



HAMPTON SCHOOL MUSIC SOCIETY

Chair's Report for the Academic Year 2014/15

The Hampton School Music Society is a registered charity, number 298391 and is governed by Constitution last revised 4/11/2014. The revision to the Constitution agreed at the EGM held in November 2014 realigned the main aims of the charity removing the phrase “by providing facilities that the School cannot otherwise afford” and leaving our revised aims, stated below, reflecting both the current development of the School and the Committee’s aspiration to create a broad recipient base across the pupil body, enabling both depth and breadth of experience. The words in italics represent the amendment to the aims which previously stated

The charity’s aim is 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 2014/15 the Committee saw several members retire as their sons 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	vacant (previously Christine Beckwith and Judy Baker)
Treasurer	Matthew Witt
Membership Secretary	Monica Rusca
Honorary Secretary	Anna Buxton (succeeding Elspeth Campbell)

Ordinary Members Annabel Askham, David Bellingham, Judith Dibb Fuller,
Caroline Jones, Susannah Nettleton and Indy Wallace.

Members who resigned during the year were Elspeth Campbell, Judy Baker, Christine Beckwith and Julie Papworth – we thank them for their help on the Committee and look forward to seeing them at future events.

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. At the year-end membership stood at 230 members plus 40 alumni. Of this number there were 42 Upper Sixth leavers.

The Music Society volunteers supported over 20 evenings of entertainment providing numerous opportunities for Music Society members to meet one another at events across the year, raising notable funds through the sale of raffle tickets and refreshments. Prices remain very competitive as we balance our joint objectives of promoting attendance with fundraising. Aside from the ever popular St Cecilia's Dinner and the Spring Jazz Café, this year saw the major Hampton / LEH production of Jekyll and Hyde for four evenings in October, with the younger boys Buggy Malone hard on its heels in the Spring. The increase in modern music saw the initiation by the School of a second rock concert to allow more of the boys to take to the stage, and keyboard, strings, chamber and brass events all went from strength to strength. Jekyll and Hyde required us to fill 26 volunteering slots over its run, a major effort, so the Committee again want to thank all who helped.

The two Christmas concerts were as ever a great success. Members are offered early notification of these sell-out events, and the Music Society also will on occasion run a separate members only bar or offer complimentary refreshments. The Music Society also serves refreshments to the whole First Year after their Christmas choir performance, and organises the Upper Sixth Leavers drinks with the Headmaster, held in the Quad at the summer concert.

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.

Aside from hosting at musical events the Society continues to produce a termly newsletter for all members, to advertise and promote events to members by email. The Society has also donated two Music Society cups – Lower and Upper School - for Service to Music. These 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, perhaps 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 Max Elliott 2H and for the senior cup Dylan Grey.

In line with our mission of broadening the musical opportunities and experiences available to Hampton boys, the Committee continues to review the application of the funds that we raise. With the 450 Hall now fully equipped, launched and rebranded as the Hammond Theatre, Treasurer Matthew Witt took Committee through a detailed and useful review process to identify and investigate future applications of our funds.

We have been able to focus on providing support for the hire of venues for off site ensembles, equipment for drums and amps and a number of new instruments. Donations of £5,922 were made to Hampton School during the year, with further projects in course. Following the review, agreement in principle for the coming year has been given to a long held plan of our Music Director's, the "Rare Beasts" programme subsidising trial lessons of less popular instruments which complement the composition of orchestra and ensembles. We have also agreed to subsidise a suitable trip for a large portion of the first year, possibly to the Royal Albert Hall, to offer additional musical experience widely and at an early stage in the School. Further masterclasses are also in planning for the coming year which we have also agreed to support.

In general, we look forward to assisting future opportunities to extend the extraordinary scope of what is already on offer here at Hampton and supporting the Music Department in their goal of providing a full range of opportunities at all levels. We are also hoping now to turn our attentions to a few more social opportunities for Members.

Committee

Our thanks go to retiring members Christine Beckwith, Judy Baker, Elspeth Campbell and Julie Papworth. All four have sons who left us this summer although I have a feeling we have not heard the last of them. Christine and Judy have held various positions culminating in offering their experience to support me as Vice Chairs over a period of some transition in the Society. The role of Vice Chair is at present unfilled. Elspeth Campbell steps down from the role of Honorary Secretary, meticulously

performed for many years, and is succeeded by Anna Buxton who has agreed to hold the post for a year whilst her son completed his Upper Sixth. I am very grateful to Anna, however this is obviously a key recruitment goal for us as Anna is an Upper Sixth parent.

Caroline Jones now has her feet well under the desk with our newsletter, and Judith Dibb Fuller will be helping both oversee our webpages and look at how we better manage our volunteer base – many hands make light work. We have also been joined during the year by Susannah Nettleton who brings much musical experience to the Committee.

Matthew Witt as Treasurer and Monica Rusca as Membership Secretary continue to work on our membership and finances. The amended membership application process referred to last year has been successful in attracting members however the simplified process failed to capture as many gift aid mandates as in prior years requiring substantial addition "catch up" work. This will be reviewed at Committee to ensure the best result is achieved for the 2016 intake. Detailed reports from Matthew and Monica will be available at the AGM.

Annabel Askham and Indy Wallace and continue to form the Social Team. We rely entirely on the co-ordination skills of this team for organising bar stock, food, decoration and all the personal touches that make our events so special, but this team equally rely on the good auspices of all our members to turn up and pitch in when they can. Our thanks go especially to those parents who have turned up to help out at our biggest events, the Saint Cecilia's dinner and the Jazz Café.

Other committee members have continued in situ, and I thank them for the support, opinion and the useful debate they bring to proceedings.

As a number of parents are moving up the School it will be very important to bring in "new blood" during this coming year. We currently have 2 seats vacant at Committee, including the position of Vice Chair, and as mentioned Anna Buxton our current Honorary Secretary will leave us in Summer.

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 world class 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 to the Music Department staff.

Catherine Hamilton

Chair, October 2015