

CHELTENHAM MUSIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 29TH JULY AT 7pm

The Annual General Meeting of Cheltenham Music Society will be held on Monday 29th July at 7pm via Zoom. The Zoom link is contained in the covering email.

AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Record of the virtual 2023 AGM (attached)
3. Chairman's report (attached)
4. Adoption of the Annual Accounts
5. General discussion and plans for future seasons
6. Election of Officers:
David Pepper, Lynne Elouard and Mike O'Connell are willing to stand again as Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary respectively.
The post of Programme Secretary will remain vacant and we will continue to contract with Tamsyn Hamilton to fill the role.
7. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Comments or apologies for absence should be sent to me as below.

David Pepper
Chairman
07545 940114
davidpepper37@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2023-24

What proved eventually to be a very successful season got off to a very shaky start. Just before the first concert we learnt that because of damaged plasterwork in the Pump Room part of the space had to be closed off so that we lost some seats. Shortly after that concert we were told that the Pump Room would be closed at least until Christmas; we had only three weeks to find a new venue for the November concert. Not long after that the closure was extended until probably Easter. We were extremely fortunate that it proved possible to move all six concerts to Cheltenham Ladies College – five in the Parabola Arts Centre and one in the Princess Hall. We are very grateful indeed to the staff at CLC for their flexibility and unfailing help in using their facilities and managing the concerts. Using the new venue required a lot more effort from Committee members in managing the concerts; I am grateful to them all for their hard work. Particular thanks go also to Tamsyn Hamilton for responding so quickly and energetically to the emergency and for helping us through the changes.

The PAC proved to be a very satisfactory replacement for the Pump Room; the acoustics were felt by some to be a little dry for chamber music, but overall it worked well. We also had the benefit of their lovely Fazioli piano, which was described by one performer as the best instrument in Cheltenham. As a result we enjoyed some wonderful music-making. The Leonkoro, Belcea and Verona string quartets all live up to their reputations, as did the Mithras Trio. Recitals by the remarkable Jeneba Kanneh-Mason and by Michael Gurevich and Ashok Gupta showed off the Fazioli beautifully. There was a disappointingly small audience for Perpetuo, which was a pity because their imaginative selection of music for oboe and string trio was very enjoyable.

Turning to the financial picture, in operational terms the season showed a deficit of nearly £6000. This was actually a little less than we had expected for several reasons; membership rose slightly to 130 after many years of steady decrease, single ticket sales were higher than expected, artists' fees and expenses came out about £1000 under budget, and we saved on piano hire because the PAC hire charge, which is very close to what the Pump Room would have cost, included use of the piano. That deficit was offset by an unexpected anonymous donation of £6000 for which we are very grateful. But it remains clear that our operating model is no longer viable, a conclusion reinforced by another jump in the hire charge for the Pump Room which from next season will cost us almost £1500 per concert, compared with just £600 a couple of years ago. Consequently we remain on the same course as I have previously described. In order to combine fiscal prudence with the intention to go out in style, 2025-26 will be our final season.

The Committee's thoughts are starting to turn to what happens to our remaining funds after that season. One possibility might be to use them as backing for a continued but less ambitious programme, though that would depend upon the availability of volunteers to run it. I will be writing to all our members about this later in the summer.

I have commented above on the way Committee members responded to our venue change. More generally, thanks are due to them all for their hard work in running the Society for the benefit of us all. Thanks also to Tamsyn Hamilton who continues in the role of professional Programme Secretary, setting up the programme and liaising with artists and agents, and also supporting the venues' event managers at the concerts. In addition to the Committee, thanks are also due to Jo Miller who has continued to provide our artists with refreshments, and to Louise Cawte for her help with preparing programme notes.

As you all know, our 2024-25 programme was announced in April and both membership and individual tickets have been on sale since then. It will be the first of our final two bumper seasons, full of delights, and I look forward to seeing you all in October.

David Pepper

Minutes of Cheltenham Music Society AGM held on 9 August 2023 via Zoom

Attendance

Sir David Pepper (Chairman), John Beard, Lynne Elouard, Mike O'Connell, Penny Steer, Lindsay Tyndall, John Wright, and two members of the Society.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Susan Cooper, David and Frances Ellery, Andrew and Daphne Ellis, Maureen Ralph, and Patricia Smith.

Record of previous virtual AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM on 18 July 2022 were taken as read.

David Pepper and Penny Steer had discussed with Cheltenham Festivals ideas for collaboration; the conclusion was that what would be practicable is mutual publicity.

Chairman's report

The Chairman presented his report, which had been distributed to members attached to the AGM agenda.

Our membership numbers have continued to decline but only slowly: 125 in 2021/22, 122 in 2022/23, and 118 (so far) for 2023/24.

The operating deficit for last season had been largely mitigated by a one-off legacy.

Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Annual Accounts

The Chairman presented the accounts, which had been finalised earlier today. The delay had been in resolving transactions that involved the Cheltenham Trust, and this had been complicated by staff turnover at the Trust.

Adoption of the accounts, subject to their approval by the independent examiner, was agreed *nem con*. The accounts will be distributed after approval.

Questions and discussion

A question was asked about distribution of the CMS brochure. It was confirmed that it was available at the Music Festival, and at some other venues, but not at locations where distribution companies such as Glide have a monopoly on publicity material.

Election of Officers

The Officers – Chair (David Pepper), Treasurer (Lynne Elouard) and Membership Secretary (Mike O'Connell) – were willing to stand again, and their appointment was agreed *nem con*.

The post of Programme Secretary remains vacant and CMS will continue to contract with Tamsyn Hamilton to fill the role.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Paul Broekman had indicated his willingness to be appointed and this was agreed *nem con*.

John Beard
11 August 2023

Cheltenham Music Society

Statement of Financial Activities for the period 21 April 2023 to 30 April 2024

	note	2023-2024	2022-2023
Income			
Subscription tickets		14494	12916
Single Tickets		8572	4232
Donations		9603	2320
Legacy			6500
Interest		1856	1691
		34525	27659
Expenditure			
Artists' Fees and Expenses		19476	18456
Venue Hire		7158	3960
Commission	a	1058	635
Piano hire & tuning		286	588
Programmes		232	281
PRS levies		461	962
Publicity		390	362
Administration	b	4783	3439
		33844	28683
Net incoming		680	-1024
Increase/decrease in value of investments		352	-1861
Outstanding previous yr		0	1099
Balance, brought forward		55898	57683
Balance, carried forward		56931	55897

Balance sheet as at 24th April 2024

Assets			
Current account	c	41616	17826
COIF Deposit account		13261	12387
COIF Income units		11544	10616
M&G Charifund	d	0	19905
Debtors	e	1302	0
		67724	0
Less: creditors	e	-10793	0
Accumulated Fund		56931	

Notes to Accounts

- a Commission paid to Cheltenham Trust (CT) plus credit card charges
- b Administration includes PayPal charges
and payments to contractor for Programme Secretary duties
- c Balance end 30 April 2024
- d Difference between initial M&G balance and sum transferred on liquidation
- e £1302.20 net credit from CT for concerts 6 and 7
concert 7 fees £-3670;
advance payments of 24/25 subs -£6850
PRS via CLC -£273