

**OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5th July
2019 at 5.00p.m.**

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

Present:

Jeremy Church (Chairman), Ian Parson (Treasurer), Seymour and Molly Adams (Joint Secretary), Gill Moore, Mark Evetts, and 5 members

1. Welcome:

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

2. Apologies:

Mike Hawke, Carol Leach, James Campbell, Margi Campbell, Ian Tegner, Meriel Tegner.

3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM:

These were accepted : Proposed: Mark Evetts; seconded: Ian Parson

4 Chairman's Report:

2019 has been a year in which the Oban Music Society has grown from strength to strength with a successful focus on the summer season as well as our usual winter subscription season. These summer season concerts have attracted good attendances and despite the cost of holding them they have, in balance, been successful both financially and in broadening the scope of the society.

Attendances at the winter season concerts have fallen a little and clearly the Society must continue to ensure good publicity and performances that appeal to our membership.

We continue to support the Argyll and Bute Concert Tours and do our best to combine with them on selecting performers, this has the advantage of achieving group discounts. However we are in the enviable situation of being substantially better financed than many of the other societies who are constrained somewhat by their limited funds. There is a great deal of talent in Scotland particularly amongst the younger professionals who we are most anxious to support, and

although their repertoires may be more limited, they bring an enthusiasm and diversity to our programmes. An example of how the Society is reaching out to young musicians is the Society scholarship which is available to a local young instrumentalist to attend the Cheethams Summer School, this we hope to do on an annual basis. Last year Arabella Fines took up the offer and we are delighted she has agreed to play for us at the AGM, the successful young musician this year is Kay Logan and we hope she will benefit as much as Arabella did.

The funding raised by the cathedral (including pledges) had been sufficient to purchase all the upholstered chairs required. The Society has for its part purchased forty folding chairs in the drive towards more flexible and comfortable seating in St John's. Not only will this improve the experience for our audience but the folding chairs will also be more suitable for visiting musicians.

The Society continues to benefit from the wonderful venue which the Cathedral provides, repeatedly commented on by performers. We have developed a very symbiotic relationship with St John's, with our piano and new chairs and the excellent acoustics we have the perfect venue for a wide range of performances from major choral and orchestral works to solo instrumentalists. We are extremely grateful to the Provost and Vestry for the enthusiastic support they give to the Society.

We have a very active and supportive committee who are constantly working behind the scenes with every concert, it is a real privilege working with this team and I also want to thank each one of them. During the year we have lost Richard Hess and Donald Shell from the committee and we are grateful to them for their contribution. James Campbell has joined us with his immense knowledge and enthusiasm which leaves room for two new members and I would like to propose Carol Leech join us as a new committee member. Mike Hawke feels he should also stand down after 10 years (five as Chairman). Mike has made a huge contribution to the OMS particularly in those early days, his administrative skills and networking provided the impetus to get us where we are today.

The concert which was scheduled for tomorrow was to have been dedicated to the memory of Paul Marrion. Paul was a trustee of the society, and a most distinguished musician, having served as principal double bass of the Scottish National Orchestra in the 1970s before moving to the London Symphony Orchestra, and was then principal

double bass with the BBC Symphony Orchestra for 10 years until his retirement in 2012. He died suddenly on Skye, and will be a huge loss to the musical life of Oban. There will be a memorial service for him in St Modan's church, Benderloch at 1:00pm tomorrow. It is hoped to reschedule the concert for October.

The Secretary and Treasurer will be following me with their reports. Seymour and Ian are the glue which sticks the Society together and I must thank them for the enormous amount of work they do in keeping the increasingly busy programme of events running smoothly.

Finally I must thank all of you, our members and the many music lovers of Oban for their interest and support for the Society and I hope we can continue to provide the music which feeds the soul.

5. Secretary's Concert Report:

As usual, the Society mounted six concerts in its winter season, aided by the funding it received from Enterprise Music Scotland.

23rd September - Emma Abate and Julian Perkins (Piano, four hands)

The playing was of a high standard, but attendance was rather poor. Plus the concert was relatively expensive, not so much in terms of fees as expenses - Oban did not share these with other ABCT societies and the musicians had to travel from London (plus their flight home was delayed necessitating a taxi ride).

14th October - Arctic Winds (Wind Quintet)

Another successful, but expensive, concert. Again, Oban was the only society to book this ensemble, who had to travel up from Glasgow in two cars.

18th November - Kapten Trio

This recital was held over from the previous season (when the ensemble had to cancel), but it was warmly welcomed. The Kapten played also for the other ABCT groups.

13th January – Echo Chamber Ensemble

This was an enjoyable concert – though some found the repertoire somewhat specialised. Again, it was comparatively expensive because Oban had to bear all the expenses.

10th February – Sinopia Quartet

A most successful recital, combining well known with more unusual pieces, shared with all the other ABCT societies (though some of these were less enthusiastic).

10th March – Brass Diversions

A very popular and well-supported concert.

Overall, and in view of our somewhat reduced EMS grant for 2019-20, the main lesson to be drawn is the desirability of sharing concerts with other ABCT societies where practicable. This will be the case for half the concerts in the forthcoming series (and for two of the other three, there are strong reasons why Oban is going alone).

In addition to the winter series, the Society has (thanks to the Elisabeth Graham Bequest) also commenced sponsorship of summer concerts.

2018 Summer Concerts after the last AGM:

17th June – The Meadows Orchestra

This was the first Elisabeth Graham Memorial Concert (in memory of our benefactor), and one of the most ambitious we have mounted. It was hugely successful (and well attended), and has cemented the firm relationship between the OMS and Peter Evans (who will be returning to Oban with the Pantoum Trio on 6th July and whose Meadows players will be performing in both Oban and Ardrishaig in February 2020). We expect to hold these memorial concerts biannually.

7th July – Mendelssohn on Mull

This was the first cycle of the festival under the leadership of the Doric Quartet (and the first to benefit from the OMS three year funding package). The concert was enjoyable, but it is fair to say the members of the Doric Quartet were still finding their feet in their leadership of the festival, and we are expecting a more integrated event of 7th September.

12th and 25th August – Lorn Live

This was something of a mixed bag: the first concert of chamber pieces was quite superb; the second (a vocal recital) less so. Again, we are planning for our sponsorship of Lorn Live to be biannual, but in future concentrating on instrumental chamber music.

2019 Summer Concerts

April 27th – Peter Seivewright

The less said about this concert, the better. Suffice to report that Mr Seivewright's agent has remitted to the OMS half the concert fee to enable refunds to be offered to all those who were unfortunate enough to have attended.

6. Treasurer's report 2018-19

The net assets of the OMS at the end of the financial year on 31 March 2019 were £111,891 compared with £73,512 last year.

The cash assets of the Society were £59,641 compared with last year £21,262 and £22,287 in 2016/17. They consist of £14,641 in the current account and £45,000 in Business Saver Accounts.

Our major asset is the Steinway B Piano #269765 which was purchased last year and is valued at £52,250.

The income from Membership this year was £1,575 compared with last year £1,895 and £1,260 the previous year.

Sale of tickets at the door was £3,216 compared with last year £2,050 and

£2,005 the previous year. This year it also includes the extra OMS non subscription concerts.

Our total income from membership and tickets was £4,791 compared with last year £3,945 and £3,265 the previous year.

The Enterprise Music Scotland (EMS) grant was the maximum allowed of £3,000 compared with last year £2,200 and £3,000 the previous year. An application has been submitted for this years EMS grant.

We were very fortunate to receive the second and final payment from the late Miss E Graham's bequest of £43,913.

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.

Our total expenditure on both the summer and winter seasons performances, including Artists fees and travel, Cathedral hire, piano maintenance, printing and advertising was £13,490 compared with £5,833 last year. The increase in expenditure was because the committee decide to make use of the late Elizabeth Graham's legacy and provide a variety of extra musical experiences for our audiences and sponsor young musicians. Our major investments are as follows:-

- The very successful Meadows Orchestra performance cost the Society a total of £2,183 with total takings of £1,333.
- Lorn Live's two concerts of Opera and then Piano and Strings we sponsored for £2,000.
- We are sponsoring the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival week for 3 years costing £1,000 a year.
- We are sponsoring a young Musician for a week's tuition and accommodation at Chetham's Music Summer School which cost £715 last year.

The average concert attendance for the Subscription Winter Season was 57 compared with 65 last season. The attendances ranged from 44 to 71. The attendances at the non subscription concerts were:

- Clare Hammond concert 75,
- Esslingham Brass Band 70,
- Meadows Chamber Orchestra 134,
- Mendelssohn on Mull 100,
- Scottish Chamber Orchestra 175; and
- Lorn Live about 60 for each concert.

Our total membership last year was 44 compared with 64 last year and 44 for the previous 2 years.

7. Safeguarding

The paper submitted by the secretary was approved. In summary:

1. The society would ensure organisations hosting courses attended by Elisabeth Graham Scholars had in place satisfactory Safeguarding policies.
2. Concert stewards would take responsibility for looking after the welfare of vulnerable adults who attended OMS concerts.

8. Election of Executive Committee Members

The existing members were re-elected *en bloc*. Carol Leach was elected as a member of the Committee.

9. Proposed Winter Concerts 2019-20

29 th September	AB24 Aberdeen Baroque
10 th November	Brodsky String Quartet

1 st December	Vitaly Pisarenko (Piano)
26 th January	Ayman Jarjour (Guitar)
23 rd February	Meadows Nonet
22 nd March	Clare Hammond (Piano)

11. AOB

Nil submitted

The meeting closed at 17.45