smith	(prop: I Stirling; sec: P Jackson)
	Ian Stirling.	(prop: M Hillman; sec: A Bunch).
Vacancy:		to be filled by Co-option at a later date.

11. Any Other Business.

- a) Elly Smith announced that she wished to step down from editorship of Soundboard after publication of the next issue in order to concentrate on her doctoral studies. She received a heartfelt vote of thanks for all her committed editorial work on behalf of The Friends.
- b) Pam Jackson intimated that several artists' bookings were already in place for next summer's Fringe concert series, including Arborea Musica, Gordon Ferries, John Kitchen, and Nathaniel Mander. The Polish Consulate-General would sponsor a recital by Pawel Siwczak. PJ thanked Peng Lee Yap for his help in organising the rota of volunteer stewards etc for the previous concerts.
- c) Dianne Fraser, describing the growing popularity of successive Doors Open Days, invited members to volunteer as stewards and catering helpers for the future. Peng Lee Yap commented that the presence of musicians performing live at the recent Doors Open event had enhanced the experience for visitors. His hope that live performance might be included in future years was endorsed by all members present.
- d) Pam Jackson proposed a deeply felt vote of thanks to Martin Hillman as he stepped down from the role of chairman. In particular, she praised his indefatigable efforts in organising the forthcoming celebrations for the Fortieth Anniversary and his editorial contribution to the production of *The Temple of Harmony*.

12. Date of next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM would be held in St Cecilia's Hall on **Saturday, 24th November, 2012.**

The meeting ended at 3.30pm, and was followed by an enjoyable social reception.

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