

**OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
21st June 2018 at 5.00p.m.**

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

Present:

Jeremy Church (Chairman), Ian Parson (Treasurer), Seymour and Molly Adams (Joint Secretary), Gill Moore, Donald Shell, Paul Marrion, David Craig, Di Parson, Margi Campbell, James Campbell and Carol Church.

1. Welcome:

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees and thanked the new Provost (Margi Campbell) for use of the Narthex.

2. Apologies:

Mike Hawke, Mark Evetts, Richard Hess, Ian Walter, Ian Tegner, Meriel Tegner.

3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM:

These were accepted : Proposed: Paul Marrion Seconded: Ian Parson

4 Chairman's Report:

This past year has seen a number of new developments in the Oban Music Society, many of which have been made possible by the strong financial position the Society finds itself in following the Elizabeth Graham Bequest.

Last year the Society had a fund raising campaign to raise funds for a replacement piano, whilst this was remarkably successful and would have raised enough to purchase a good replacement for our old Steinway Model S the bequest arrived just in time to allow us to raise our sights and we were able to buy an almost new Model B which was delivered in July 2017. Our activities subsequently have centred round this magnificent instrument with our opening concert being a recital given by Peter Evans playing works by Haydn, Brahms and Chopin after which he was joined by Uli Evans whom he accompanied with the Brahms Schezo for violin and piano and the Romantic Piece No1 by Dvorak.

Our subscription season continued with a variety of genres, the Doric String Quartet adding considerable class to the seasons programme as did a most enjoyable performance by Shuna Sendall and Phil Gault with Claire Harkin accompanying. As always the end of season Jazz Concert by the Colin Steel Quintet was very popular.

Following the winter season of six subscription concerts we have been able to stage additional performances during the summer. The first of these was a remarkable piano recital by Claire Hammond who introduced us to a contemporary work by Malcolm Hayes but perhaps the highlight was her electric performance of the last twelve of the Chopin Etudes. This was a fundraising concert to raise funds for the maintenance of the new piano.

The decision of the committee has been to ensure that the piano is maintained in perfect condition and as a consequence some attention has been paid to the hammers and to toning the instrument in its new environment.

As a result of the Elizabeth Graham bequest the Society is now in a position to extend its promotion of music beyond the winter subscription concert season and a number of additional events are now being supported. One being an orchestral concert by the Edinburgh Meadows Chamber Orchestra as a memorial concert to the benefactor. All who were there had considered it a success, and there had been good feedback since the concert. The Society is now sponsoring the Mendelssohn On Mull and the Lorn Live Festivals. It is also in a position to fund a bursary allowing a young musician to attend the Royal Northern College of Music summer school. We feel these commitments are very much in the spirit of the bequest.

The Society has been fortunate in having a very strong and effective committee who share many of the responsibilities of running events. This puts less pressure on the officers and also adds a breadth to decision making.

We continue to hold our concerts in St John's Cathedral and are grateful to the Provost and Vestry for being so accommodating. We are very fortunate in having this venue available to us as not only is it able to house the piano but also the acoustics are ideal for events both large and small. All the musicians who perform in the cathedral comment on the quality of the location.

We come to the end of a very successful year and look forward to another year of music making and do so whilst being in the very fortunate position of being both sound financially and with a growing membership.

5. Secretary's Concert Report:

The winter season has concluded, comprising recitals by the Doric Quartet (in anticipation of their annual residency at *Mendelssohn on Mull*); the Monzani Trio; Aleksander Kudajczyk (replacing an indisposed Sasa Donaldson); Shuna Scott- Sendall, David Gault and Claire Haskin (replacing the Kapten Trio); the Solem Quartet; and the Colin Steel Jazz Quartet. Average attendance at concerts was 65 (slightly depressed by the Solem concert, where attendance was affected by the weather).

By far the biggest news for OMDs this year has of course been the purchase of our new (i.e. new for us) Steinway B piano. As well as the use it has received during our winter season, we have also had two celebrity recitals: by Peter Evans in September, and recently by Clare Hammond. The piano (like its predecessor) is housed in St John's cathedral, where it is also available to individuals and community groups in the town.

Turning to 18/19, our regular winter programme remains as agreed with colleagues at the last ABCT meeting. This year, however, we are also using the bequest we received from Elizabeth Graham to sponsor a programme of summer events. As well as the recent recital by Clare Hammond, we have welcomed the Esslinger Brass Ensemble to St John's on 27th May, and will be receiving a concert from the Strings of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra on 19th July. OMS has also become an official sponsor (for three years) of *Mendelssohn on Mull*, and the participating quartets will be giving us a recital at the end of their studies with the Doric Quartet on 7th July. In August (12th and 25th) we are funding Andrew Dunlop to reinstate his imaginative *Lorn Live* mini-festival. Finally, by the time of the meeting we will have held the concert on 17th June at 4:00pm, given in memory of Elizabeth Graham, and at

which Peter and Uli Evans and the Meadows Orchestra will have played a concert of Elgar, Mozart and Dvorak, including Mozart's A major Piano Concerto K488.

6. Treasurer's report 2016-17

At the end of the financial year 2017 to 18 the cash assets of the Society were £21,262 compared with last year £22,287 which included £15,000 paid as a deposit for a Steinway Piano, £7,337 in 2015-16, £7,402 in 2014-15 and £4,867 in 2013-14. The cash assets consist of £9,972 in the current account and £11,290 in the piano account. Our new asset is the Steinway B Piano #269765 which was purchased as a part exchange with Bespode Pianos Ltd and is valued at £52,250.

The income from Membership this year was buoyant at £1,895 compared with £1,260 last year and £1,065 in 2015-16, £1,440 in 2014-15 and £1,640 in 2013-14. Sale of tickets at the door was £2,050 compared with £2,005 last year, £2,045 in 2015-16, £2,464 in 2014-15 and £1,884 in 2013-14. Our total income from membership and tickets was £3,945 compared with last year £3,265, £3,110 in 2015-16 and £3,904 in 2014-15 and £3,524 in 2013-4.

Our Enterprise Music Scotland (EMS) grant was £2,200 compared with £3,000 last year, £2,650 in 2015-16, £2,200 in 2014-15 and £2,500 for the two preceding years. An application has been submitted for this year's EMS grant.

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 (and to which a link would be added on our site).

Our total expenditure on the subscription season performances, including Cathedral hire, was £5,041 down £350 on last year or an average £840 per performance.

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.

We increased our membership significantly. In total we had 64 members compared to 44 for the last two years. Thirty-eight were subscription members and 26 Ordinary ones.

The average concert attendance was 65, up 8 from last year with a range from 40 to 81. Total attendance for 7 concerts was 455.

We were delighted to receive an unexpected legacy of £40,000 from the estate of the late Elizabeth Graham, who had been a longstanding member of the OMS. The Society was already raising funds for a better piano. The legacy enabled us to purchase a much newer and better Steinway Piano and increase our number and type of performances.

The OMS committee is carefully considering how we should appropriately use the remaining funds.

Margi Campbell asked about the insurance position with regard to the new piano. Ian Parson undertook to clarify this with her after the meeting.

7. Amendment to the Constitution

The amendment to paragraph 8 providing for an inspection of the annual accounts was noted.

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. Donald Shell will be retiring and has asked not to be re-elected. Mark Evetts and Mike Hawke submitted their resignation and were proposed for re-election. James Campbell was proposed as a new member.

These proposals were carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Donald Shell for his service on the Committee.

9. Proposed Programme for 2018-2019

Date	Group	Instruments
23 rd September	Emma Abate and Julian Perkins	Piano, Four Hands
14 th October	Arctic Winds	Wind Quintet
18 th November	Kapten Trio	Piano Trio
13 th January	Echo Chamber Ensemble	Flute, Viola and Harp
10 th February	Sinopia Quartet	String Quartet
10 th March	Brass Diversions	Trumpet, Trombone and Piano

11. AOB

Nil submitted

The meeting closed at 17.30