**Cambridge University Musical Society**

**Management Meeting, Music Faculty Meeting Room**

**Wednesday 29th November 2017, 13:00-13:45**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Edward Reeve (Chairman, ER), Sam Barrett (SB), Isaac Barkway (IB), Ellen Berry (EB), Adam Philips (AP), Chris Lawrence (CL), Lawrence Wragg (LW), Paul Fray (PF), Chloe Davidson (CD), Katharine Ambrose (KA)

**Apologies:** Toby Hession, Nick Shaw, Laura Alexander

1. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**
   1. All approved
2. **Review of recent concerts: CUS**
   1. ER spoke positively about the concert, pointing out that the concert essentially sold out, but raising concerns over fixing, particularly for violas
   2. Consensus that the standard was better than expected, closer to CUMSSO than CUMSCO standard
   3. Issues fixing violas are the result of many good third and fourth years being unwilling to play in CUMS this year. The Mark Elder concert also contributed to this.
   4. Assigning concerts and fixing should be better organised from the start of the year. **Action: IB, AP, KA, Alice Greenwood to consider how this can be improved for next year closer to the time.**
3. **Review of recent concerts: CUWO**
   1. EB was happy with how the concert ran
   2. CL believes this is the best we’ve heard CUWO
   3. Consensus that the standard of CUWO was increased by dropping a third orchestra
4. **Review of recent concerts: Chamber Choir**
   1. The standard was good, though not the largest audience we’ve seen
   2. SB mentioned that he had heard some queries about whether all the singers had been fairly auditioned. KA and ER clarified that the reboot of the Chamber Choir this year meant that all membership of the Chamber Choir was the result of complete re-auditions this year, and that the separate Purcell auditions had only been of people from this pool. ER admitted that a discussion should perhaps be had about what the policy is about non-students, e.g. lay-vicars of college choirs, graduate students. ER concluded that priority should be given to students where possible, e.g. that a non-student soprano should not be given priority if there are Cambridge student sopranos who could do it and there are limited spaces, but that if there is no appropriate student at the auditions, the appointment of graduate or lay-vicar is acceptable if it allows the project to go ahead which otherwise could not. CL suggested that where possible, a college link can be put in the programme, i.e. Name, T for a Trinity lay-vicar or a Trinity graduate.
5. **Review of recent concerts: New Music**
   1. Concert went well, though with a small audience of ~60. The programme was very ambitious for the rehearsal time but everyone worked hard enough to pull it off.
   2. CD commented that it was good to have all student performers (except conductor and soprano)
   3. May be worth including an option to show interest in playing in New Music concerts in the audition process
6. **Review of recent concerts: CUSC** 
   1. The concert at Saffron Hall went well, with very positive audience comments. Audience slightly down in line with other recent Saffron Hall events; this is thought to be a “blip” rather than a long-term concern.
   2. PF raised a date clash from the previous programming committee meeting (16th November 2017) and said CUSC will not change their date. CD pointed out that dates for West Road concerts are set several years in advance and cannot be changed. CL believes a clash should not be allowed as it looks unprofessional and hurts the audience for both concerts. It was pointed out that West Road concert dates are made known to the programming committee both electronically and on paper at meetings once they are set.
   3. PF requested that the correct name of the ensemble, Cambridge University Symphony Chorus, be reflected on all documents where it is mentioned.
7. **Forthcoming Mark Elder concert**
   1. CD spoke positively about the upcoming concert; no issues were raised.
8. **Launch of competitions**
   1. ER: competitions have been launched
   2. IB queried which players should play for the final round of the conducting competition. It was agreed that those playing in Naomi Woo’s concert will play for the conducting competition.
9. **Away day in February**
   1. The away day will be on the 3rd of February. An email will be sent out asking for ideas for topics to be discussed.
   2. CL suggested the topic of performing outside Cambridge
10. **Update on CUMS social event** 
    1. KA: most people would prefer a formal to a ceilidh. **Action: Laura Alexander to arrange a CUMS formal for February**
11. **Any other business**
    1. KA delivered a message from Alice Greenwood about needing more coordination in orchestra committees. IB commented that most people are not willing to take committee positions even when specifically asked.
    2. The date of the next meeting will be sent out in due course