

THE FRIENDS OF ST CECILIA'S HALL AND MUSEUM  
**Annual General Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2019,**  
**St. Cecilia's Hall and Museum.**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Dr Eleanor Smith (Chair), Paula Allison (Minutes Secretary),  
Carola Bronte- Stewart, Rosemary Carter, Christopher Field, Dianne Fraser,  
Martin Hillman, Graeme Lyall, Jacky MacBeath, David Maclay, Arnold Myers,  
Jenny Nex .

**1. Welcome.** E.S. warmly welcomed everyone who had come to the meeting on a dreich Edinburgh day.

**Apologies** were received from: Jean Allen, Toni Bunch, David Jenkins, Charlotte Johnston, John Kitchen, Lucinda Mackay, Andrew Mackie, Nicola MacRae, Peter Onslow, Erica Schwarz, Anne Stirling- White, Heather Stubbs, Fiona Wallace, Lance Whitehead.

**2. Minutes** of the 2018 AGM. Peter Williams was wrongly described as Head of Music and this will be amended to his proper title of Dean of the Faculty of Music. The 2018 minutes were accepted with this amendment as a true record, proposed by M. Hillman, seconded by C. Field.

**3. Matters arising** from these minutes. It was agreed that any such would be incorporated in the agenda for the 2019 AGM.

**4. Chairman's report.** The Chairman began her remarks by recording her sadness at the death of Lord Robert Balfour of Burleigh, a great attendee and supporter at Friends' Fringe Concerts and E. M. Mont-vd Mandele , a Dutch Friend. She also noted the passing of Malcolm Fraser, husband of former treasurer, Dianne Fraser.

Turning to her previously circulated report, E.S. was pleased to announce that the Friends had had another busy and successful year. Two annual Bursaries had been awarded: £750

to Saskia Maxwell Taylor for expenses in connection with a study of the Bach cello suites ; £800 to Andrew Taheny for expenses in connection with attending the Cambridge Early Music Baroque Week 2019 as a violinist. Furthermore, a review of Bursary regulations and the guidance for applicants had been undertaken and some minor changes made. E.S. expressed her gratitude to Professor A. Myers for all his work in the Bursary sub-committee.

E.S. reported that the varied and well-attended concert series organised by the Friends during the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe festival had been a great success. She thanked volunteers from the Friends for their help and also the staff at St Cecilia's Hall for their sterling efforts in preparing the instruments used in the concerts, setting up the hall for each concert and organising the practice arrangements with the artists. E.S. gave particular thanks to Jenny Nex for also organising the Shackleton Memorial Concert. E. S. added that the Friends had once again supported the Sypert Summer Concerts by organising the interval refreshments. Ending this part of her report, E.S. thanked Carola Bronte –Stewart for the excellent job she had undertaken in co-ordinating volunteers for both sets of concerts and for handing out a record number of flyers and bookmarks. Finally, the chairman confirmed that two editions of *Soundboard* had been published in 2019, each full of news of Bursary winners, Fringe Festival Concerts and other recitals of Early Music.

**5. Curatorial Report.** In her circulated report, J.N. emphasised that St Cecilia's Hall and Museum had continued to develop as a vibrant and busy space, hosting a wide range of events and bringing in a diverse audience. She was also pleased to report that the Collection continued to grow at a steady pace and was greatly appreciated by both musicians and the general public. Visitor figures in 2019 had been buoyant, with the busiest times being the month of August and September's Doors Open weekend in September. J.N. was pleased to note that St Cecilia's Hall and Museum had become a 5\* Museum on TripAdvisor .

J.N.'s report described an extensive list of educational visits from schools and colleges in Britain, Europe and America and from a wide variety of interest groups which, along with conferences and one-off events, had made 2019 a busy and fulfilling year for St Cecilia's.

As well as being a hub of activity, St Cecilia's Hall and Museum has at its core university teaching, research support and academic engagement. In 2019 the new undergraduate honours option "Music and its Instruments "ran for the first time, while 4 PhD students were supervised by the Curator. J.N. added that the Collection staff had contributed to a number of conferences and publications. In her role as a government advisor, the Curator had led the effort to save for the nation an important 18th century harpsichord.

Another important aspect of the role of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum noted by J.N. was its

Programme of Public and Community Engagement, newly enhanced by the Discovery Drawers in the Wolfson gallery and a project to allow 3-D virtual reality "visits" to St Cecilia's in 1763 when it was newly opened.

J.N. paid tribute to the wide range of volunteers and interns who had contributed to the work of the Collection, the Hall and the wider Museums service, while the Chairman recorded her thanks and gratitude to the work of the curator and her staff.

**6. Committee Changes.** The chairman announced the following changes to the Committee:

1. Professor Arnold Myers had been officially co-opted onto the committee.
2. Tilly Edwards had not been able to take up her position on the committee due to illness.
3. Paula Allison was stepping down as Minute Secretary. E.S. gave notice that she would ask for nominees for this position at the next AGM but would co-opt someone to fill the role temporarily. She asked the meeting for offers and suggestions.

**7. Festival Fringe Concerts.** In addition to remarks made in her Chairman's report, E.S. relayed to the meeting that the innovation brought in at the 2019 Fringe Concerts whereby the musicians had been encouraged to talk about their instruments to the audience had been very successful. She intimated that plans for the 2020 Fringe Concerts were already underway, with the dates set for August 12, 15, 19, 22 and 26. Programmes were being planned and would include: a Shackleton Memorial concert; a collaborative concert with the Keyboard trust featuring harpsichordist Avinoam Shaler ; a concert featuring Fringe favourites John Kitchen, Gerry McDonald and Anthony Robson; a Pam Jackson concert featuring Anne Marie Klein; and one other still to be decided. She confirmed that the format of the concerts would be a running time of one hour from 3pm-4pm with no refreshments.

**8. Treasurer's Report.** Submitting his report in absentia, the Treasurer was pleased to announce that the accounts had been submitted for assessment and approved by the Independent Assessor. A.M. confirmed that the total assets held by the Friends of St Cecilia's increased during the year from £28,125 to £33,904. These excluded the bequest from the estate of the late Pamela Jackson which was restricted:

*To provide for the endowment of a post Graduate Scholarship in early keyboard music performance and to enable the preservation and enhancement of the building's eighteenth century character.*

A.M. reported that during the financial year three people had joined the Friends as Life Members and forty four had taken out or renewed Annual membership. He explained that during the year the membership list had been reviewed and updated

and that the review had also established that many members were happy to receive communications and *Soundboard* by email which would result in considerable savings.

A.M. expressed his gratitude for the generous donations to the Bursary Fund which had been received during the year and intimated that the Committee was beginning to explore different methods of fund raising to support the Fund going forwards. He also wished to thank all those committee members involved with the sales of publications, instrument drawings, CDs and other material as these continued to be a major source of income for the Friends.

A final matter included in the report was the agreement to match-fund up to a maximum of £6000 with the University Music department for the purpose of buying replica musical instruments. This offer, previously reported in the 2018 AGM, had not as yet been progressed by the university but the funding remained available. In discussing this part of the treasurer's report, J.N. mentioned an appeal from a teacher at St Mary's Music school for help in acquiring replica baroque instruments. The meeting asked J.N. to pursue this as a possibility for receiving Friends' funding.

A.M. proposed Alison Lawson as independent assessor of the Society's accounts for the next financial year. This was seconded at the AGM by Dianne Fraser.

## **9. Publications Report.**

Publications officers: G. Lyall, speaking on behalf of himself and D. Jenkins reported that they had had a busy and successful year with healthy sales including 24 orders from across the globe for plucked and keyboard instrument publications, with the latest being a series of 5 harpsichord drawings commissioned from Japan. D.L. thanked Professor A. Myers for his unstinting work dealing with orders for instrument drawings and EUCHMI publications. He also confirmed that there had been a decision, approved at the September Committee meeting of the Friends, to make a modest increase in prices for publications, the first in many years, carefully calibrated to increase revenue whilst not deterring scholarship.

**10. Pamela Jackson Bequest.** E.S. stated that the full amount of the bequest had now been received by the Friends and assured the meeting that the committee would do everything in its power to ensure that Pamela's wishes were followed. To this end, she had had an initial meeting with the Legacies department at the University of Edinburgh who had been happy to provide advice on the best ways to fulfil the bequest. She added that discussion of the bequest would be an item on the agenda of every committee meeting in future and that an extra meeting would take place to discuss how best to use the legacy in accordance with Pamela's stated desire in her will. In addition, the Treasurer had been in touch with OSCR to

ensure he was fully compliant with the terms of the bequest. E.S. noted that unfortunately the committee could not at present fully engage with the implementation of the bequest as Pamela's lawyers had not as yet provided the required documents which would allow them to proceed.

**11. Any Other Competent Business.** Dianne Fraser thanked the committee for flowers received on the death of her husband Malcolm and for an earlier gift of headphones given to mark her retirement as Treasurer of the Friends of St Cecilia's.

**12. Date and time of 2020 AGM:** 21 November 2020, 2.30pm.

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