

The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum  
**Annual General Meeting held online via Zoom  
on Saturday 28th November 2020, at Noon**

In Attendance (via Zoom):

Eleanor Smith (Chair), Carola Bronte Stewart, Jenny Nex, John Kitchen, Dorothy Wright, Andrew Mackie, David Jenkins, Ant Ward, Jane Chisholm, Graeme Lyall, Paula Woods, Arnold Myers, Rodger French, Jacky MacBeath

**1. Welcome; Apologies** for absence.

Eleanor welcomed all those in attendance to the zoom meeting and noted it was nice to be able to see people who were not usually able to attend in person.

Paula Allison, Nicola Macrae, Charlotte Johnston, Dianne Fraser, Toni Bunch, Heather Stubbs, Ingrid Uglow

**2. Minutes** of the 2019 AGM

Minor correction to item 3, to correct tense to "were incorporated"

Proposer: Carola Bronte Stewart, Seconder: John Kitchen.

Approved by the attendees by show of hands

**3. Matters arising** from these minutes

None to report. All covered elsewhere in the agenda

**4. Chairman Report**

Commenting on the pre-circulate report, Eleanor reiterated the challenges that had been experienced during 2020 which restricted the Friends' usual activities, both in terms of the Festival Fringe concert series, and particularly noting the decision that had been taken to hold off on awarding bursaries in 2020 because of various travel restrictions. She highlighted that the Bursary award is one of the most important outreach activities for the Friends, and that it is hoped that this can go ahead as normal in 2021.

Referring after to her cover letter sent out with the AGM papers, Eleanor again thanked all the members of the committee for their work over the year in difficult circumstances. She also again noted that her imminent move to Sweden would necessitate the appointment of a new Chair in the near future for practical reasons, but that she would be delighted to stay engaged with the committee from afar as much as is practicable. Her new role will be with the Göteborg International Organ Academy, in a project to create a database of Historical Swedish Organ building and archives.

**5. Curatorial Report**

In the circulated report Jenny Nex had reported to the Friends not only on the events that had taken place before the lockdown was imposed in March, but also on the online events and exhibitions that have been moved online showing the ingenuity of all the collection staff. There was also a report of a collection of 5 keyboard instruments that have been generously donated by Theodora Zemek, two of which have arrived and the remaining three will follow once practical again.

At the meeting Jenny highlighted that despite the restrictions, the Collections have managed to reopen safely for booked groups, and that a wide variety of events have been taking place online. She also highlighted that there was to be a live-streamed concert by Anne-Marie Klein in the afternoon following the AGM. Eleanor congratulated Jenny, and all the staff at St Cecilia's for the amount they have been able to achieve over the last months and thanked them for their work over the year.

## **6. Committee**

- Positions vacant: Chair, Secretary, Ordinary Member

Eleanor announced that Nicola Macrae has stepped down from the committee – Eleanor thanked her for all her support over the years, both on the committee and with all the other help she has given the Friends as a volunteer.

Eleanor noted that we are currently discussing the best way forward in finding a new Chair as no volunteers have yet come forward. However, there is a volunteer for the position of Secretary who Eleanor has a meeting with soon.

All co-opted positions will be brought to the 2021 AGM for formal voting.

- Re-appointment of Treasurer

Eleanor thanked Andrew Mackie for the excellent job he has been doing as Treasurer, particularly in the correct handling of the funds for the Pamela Jackson request. She proposed his re-appointment as Treasurer, seconded by Graeme Lyall and passed unanimously by the meeting.

## **7. Treasurer's report**

Andrew noted a correction to be made to the balance sheet, an updated version of this will be uploaded to the website: noting that the 2020 Edinburgh Festival Fringe payment should be £1861. Andrew explained that as the financial year for 2019-2020 included the Fringe Festival, that this payment was included. The previous omission had been due to excel formulae.

Treasurers report and balance sheet: Proposed Andrew Mackie, Seconded Eleanor Smith

Passed and accepted (with the update) unanimously by the meeting

- Reappointment of Alison Lawson as Independent Assessor

Eleanor thanked Alison Lawson on behalf of the Friends for the excellent job she has done as Independent Assessor.

Reappointment proposed by Andrew Mackie, Seconded by David Jenkins and approved unanimously by the meeting.

## **8. Update Pamela Jackson Bequest**

- Progress update
- Constitution update required to clarify and update where moneys should go if the society should fold – to make sure they are not simply absorbed into general funds ‘for music’. Suggested that changes should be brought to the 2021 AGM for voting.

## **9. Festival Fringe Concerts**

Although it was not possible to have the Fringe Festival concerts in 2020, Eleanor reported that it was hoped that the programme could be recreated as much as possible in 2021.

This would include a solo recital by Anne-Marie Klein, a duo of Soprano and Lute *Cordes en Ciel*, a Shackleton Concert organised by Jenny Nex on behalf of the collection, another collaboration with the Keyboard Trust, and last but by no means least a recital by John Kitchen, Gerry Macdonald, and Anthony Robson – as the most popular concert of the series.

## **10. Publications report**

- Publications officers

Graeme Lyall and David Jenkins noted that they were currently unable to action any orders with the restrictions in place, but that customers had been notified and were very understanding of the restrictions. David noted that the prices had been put up by 5% as agreed at previous meetings, to account for the increased expense of producing the stock. Rodger French confirmed that these had been advertised on the Website.

Graeme and David reiterated their appreciation to Arnold Myers, who had been continuing to sell some of the drawings from home which has contributed to the Publications income.

- Website

Rodger was experiencing technical issues, and had dropped out of the meeting at this point. Eleanor thanked him for his work in keeping the website up-to-date, and hoped that we will be able to provide some more news and events for the website in 2021.

- Soundboard

Eleanor reported that there had been a Spring edition of *Soundboard* in production with news of the Festival concerts and contributions from bursary awardees from 2019. However, this was made impossible by the restrictions of lockdown.

She hopes instead to create a 'Pandemic 2020' edition of the publication following her move.

11. **Any Other Competent Business.**

No AOCB was raised.

12. **Date and Time of 2021 AGM.**

- 20 November 2021 – 2:30 (usual time) and hoped to be back in St Cecilia's Hall

Pre-recorded musical items had been provided by Lucy and Lance Whitehead, and by pupils from St Mary's Music School.

Eleanor thanked all the musicians, as well as Jenny Nex and Paul Stubbings for their help facilitating these performances.