**UCL Chamber Music Club Annual General Meeting 2018/19**

Thursday 6th June, 2019 at 5.30pm

Present: Dace Ruklisa (Chair), Liz Mooney (Treasurer), John Irving (Honorary President), Rupert Bawden (committee), Yvonne Cheng (committee), Tabitha Tuckett (committee), Sergey Chebankov, Balázs Dura-Kovács, Gillian Hogg, David Miller.

Apologies: Jason Chan (Secretary), Roger Beeson (committee), Annika Lindskog (committee), Helene Albrecht (committee), Clare Taylor, Bill Tuck, Jill House.

The following papers had been circulated:

1. the Agenda;
2. the Secretary’s Report;
3. the Provisional Statement of Accounts 2018/19;
4. a proposal of constitution changes;
5. the retiring Committee 2018/19;
6. the proposed Committee 2019/20.

The Secretary’s Report was presented first and the themes covered were widely discussed. Bill Tuck had reported before the meeting that the UCL Friends’ Trust can give up to £2000 for piano renewal. He had suggested approaching the UCL Development Office to seek funds for purchasing a new practice room piano. This issue would be suitable for raising at various UCL units, because the new piano will be a UCL-wide asset, available to the whole community subject to becoming a member of the Club. Ruth Siddall (UCL Student Mediator) would be the right person to contact for further information about applying for funds. Bill Tuck also mentioned an option of setting up a crowd-funding scheme before the meeting (communication was reported by Dace Ruklisa). Possibilities for implementing such a plan would have to be discussed by the incoming committee.

Yvonne Cheng and Tabitha Tuckett had completed a survey of potential practice room pianos. They had circulated a report of characteristics and costs of various pianos before the meeting. The Club should be able to purchase a suitable upright piano for £8000-£9000. In terms of the quality of sound a Bechstein piano would be preferable, but in terms of durability a Yamaha piano would be the best. Most Club members present favoured the Yamaha option. Several people remarked that Bechstein pianos have been successfully used for chamber music rehearsals, but not in circumstances where the instrument would face intense practice. Professor John Irving told about his earlier survey of the CMC practice room and about the experiences in purchasing practice pianos for other universities – he recommended a Yamaha piano for the current setting. The final decision about the purchase of a piano will be made at one of the regular committee meetings in the near future.

Liz Mooney relayed a correspondence with Helen Skundric, the manager of the ASCR (Housman Room). It turned out that the Club harpsichord cannot be housed in the Housman Room due to a shortage of space; also frequent moving of the OCMC piano poses dangers to the harpsichord. Club members present debated whether it might be worth housing the harpsichord in the practice room after a new piano is purchased.

Liz Mooney had recently sent a bid for 17 proposed concert dates for next season to Estates. There might be similar issues with room bookings as were observed in the last two academic years. Estates are trying to move bookings of the Haldane Room after 6pm, by which time all teaching is guaranteed to end. Negotiations about individual dates will be necessary. At the moment UCL teaching is pushed to the limits of space. Furthermore, rooms are now allocated automatically for teaching. Next year’s concert organisers will need to be flexible with respect to rehearsal times before concerts and occasionally also accept a later starting time.

A question of great interest was how to involve more student performers in our concerts and how to expand the relationship with the UCL Music Society. Tabitha Tuckett said that she sees scope for involving student performers in ensembles and mentioned several examples from the last season of students uniting with other Club members for performances. Others suggested having one or two student performers/performances at each concert rather than dedicate an entire concert to the UCL Music Society. Balázs Dura-Kovács, a committee member of the UCL Music Society, was asked how best to foster collaborations. He advised communicating with the President of his society and also considering possibilities of collaboration with other committee members on specific initiatives. A representative of the CMC could attend UCL Music Society meetings – this will have to be discussed by the incoming committee.

Current committee members shared their experiences of joint projects with various groups and societies within UCL. Among others, the Italian Group of UCL had been very welcoming of CMC members. The incoming committee might consider getting in touch with other culture-related groups; an outreach person could be appointed within the CMC committee.

Club members present agreed that the profile and publicity of the CMC could be raised. The Club had recently organised very interesting themed concerts and it seems a pity that these endeavours are not showcased more broadly. Sergey Chebankov proposed making short videos with fragments of performances. Dace Ruklisa said that a YouTube channel of the Club could be created. This task did not seem too difficult technologically, but details would have to be explored by the committee. Liz Mooney reminded the meeting about an earlier collaboration with the resident UCL filmmaker, which could be renewed.

Tabitha Tuckett suggested incorporating statistics about Club members within the CMC website. The Club’s strength is the interaction of students and other people associated with UCL – it would easily come out in numbers and figures. It was also mentioned that we have had several premieres of new pieces in recent years, which could be highlighted. Furthermore, concert organisers had often included works by female composers and the concert dedicated to women’s suffrage was entirely composed of works by women – relevant statistics could also be published on the website.

The following subscription rates were adopted for the 2019/20 season: £5 for students and £10 for other members (proposed by Rupert Bawden and seconded by Liz Mooney).

Liz Mooney presented a statement of Club’s accounts that covered eight months until 1st April 2019. There was a surplus for both accounts by the end of the period. Most expenses and income for this season have already been recorded apart from a few items such as the May newsletter and contributions towards piano tuning from the OCMC. Several committee members mentioned that some part of the Wigglesworth Fund could potentially be spent on purchasing the practice piano. Nevertheless, additional fundraising will be necessary. Present members voted on deferring the adoption of the account statement to the new committee once a statement covering the whole financial year is ready. Voting: Liz Mooney, Yvonne Cheng, Rupert Bawden, David Miller, Tabitha Tuckett, Balázs Dura-Kovács voting in favour; Sergey Chebankov abstaining; John Irving absent at the time of voting.

The vote on the proposed constitution changes was postponed after a brief discussion.

The meeting ended with the election of a new committee for the 2019/20 season.

***Officers and other Committee members***

**Proposal 1. Chair:**Roger Beeson

Proposer: ......Tabitha Tuckett...................Seconder............Rupert Bawden..........................

**Proposal 2. Treasurer:** Liz Mooney

Proposer: ..….Rupert Bawden.......….......Seconder......…..Tabitha Tuckett..........................

**Proposal 3. Secretary:** Dace Ruklisa

Proposer: ...….Liz Mooney..............….....Seconder......…..Rupert Bawden...................…..

**Proposal 4.**All members of the retiring Committee not shown as standing down or resigned shall continue to serve (i.e. Yvonne Cheng, Tabitha Tuckett)

Proposer:.....….Liz Mooney.....................Seconder.........…Gillian Hogg................….........

***Proposed for membership of the Committee***

**Proposal 5.** Helene Albrecht

Proposer...........Liz Mooney.....................Seconder............Yvonne Cheng............................

**Proposal 6.** Rupert Bawden

Proposer...........Liz Mooney......……...…Seconder.......….Yvonne Cheng.................…..….

**Proposal 7.** Jason Chan

Proposer.....…..Liz Mooney................….Seconder............Yvonne Cheng.....................…...

**Proposal 8.** Gillian Hogg

Proposer...........Liz Mooney.........…...….Seconder............Yvonne Cheng............................

***Proposed as independent scrutineer of accounts for 2019/20***

**Proposal 9.** Jack Foster – UCL Finance and Business Affairs

Proposer............Liz Mooney..............….Seconder............Rupert Bawden..........….............

***Ex officio (to note)***

Ben Harding – incoming President of UCL Music Society

**Dace Ruklisa, outgoing Chair, September 2019**