



HAMPTON SCHOOL MUSIC SOCIETY

Chair's Report for the Academic Year 2016/17

Hampton School Music Society is a registered charity, number 298391 and is governed by Constitution last revised 4/11/2014. This last revision reflected both the current development of the School and the Committee's aspiration to embed a broad recipient base across the pupil body, enabling both depth and breadth of experience. Our stated aims are:-

To advance the education of the pupils of Hampton School, in the sphere of music, in agreement with the School through the Headmaster, by providing facilities and subsidising opportunities and equipment which extend the musical experience available to the boys, promoting concerts and such other means as the Committee may think necessary.

The charity is administered by an Executive Committee, whose members are the Trustees of the charity. Officers and other Executive Committee members are elected or re-elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Society which is held in November. The Executive Committee is made up seven Officers of the Society comprising two Ex Officio members, being the Headmaster and the Director of Music, and five Elected Officers being parents; together with up to seven other parents who are elected as Ordinary Members.

During the Academic Year 2016/17 the Committee was joined by Bernadette Banks, Caroline Muller, Janet Ward, Anne Williams, Samangi Wijesena, at year end Matthew Witt retired as his son came to the end of their time at Hampton. The Executive Committee at year end is detailed as follows.

Honorary President	The Headmaster
Director of Music	Iain Donald
Chair	Catherine Hamilton
Vice-Chair	Judith Dibb Fuller,
Treasurer	Anna Morrison
Membership Secretary	Monica Rusca – handing over to Judith
Honorary Secretary	Anne Williams
Ordinary Members	Annabel Askham, Bernadette Banks, Celia Hottinger, Caroline Jones, Caroline Muller, Susannah Nettleton, Indy Wallace, Janet Ward, Samangi Wijesena

We also have several members regularly involved with committee mailing who have not yet formally joined.

Activities

The Committee meets twice a term with the Director of Music, to arrange how best to support the Music Department and to discuss initiatives for raising and spending funds. Members of the Committee are present at all musical events during the year, and encourage all members of the society to assist in selling refreshments, writing reviews, setting up venues, taking photographs for the newsletter and generally helping out as required.

Funds are raised primarily through subscription either through standard membership for families of current Hampton students, or alumni membership for those families whose boys have now left but who wish to remain involved with the musical life of the School. The subscription fees remained unchanged for the year at £30 for standard membership and £20 for alumni membership. Our membership remains stable at around 240 current Hampton families and 35 alumni – final figures will be presented at the AGM.

The year was incredibly busy. The two Christmas concerts as always sold out - worth remembering that priority booking is an HSMS privilege - and through bar, ticketing and raffles raised excellent funds for the Music Department. As well as the famous mince pies and mulled wine included in the ticket price, the Music Society volunteers also serve refreshments to the entire First Year after their Christmas choir performance.

This year Hampton School hosted both the joint Hampton / LEH musical “West Side Story” and the Choral Society Concert performing JS Bach’s “St John’s Passion”. To give an idea of our support, in addition to the newsletter and committee work, the Musical required us to cover sixteen volunteer slots over its four nights, and at the two Christmas concerts fifteen.

The concerts for the Konstanz Orchestra Exchange were at the Normansfield Theatre and at Southwark Cathedral, but a host of other musical events were held at school or locally including the ever popular rock concerts, Jazz in the Park, and a masterclass and concert, supported with Music Society funds, with the Alan Barnes Jazz Quartet. Ever inspiring, the New Boys’ concert demonstrated the host of new talent joining the school and gave us a chance to meet new parents, and St Cecilia’s Dinner and Jazz Café were again charming and popular showcase events. We also organise the Upper Sixth Leavers drinks with the Headmaster, held in the Quad at the summer concert.

My thanks to all the event volunteers who made it happen.

Our bar and ticket prices remain very competitive, and performers continue to receive discounted soft drinks, as we balance our joint objectives of promoting attendance with fundraising. Net funds raised totalled £12,998, in line with prior years. Detail of the individual events hosted and the funds raised are within the Treasurer's report available at the AGM. All funds raised are for the benefit of Hampton School.

Donations for the year 2016-17 totalled £15,193 and reinforce our aim of embedding a broad programme of ongoing support to the School alongside ad hoc requests. A second cycle of the "Rare Beasts" tuition scheme was supported, together with a repeat subsidy for a mass outing of First Years to experience a classical concert at the Royal Albert Hall, and the extension of this "voyage of discovery" with a Second Year outing to a West End Musical. Support for off-site performance (Voices of Lions, Orchestra, smaller ensembles) continued, together with ongoing purchases of instruments for the School.

A schedule of donations is maintained on our web pages and will be updated for presentation at the AGM. Committee are delighted to be able to provide this support to broaden the musical opportunities available to all Hampton boys and to encourage them at all stages of musical experience.

Aside from hosting at musical events the Society continues to produce a termly newsletter (current print run 400) for all members, to advertise and promote events to members by email.

The Society has also funds the prizes associated with our donated Music Society cups – Lower and Upper School - for Service to Music. These prizes are intended to recognise commitment to the department – perhaps a boy who may have put a lot of extra hard work with the Music Department, or who has regularly given time to help out , as an accompanist, assisting with a junior choir on a regular basis, or helping above and beyond his usual duties. Recipients during the year were Jack Lucas for the Junior cup and for the Senior cup Srinand Sundaram.

Committee

Our activities remain dependent on the good auspices of those parents both who volunteer at events, and who step forward to take an active part in the running of the society through Committee roles. We recognise that families lead busy lives, but are encouraged that our recruitment remains strong, and I would urge parents of boys who have recently joined the School and who have started to see what the Music Society aspires to develop to come forward to investigate the roles which maintain the Charity.

Our thanks go to retiring member Matthew Witt who served as Treasurer for many years before handing over this summer to Anna Morrison. Matthew was also a stalwart behind the bar and we wish him well.

New member Anne Williams has stepped in as Honorary Secretary, assisted by Judith Dibb Fuller, Vice Chair on certain of the Honorary Secretary tasks relating to the correct management of information with the Charity Commission. Judith has passed responsibility for the webpages to another new recruit Samangi Wijesena, and taken over responsibility for the administration of membership from Monica Rusca.

Caroline Jones is succeeded on newsletter by new committee member Caroline Muller, and Committee is working to keep up the network of reviewers, proof readers and photographers needed to support the newsletter – new volunteers always welcome. We have also been joined during the year by Janet Wood who delivered our welcoming speeches to both New Boys’ events, and by Bernadette Banks who has taken over control of bar training and licensing for events.

Anna Morrison now has sole reins as Treasurer, and together with Judith Dibb Fuller and Monica Rusca has continued to work on streamlining the administration of our membership and finances. Our database update is well advanced, however we are still finding difficulty at times in reconciling new member information from the revised sign up procedures. We ask our members for their patience whilst this is resolved. We are also improving our emailing capability with dedicated “hsms” accounts and look forward to updating members about this in due course. Detailed reports from Anna and Judith will be available at the AGM.

Annabel Askham and Indy Wallace have continued their support on the events management and raffles respectively, whilst handing down their experience to the newer recruits. Annabel has been key in liaising with the Hammond and Catering teams to change how we cater our events and ease the workload behind running the regular bars at events – school now stocking the bar for us and school staff managing student event helpers .

Other committee members have continued in situ, and I thank them for the support, opinion and the useful debate they bring to proceedings. My thanks also to the School staff –Bursary, Catering, Hammond team, Keepers, Admissions, IT and others for their ongoing assistance.

All Members of the Music Society are welcome to come and see what goes on at all our meetings. By being involved with the Society you will get to know other music parents, and know that you are helping Hampton School provide stretching and exciting opportunities for every boy here whatever his field of music or level of talent – so please drop a note into the Garrick building, go to our webpage or contact any member of the committee for a chat. With thanks to all our volunteers throughout the year, and of course to the Music Department staff.