**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY**

**A Management Committee meeting** was held at 1300 on 15th October 2014 in the Music Faculty Boardroom.

**Present:** Ben Glassberg (BG); Giverny McAndry (GM); Martin Ennis (ME); Chris Lawrence (CL); Quintin Beer (QB); Rosalind Ridout (RR); Helen Daniels (HD); Chloe Davidson (CD); Ian Howard (IH); Jo Whitehead (JW); Justin Lee (JL); Joel Sandelson (JS); Saskia Bunschoten-Binet (SB); Patrick Flynn (PF); Hilary Samuels (HS).

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

**1. Apologies** were received from Nick Shaw, Martin Richardson and Benedict Kearns.

**2. Minutes** of 22nd April 2014 were approved.

**3. Matters Arising** N/A

**4. Introduction of new Executive Director:** BG welcomed JL to the CUMS Management Committee. JL briefly described his role as a long-term planner managing fundraising and the ‘reputational’ side of CUMS from actively developing good relations with all relevant outside authorities to overseeing relationships with major external artists.

**5. General Introductions** were given around the table, including a vision or goal from each committee member for the forthcoming year.

**6. Auditions:**

* + - CD reported that the process went well, but that the usual problems still presented themselves (such as low brass numbers, and so forth). HD mentioned that promotional material was provided for every college but there was still a lack of uptake; this may be because those new to CUMS did not have any binding commitment. It was also emphasised that we should not have to pay for people to distribute material for colleges. CL raised the issue of members not re-auditioning, which was discussed.
    - Did audition process work better than what was mentioned by Lucy Morris last year? General consensus is yes. It was mentioned last year that assistant conductors should have the opportunity to attend auditions but then did not; there is a difficulty in deciding which set of auditions is most relevant to turn up to.
    - ME reported that the quality of those auditioning for the Chamber Choir (CUCC) had been mixed, but that the choir was in a good position for the rest of the year, with an exciting programme in place. The choir continues to run on an invitation-based, project-driven agenda, and highlighted that people who are not known to directors should contact them to audition as sometimes word of mouth is not always effective.
    - CL mentioned that strength and depth of the brass section remains an issue, particularly for CUMSCO and CUMSWO.
    - JW suggested a possible collaboration with CUSO. Ensemble identity was raised in more general terms here: CUMS should not be seen as ‘serious’ as opposed to ‘fun’, rather than both. PF says they complement each other well, especially since they are now more distinct in terms of repertoire.
    - CL raised the issue of audition coordination for particular instruments between auditions, but the ensemble presidents said it was not a problem since audition times are selected by the students themselves. Online is better than audition forms for the information they supply.

**7. Membership Fees:** BG asked that presidents get all of the forms and payments in as soon as possible for Nick Shaw to pick up. Action: Ensemble Presidents

**8. Away Day Topic:** BG asked for theme suggestions for the event which will be held on 15th November, 1000-1300, Wolfson College OCR. JW mentioned that discussion with individual ensembles about their plans was necessary but not at the Away Day. CL proposed discussing the 3-5 year vision for CUMS, as well as long term artistic planning. SB highlighted the importance of less well-recognised parts of CUMS, such as the CULC, which could go a long way in establishing CUMS musicians and the society’s image in more general terms. Action: BG and GM.

**9. Programming:** CD clarified the lead times: Michaelmas - ideas meeting which gives 2-3 months for presidents and managers to start fixing professionals and promotion; Lent - CUMS Competitions are held and another meeting set up to discuss repertoire specifics; Easter - final meeting to discuss budget and finalities in detail. JW suggested that budgeting should be discussed at the beginning of the year so that committees may plan with it in mind. BG asked that ensemble committees think about professional side of things immediately so that programmes can be confirmed by the end of Lent (budget notwithstanding).

ME raised the idea - come from conversation with Ross Duffen from Harvard - about the idea of collaborating with external bodies to create a weekend event (or similar) incorporating hundreds of short performances all over Cambridge. RR mentioned that external collaboration was already in the pipeline with the Science Festival, but that this could also be extended to the Festival of Ideas and other organisations or events. JW said that he would be meeting with the director of the National Orchestra for All, and that ideas would be welcome for the discussion.

10**. CUMS Management:** New committee and structure being well-received by all thus far - it is more of a constructive body than a platform for ‘reporting back’ without follow-up.

*ME left the meeting.*

CL mentioned that last year there was a social event to help explain procedure and roles of those in CUMS to new members. JW suggested that a similar event be held in the near future. Action: BG and GM. CL also said that the role of ensemble advisor still existed for the ensembles but this is not as clear-cut as is preferable. GM raised that there is room for discussion of the new structure of CUMS at the Away Day, but that this was not a priority for the event.

**11. A.O.B:**

* + - **New website** was well-received. IH mentioned that html links did not always match the new email addresses. The Twitter feed was deemed a useful addition. JS highlighted that the announcement of the new season around A-level results was good timing. PF would like to amend the description of CUMSCO. Action: PF. RR gave her appreciation for the rehearsal schedule transparency. JW mentioned that the list of trustees must be kept updated. Action: CD and HD. CL suggested that a Freshers’ tab could be included temporarily around October-time so that information about how to join CUMS is readily available and students come to Cambridge excited and prepared.
    - **College recruitment representatives:** HD said that people from all colleges were already asked to undertake responsibilities (although under no official title), and that this was a difficult job to monitor and maintain. JW suggested that free tickets to events could be made available as payment.
    - HD had it clarified that the **IAS auditions** happened post-offer but pre-exams for incoming freshers.
    - IH asked about the status of the **Music Library.** CL and JW said that there was no contingency plan for Maggie’s garage… yet.

*The meeting closed at 1400*