**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY**

**A Committee Meeting** was held on 1 December 2014 at 1300 in the Faculty of Music Boardoom

**Present**: Ben Glassberg (BG), Martin Ennis (ME), Giverny McAndry (GM), Justin Lee (JL), Patrick Flynn (PF), Chloe Davidson (CD), Joel Sandelson (JS), Helen Daniels (HD), Hilary Samuels (HS), Quintin Beer (QB), Jo Whitehead (JW), Saskia Buschoten-Binet (SBB), Rosalind Ridout (RR), Nick Shaw (NS), Chistopher Lawrence (CL).

Ben Glassberg was in the Chair. Giverny McAndry took the minutes.

1. **Apologies** were received from Ian Howard, Lucy Morris and Jenny Reavell.
2. **Approval of Away Day minutes** were approved.
3. **Matters arising**
   1. A CUMS Training Pack to aid future committee is to be put together over the holidays for review by the rest of the board, aiming to pull everything into one document. Though a lot of the material has already been produced, most of it is currently scattered in DropBox, with limited access. **Action: BG and GM to put together contents outline.**
   2. The potential appointment of a CUMS archivist raised two names: Richard Andrews and Maggie.
4. **Discussion of ‘Excellence’** (JW)
   1. There was a common call for coaching as it would have a positive diffused effect across the society; the one problem is money, but avenues including specific sponsorship funds or budgeting by individual ensembles could make room for this.
   2. Excellence within each ensemble should come from a focus on careful programming. CUWO and CUMSCO should focus on relative excellence within themselves in using the forces available. The Society should aim to have CUCO & CUMSSO as the two flagship ensembles consistently at the top of their game for their type. CL highlighted that at the same time, there needs to be a balance between high standards and accessibility and fun; no one wants to play in a below-standard concert.
5. **Tuition** (QB) ought to be offered to conductors and for specialist instrumentalist skills like chamber music playing, coaching sectionals and leading. QB emphasised that student conductors face unexpected circumstances and should be able to enjoy the same quality control as the players. Tuition could take the form of individual sessions or a tutor sitting in on a rehearsal and making comments (CD mentioned that Martin Yates had fulfilled this position). JS suggested that the Conducting Scholar should work more directly with the CUMSSO guest conductor in this manner. JW responded that money is an issue but more commercial programmes would be more lucrative. **Action: QB will coordinate as newly appointed Coaching Rep. Ensemble presidents will budget and decide if whether there is money for the beginning of Easter Term. Ensemble presidents will communicate to QB; QB and BG to keep JL informed.**
6. **Report back from programming committee** (CL)
   1. CUMS Chorus has a developed plan; other ensembles are missing a number of specifics. Doing St John Passion has some issues: Symphony chorus into WRCH could be problematic; sacred music in a concert hall setting; JS Bach in JSB-saturated town; Sunday night concert. **Action: JW to talk to Jenny (new president) about budget and CUMS representatives.**
   2. General: It is important to select the right music for an ensemble on the ‘fewer minutes better rehearsed’ principle, especially for the first concert; thematic programming possible if planned far enough in advance. WRCH is not suitable venue for ‘big’ repertoire for CUMSSO and ideal 20th century symphonies, but CL thinks it would be a big mistake to move from WRCH and that we should do our best with the assets we have. JW suggested Saffron Hall as an alternative.
   3. CUMSSO: CD should be moving towards a contract with Cadogan Hall. JW said that a loss on this concert should be placed in context with the whole year for CUMSSO (not CUMS). CUMSSO need to know enough about rest of programme to formulate this. NS says we should raise money to afford to lose some. **Action:** **CUMSSO to fast track budget for the year so this venture can go ahead.**
   4. CUMSCC projects include a potential collaboration s with CUCO, CUOS (Orfeo) and CULC. Personnel are working fine, and the ensemble still holds the advantage of doing repertoire not covered by other groups.
7. **Status report on new organisational structure (and timeline for handovers)**
   1. Next year: BG asserted that ensembles autonomy is a definite advantage and they need to make committees have the same pulling power as staff; someone needs to take responsibility for mishaps. NS pointed out that there were degrees of problems; presidents ought to make decisions about what they can and cannot handle. CL highlighted the long-term issue of fixing players which is time-consuming. A one-document training pack would be useful for structure; currently everything is in DropBox, but not everyone has access and it is not easily navigated.
   2. CUCO: Successive president should be appointed at the King’s Foundation concert at end of Lent so that they may shadow president (‘president in waiting’) during Easter; second handover meeting at the beginning of Michaelmas.
   3. CUMSSO: Same, though end of Lent for presidential hiring; handover meeting at start of Easter.
   4. CUMSCO: more difficult as recruitment drive needs to start earlier. End of Lent hiring; handover meeting at start of Easter.

*CL left the meeting.*

* 1. CULC: Process needs to start much earlier as filling slots requires a whole term.
  2. RR mentioned that there is a difficulty in appointing the next year’s committees because of students shifting ensembles. JW suggested this requires negotiation between ensembles; a place in an ensemble may be given based on presidential position.
  3. President and Vice President: close applications week 3, interviews week 4/5 of Lent Term. BG and GM to sit in on panel and inform. **Action: CD and HD to reorganise DropBox. BG will talk to Ian Howard about CUWO structure. JW to talk to SBB in early January to discuss CULC handover. BG and JW to clarify who should sit on appointing panel for CUMS President and Vice President.**

*ME left the meeting.*

1. **Clarify Party Policy** (JW/CD): A term’s notice should be given if ensembles wish to deviate from the norm. Corkage is £4 per bottle, and WRCH is £12 an hour plus cost of venue. JW asserted that ensembles do not save money with WRCH. **Action: GM to email JW and NS about Lent Term.**
2. **Guideline for reclaiming expenses** (JW): ensemble presidents or treasurers should send NS an invoice and he will reimburse. Liability should not be an issue so long as payments are reasonable.
3. **Payment of all outstanding subscriptions**. **Action: ensembles to write cheques and leave for NS. CD to sort out Sophie Bevan correspondence.**
4. **AOB:** Nothing to report.

The meeting ended at 1400.