



HAMPTON SCHOOL MUSIC SOCIETY

Chair's Report for the Academic Year 2015/16

The 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 2015/16 the Committee was joined by Celia Hottinger and Anna Morrison, and at year end David Bellingham and Anna Buxton retired 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	Judith Dibb Fuller,
Treasurer	Matthew Witt (shadowed by Anna Morrison)
Membership Secretary	Monica Rusca
Honorary Secretary	Anna Buxton
Ordinary Members	Annabel Askham, David Bellingham, Celia Hottinger, Caroline Jones, Susannah Nettleton, Indy Wallace

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 234 members plus 33 alumni.

The year was quieter on the events front with The Lady Eleanor Holles School taking their turn to host both the joint autumn musical and the Choral Society concert, but Music Society volunteers still supported over a dozen events providing numerous opportunities for families to meet one another at events across the year, raising notable funds through the sale of raffle tickets and refreshments. Our bar and ticket prices remain very competitive as we balance our joint objectives of promoting attendance with fundraising. Ever inspiring, the New Boys concert showcased a host of new talent joining the school. The two Christmas concerts were a great success and through bar, ticketing and raffles raise excellent funds for the Music Department. Members are offered early notification of these sell-out events, and the Music Society were delighted to be able to reintroduce the serving of mulled wine with mince pies for ticket holders. The Music Society also serves refreshments to the entire 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.

Net funds raised totalled £12,810. 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.

Following our review of application of funds referred to in the previous Chair's report, donations of £11,737 this year were closely matched to the level of funds raised and covered a broad programme of ongoing support to the School. Key aspects included the first successful cycle of the Rare Beasts tuition support, subsidy for a mass outing of First Years to experience a classical concert at the Royal Albert Hall, a major subsidy for a brass workshop, support for ensemble performances offsite and ongoing purchase of instruments for the School including a notable £2,744 for timpani. A schedule of donations is maintained on our web pages.

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 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 , 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 Stephon Umashangar for the Junior cup and for the Senior cup David Mynors.

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. Recruitment is becoming more challenging, 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 members David Bellingham, who brought a wealth of expertise and good humour to committee, and Anna Buxton who volunteered her final school year to the role of Honorary Secretary. The role of Honorary Secretary remains unfilled and is an urgent issue for the Society.

Caroline Jones continues with our newsletter, and is supported by a dedicated network of reviewers and proof readers, - photographers and further volunteers always welcome - , and Judith Dibb Fuller in addition to overseeing our webpages has taken on certain of the Honorary Secretary tasks relating to the correct management of information with the Charity Commission. My thanks also to her in her role as Vice Chair, stepping in for me especially whilst I was recuperating from an operation at the end of summer term. We have also been joined during the year by Celia Hottinger who brings a strong musical background to committee, and by Anna Morrison who has shadowed our current treasurer with a view to taking on the role in the next year.

Matthew Witt as Treasurer – and Monica Rusca as Membership Secretary have continued to work on our membership and finances. This year our membership form was available as part of the online New Parent Portal made available by the School to replace the heavy paper joiners pack previously sent out by post. We hope this will

make it easier for new parents to find us and join us, and we will review the success of this process in the coming year.

There remain some glitches in the collection of gift aid mandates and given the importance of this revenue stream further action will be taken in the coming year to maximise take up and ensure procedable documentation is held.

Detailed reports from Matthew and Monica will be available at the AGM.

Annabel Askham and Indy Wallace formed the Social Team during the year, overseeing event planning, organising bar stock, food, decoration and all the personal touches that make our events so special. Indy also masterminded our event raffles which have brought in healthy extra funds. Annabel and Indy remain on the committee but are reducing their role in event management. We have this year been able more often to resort to the expertise of the Hampton catering staff – for the production of mulled wine at Christmas and for event meals, and Committee is evaluating how we can use the Hampton Hammond team to ease the workload behind running the regular bars at events.

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

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.

Catherine Hamilton

Chair, October 2016