**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY**

**A Committee Meeting** was held on 21 January 2015 at 1300 in the Faculty of Music Boardroom

**Present**: Ben Glassberg (BG), Giverny McAndry (GM), Justin Lee (JL), Chloe Davidson (CD), Joel Sandelson (JS), Helen Daniels (HD), Hilary Samuels (HS), Quintin Beer (QB), 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 Martin Ennis, Patrick Flynn and Jo Whitehead.
2. **Approval of the previous Management Committee Meeting minutes** were approved.
3. **Matters arising**
   1. BG to talk to IH and committee handover.
   2. QB to talk to BG about tuition.
4. **Appointment of new Student President** (BG/GM)
   1. Advertisement: HH suggested inclusion specific events (e.g. lunches, meetings, rehearsals); CD suggested that ‘further information’ should be available at the website. It is difficult to quantify how many hours per week the job entails.
   2. Applications needs to be talked about in person. Interview panel will consist of RR (Chair), Patrick Flynn and CL. Applications will be assessed by this panel, supplemented by JS (conductor representative), GM and BG.
   3. Deadline for applications is 0900 Monday 9th February.
5. **Financial Report; Comparisons with Michaelmas concerts** (NS)
   1. JR and CS said that CUMS Chorus did have some costs from Michaelmas. **Action: NS to send CS breakdown.**
   2. Budget to actual comparison is now available on DropBox for all ensemble presidents to analyse; CD has offered to help if necessary. **Action: NS to put up blank budget form on DropBox.**
   3. Subscriptions are slightly down, but nothing particularly notable.
   4. NS is going away on the 03.02.15 for three weeks, returning on the 24.02.15.

*CS left the meeting.*

1. **Update and feedback on CUMS Induction Pack** (BG)
   1. Key issues: pages should be numbered; some content should instead be appendices, with the main body focussing on instructions for students.
   2. Content: additions should include how to get access to DropBox and mailing lists; a job description of the advisors to be added so that they may be used fortuitously.
   3. HS to be replaced by PF on Programming Committee.
   4. The ensemble should think carefully about what roles they actually have in their committee and to ask whether there are, in fact, too many roles for efficiency.
   5. The present draft is not made with future in mind, but an emphasis on current personnel is important - it will also serve as a ‘template’ to be updated every year.
   6. **Action: IH to send CD specific expenses phrase worked on with JW.**
   7. CD to take on the role of editor; all comments are now to be sent to her.
2. **CUMS Competitions** (CD)
   1. Concerto Competition: 19 applied, final on 13.02.15. First round judges panel includes: Matthew Schellhorn, Anna Noakes, ??. Final judges panel will be supplemented by John Rink and ??. CUMS Chorus has asked that the winning pianist of the competition should perform in their November 2015 concert (King’s Chapel). This will made a prize.
   2. Conducting competition: takes place 03.02.15 in a single day in the same setup as previous years. The judging panel includes Sian Edwards and John Willans. There are no interviews, but informal chats; the orchestra will be involved in marking candidates. LM raised the issue of candidates being advantaged or otherwise depending on their running order and the orchestra’s familiarity with the extracts. It was deemed not to be a significant issue to warrant precautions on the premise that everyone involved is aware that it is a somewhat artificial situation. Orchestral players should be encouraged to mark the candidates at the end of the sessions.
   3. Composition Competition: Richard Causton and Robin Holloway to judge; CD will open in due course. A prize not set; ensemble presidents were asked to consider if they would like a new piece to be commissioned. Pieces entered for competition do not necessarily have to be the same pieces performed.
   4. As soon as the competitions are over, programming needs to be done ASAP - for the end of Lent Term so that budgets can be done over the Easter vacation.
3. **Update on Performers’ Social** (GM)
   1. Black tie dinner at the beginning of Easter Term. Add-ons can mount, and it is worth asking other societies what they do (such as the ADC, CUMTS, etc). **Action: GM to investigate costs at different colleges and approximate numbers from ensembles.**
4. **AOB**
   1. Saturday’s Concert Debrief
      1. Repertoire: CUCO players said they were not sufficiently challenged by the repertoire, though CUMSSO enjoyed the Brahms Dvorak combination. Suggestions for future years included requiems and operas. A few said that the concert was too long without any real break.
      2. Conductor: Howard Shelley split views - general consensus seemed to be that he was very friendly but not especially clear; others said his rehearsal technique was circular with too much explanation to get across his musical points, lacking inspiration. It was also noted that he was not very personable (despite efforts of orchestral managers in giving him name lists, etc).
      3. On the whole everyone was pleased with the concert on the night.
      4. CUCO are not officially tied to him again, but he is a good pianist. The issue of the King’s Place concert will be discussed after the Management Committee Meeting.
      5. Management of whole-week project went smoothly. Some felt there were too many rehearsals - though this balance has been struck before. It has previously been the case that conducting scholar takes a rehearsal before the vacation but this is not popular with players - this year it did not happen and so there was an ‘extra’ rehearsal. Leading conductor should not come into a sight-reading orchestra. Less is more with minutes too (CL) Thursday rehearsals are not a perfect arrangement, but necessary. CUMS Chorus students enjoyed the Michaelmas rehearsal.
      6. Audience perspective (QB): chorus made an impressive sound and it seemed everyone was pulling their weight; there appeared to be a good relationship and understanding of the piece between choir and orchestra.
      7. Choir: Tim Brown has proposed that there be a core choir (possibly CUCC) and a few of the best singers from other college choirs should join. However, this model does not give the same type of sound. This model and the one used for this event should be considered for each project.

*RR left the meeting.*

* + 1. Fundraising (JL): in attendance were 6 heads of house and a bursar which is fairly unusual for this type of event. Artistic Olympics leader was also there. 472 seats were registered, sold 392 with 4 complimentary seats reported. Starting in row H and room for the orchestra sat in the seats explains the difference. The concert exceeded budget by £600, but in the wider context of CUMS this is not too bad. It was proposed that these concerts were worth £38 not £35 - this raise another c.£1000.
    2. Thanks given to all those who contributed to the concert on Saturday.
  1. **Action: CD to assist SBB to appoint new CULC President.**
  2. IH introduced Matthew Kemp as his successor as CUWO president.

The meeting ended at 1400.