

**OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 at 5.00p.m.**

GLENCRUITTEN CHURCH CENTRE.

**Present:**

Richard Hess ( Chair), Jeremy Church ( Secretary), Ian Parson ( Treasurer), Gill Moore, Stephen Thomas, David Craig, Katie Armstrong, Seymour Adams and 3 members

**1. Welcome:**

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

**2. Apologies:**

6 Society members.

**3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM:**

These were accepted : Proposed: Stephen Thomas Seconded: Ian Parson

**4. Chairman's Report:**

This last year has been a very significant year for us. We are now celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and I am pleased to report that we have had another successful season, bringing good quality chamber music to Oban. Our membership and audience numbers have slightly increased over last year, although are still not quite as good as we have had in previous years, and financially we are just about keeping our head above water, with marginally higher income, thanks partly to increased support from Enterprise Music Scotland, as well as achieving slightly reduced expenditure. So thanks and well done to all concerned. But there is no room for complacency.

During the year we launched what has turned out to be a highly successful appeal to enable us to replace our eighty-year-old Steinway model S piano with a somewhat larger and better quality Steinway model A piano. Whilst we already had £6,720 in our piano fund from previous years, we started the active fund raising in the autumn by contacting a number of local and national charitable trusts and organisations. This started bringing results quite quickly. We then launched the appeal amongst our members and the local community in January. This brought a fantastic response. The result is that by May we had £33,250 in our piano fund (including the trade-in value of our current piano) – sufficient to allow us to place the order for the piano we wanted - with £75 left over - an amazing accomplishment! I therefore want to express my deep appreciation to all those who have responded so generously to the appeal and to particularly thank Jeremy Church and Stephen Thomas who were the key people responsible for handling the appeal, and Andrew Dunlop who helped us select the replacement piano. I am really looking forward to seeing and more-so listening to this piano in the very near future, and to the special concerts lined up to showcase the new piano over the next few months.

Our six subscription concerts provided a good variety of music. Apart from the usual chamber concerts with piano solo, piano trio and string quartet, we also had strings with accordion and an exciting concert with harp, guitar and voice, both of which incidentally had the highest levels of attendance, ending the season with a jazz concert. A number of our regulars commented on how pleasantly surprised they were with some of these less conventional concerts. We conducted a short survey amongst those who attended our last subscription concert to seek feedback on what people wanted and what suited them regarding venue and timing. It seems that almost all are happy with the logistical arrangements, whilst the variety of concerts suited most. We therefore seem to be on the right track, although of course this was a very limited survey and did not reach others who may possibly come if things were different!

I am as ever grateful to our hard-working committee, who have continued to make sure that everything runs really smoothly. Everyone on the committee has one or more specific responsibilities which really helps lighten the load of the office bearers. But having said that I must in particular thank Jeremy for his highly efficient work as secretary as he undoubtedly has the highest workload. Thanks also to Ian who has done an excellent job as Treasurer - keeping us financially on the straight and narrow. We have

welcomed Seymour and Molly Adams as a tag team onto our committee and they have brought fresh insights and vision which is much appreciated. David Craig has asked to step down from the committee after many years of support, particularly on the cash desk. Thank you David for all your hard work. Thanks also to Stephen Thomas who is also stepping down as he is leaving the area. We wish you well as you move to Cambridge. Thanks also to Kate Armstrong who is stepping down as Vice Chair but will stay on the committee. I will be stepping down as Chairman, but will also stay on the committee.

Richard Hess  
Chairman, Oban Music Society

#### **5. Secretary's Concert Report:**

The season started with a very polished piano recital by the young Hungarian pianist Daniel Lehardt. He played works by Bach, Brahms Schubert and the magnificent Opus 111 by Beethoven. There was a rather disappointing attendance of 45. This was followed in November by the Da Vinci Piano Trio, a very confident and professional group of musicians with a powerful programme that attracted an attendance of 63. In December we had a break from the conventional with the electrifying Kosmos bringing accordion and strings to a most entertaining evening of dance music from around the world. 76 came to that concert. In January we had another concert of a slightly different genre with the Bardic Trio, guitar, Welsh harp and tenor voice. They focused on traditional music from Scotland, Ireland and Wales. This was a very popular evening with an attendance of 70. February saw the return of the Roxburgh String Quartet led by the very accomplished Rachel Spencer, who we will be seeing again this coming season. They played a selection of string quartets by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn and was attended by 51. Our final concert was a jazz performance by Swing2017, again very entertaining but perhaps less well attended than we had expected with an attendance of 40. The total attendance for the season was 342 up from 307 for the previous year. Partly due to Gill Moore working with the Oban Times and increasing publicity. At present we are not putting regular adverts in the Oban Times as this costs £75 but does allow us to enter copy for publication. We have agreed to trial this for the first three concerts this coming year to monitor any substantial increase in attendance.

The Piano is now fully paid for and is undergoing servicing and repolishing, it is due for delivery at the end of July. Peter Evans, principal conductor and pianist of the Meadows Chamber Orchestra of Edinburgh will be showcasing the new instrument at a recital on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, to which we will be inviting representatives of the various charities and individuals who have given so generously.

We have planned an exciting programme for the coming season, not surprisingly focusing on the piano, as a solo instrument, with strings, with Jazz. Our final recital will be given by the highly acclaimed Clare Hammond who recently won the Royal Philharmonic young artists award. Perhaps some will remember her as the young Maggie Smith in Alan Bennett's *Lady in the Van*.

I started as secretary of the Society 9 years ago and I am looking forward to handing over to a new secretary after this meeting. The society has come a long way over the past 9 years; we have a very effective committee, which has shared the load substantially and with whom it has been a pleasure to work. However what has made the job most rewarding has been working with two chairmen who have believed in the Society and gone out of their way to support it, thank you Mike and Richard.

Jeremy Church  
Secretary

#### **6. Treasurers report 2016-17**

At the end of the financial year 2016 to 17 the cash assets of the Society were £7,287 plus £15,000 paid as a deposit to Bestrode for a reconditioned Steinway Piano, compared with £7,337 in 2015-16, £7,402 in 2014-15 and £4,867 in 2013-14. The cash assets consist of £562 in the current account and £6,725 in the piano account. The income from Membership this year was £1,260 compared with £1,065 in 2015-16, £1,440 in 2014-15 and £1,640 in 2013-14. Sale of 'tickets' at the door was £2,005 compared with £2,045 in 2015-16, £2,464 in 2014-15 and £1,884 in 2013-14. Our total income from membership and tickets was £3,265 compared with £3,110 in 2015-16 and £3,904 in 2014-15 and £3,524 in 2013-4.

Our Enterprise Music Scotland (EMS) grant was £3,000 compared with £2,650 in 2015-16, £2,200 in 2014-15 and £2,500 for the two preceding years. An application has been sent for this years grant to EMS. The OMS accounts have been completed and independently examined by Fiona McGlynn at R A Clement Associates. The accounts have been accepted by OSCR and are now shown on their website.

Artists' fees and expenses had increased this year by £430, in the preceding years the increase was £190 and £280. Our total expenditure on performances was £4,940 for the 6 concerts or an average of £823. If we include the Cathedral Hire of £75 per concert the total spend for the concerts was £5,390 or an average of £898 for each concert

Restructuring of the Membership of the Society was introduced in the 2014-15 season. We have no concessions apart from those in full time education. The cost per concert for non members is £10. A Subscription Member pays £40 per year with no extra payment when attending OMS concerts. An Ordinary Member pays £15 to become a Society Member and £5 for each concert attended. Membership is 44 the same as last season. There were 24 Subscription Members and 20 Ordinary Members.

Last year the OMS started on-line banking and this year 27 members paid by BACS transfer, compared to 9 last year. Members then collected their cards at the first concert attended which made the earlier concerts easier to manage. The average concert attendance was 57, up 6 from last year but down 4 from the preceding year, with a range from 40 to 75. Total attendance of 342.

Our financial position needs to be watched closely. Our attendances were up on last year. Income from Membership and door takings and Enterprise Music Scotland Grant were all increased. We have reduce the amount that we pay for performers this coming season by about 10%, £410 in total, but realise that quality performers are expensive. We must try to increase our membership and attendances at each concert.

For many years Mrs Sara Rutherford has performed, without charge, the Annual Independent Examination of the OMS accounts. Because of the increased income for the Piano purchase this year, mostly from donations from registered charities, we felt that our accounts should be now be scrutinised by R A Clements Associates as our Independent Examiners, to be certain that we are complying with all the appropriate regulations.

#### Piano Purchase.

We have £10,825 in the Piano Fund and have paid £15,000 to Bespode as a deposit for our newer Steinway Piano. At the start of the last financial year we had £6,272 in this account. Since we started to raise funds for the new piano earlier this year we have been given £19,553. Of this £14,500 has been from Charities and Societies which Jeremy and Stephen have approached. These contributions consist of:-

- £3,000 from the Oban Common Good Fund
- £500 from the Oban Rotary
- £1,000 from Thomas Tunnocks Charity
- £5,000 from Scottish Sea Farms
- £1,000 from the Highland Society of London.
- £3,000 received from the Hugh Fraser Foundation
- £1,000 from the Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust
- £50 from the Lorn Chorus

We have transferred £1,150 from our OMS Treasurers Account, received £160 for the hire of our present Steinway and £3,693 from private donations. Amazingly we have already raised the money for the New Piano.

The new Steinway Piano will cost £35,000. We negotiated a discount of 5% =£1,750. They agreed a Trade in for our present Steinway =£7,500. We have already paid a deposit =£15,000. Piano Account now =£10,825. Total = £35,075

Ian Parson June 2017

## 7. Amendment to the Constitution

It was proposed to delete the current paragraph 8 of the constitution and replace it as follows:

### **8 INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS**

(a) *The annual account shall be inspected each year by a suitably qualified independent person who shall submit their report to the Annual General Meeting.*

(b) *The independent inspector shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.*

This amendment was carried unanimously

## 8. Election of Executive Committee Members

The constitution requires one third of the members to retire from the committee each year; those retiring may put themselves forward for re-election. David Craig and Stephen Thomas will be retiring and have asked not to be re-elected. Richard Hess and Jeremy Church submitted their resignation and were proposed for re-election. Donald Shell and Paul Marion were proposed as new members. These proposals were carried unanimously.

## 9. Proposed Programme for 2017-2018

Date	Group	Instruments
09/09/17	Peter Evans	Piano Recital
01/10/17	Doric Quartet	String Quartet
05/11/17	Monzani Trio	Flute Violin, 'Cello
26/11/17	Sasa Donaldson	Piano solo
14/01/18	Kapten Trio	Piano and Strings
11/02/18	Solem Quartet	String Quartet
11/03/18	Colin Steel Jazz Quintet	Jazz with piano
25/04/18	Clare Hammond	Piano Recital

The first and last concerts are not part of the subscription concert programme but are special concerts to showcase the new piano and to raise funds.

## 10. Web Managers Report

Due to the closing down of the website service provider, Power by Penguin, Mark Evetts has been rebuilding the site using a new service provider - Word Power. This transfer is almost complete but has been meeting difficulties accessing the Home Page.

## 11. AOB

Nil submitted

The meeting closed at 17.30