

Report on the Annual General Meeting of UCL Chamber Music Club 2021/22

Monday 13th June 2022, 5.30 pm, online

Participants: Roger Beeson (Chair), six committee members and six others.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Norman Starritt and Jenny Godfrey.

Roger Beeson welcomed all participants to the meeting and reminded everyone that only paid-up members can cast votes at the AGM.

2. Chairman's Report, 2021/22

The Chairman's report (previously circulated) was presented and discussed. Roger Beeson drew attention to a number of points. He noted that the maintenance and development of the CMC website was not mentioned in the report, and expressed thanks to Liz Mooney for overseeing matters related to the website. It was noted that the CMC mailing list had been smoothly administered by Jill House, an honorary life member of the Club.

Sergei Chebankov (Membership Secretary) had reported that the number of CMC members was close to 200 people. Of those, approximately three-quarters were students and one quarter were staff members and others. Thus the Club membership is very strong; it has swiftly recovered after lockdown periods. One of the incentives for joining the Club is the opportunity to use the CMC practice piano. It would be good to see a greater proportion of the current membership at the CMC concerts. That said, concert audiences had been quite numerous this season, including for lunchtime concerts. All three summer term concerts had been very well attended.

Roger Beeson pointed out that there are considerable demands on committee members' time on account of work and other commitments; in considering committee responsibilities next season he suggested focusing on concerts and providing facilities for music-making as these are the core activities of the Club.

Despite cancelling some events due to the Covid situation and illnesses, the Club has managed to arrange an almost full schedule of concerts this season.

An online booking system for the CMC practice room is currently being developed by Balázs Dura-Kovacs and Sergei Chebankov. It will be necessary to have a discussion with Scott Williams from the UCL Security Office to decide how this system is going to be operated in conjunction with giving out the keys of the practice room.

An anticipated issue for next season is booking of the Haldane Room for concerts and rehearsals. In 2021/22 concert bookings could only be made before each successive term rather than at the beginning of an academic year. It is not yet known whether the Haldane Room will again be allocated to the Students' Union in 2022/23.

The Club harpsichord is currently set up in Provost's Office. This is not ideal as CMC members do not have much access to the instrument and careful arrangements have to be made before each move of the harpsichord. There is however little prospect of change in the foreseeable future.

Roger Beeson expressed thanks to Scott Williams and his staff in the Foster Court Security Office. Bookings of the CMC practice room had been arranged smoothly and with appropriate intervals between slots to ensure ventilation of the room.

Roger Beeson thanked UCL porters for setting up the Haldane Room before concerts: it was done quickly and efficiently throughout this season.

3. Interim accounts 2021/22

Liz Mooney presented the interim statement of account. All transactions that took place before 30th April 2022 were included in it. Membership payments had been coming in and some income had been earned from hiring out of our Steinway piano. PRS expenses were paid recently. The total balance of the Club's accounts looked very healthy. The final statement of account covering the period until the end of July 2022 will have to be adopted later. The AGM participants voted to delegate the adoption of the final statement of account to the incoming committee in the autumn term in accordance with paragraph 7.4 of the Club's constitution. John Kelsey proposed this motion and Dace Ruklisa seconded it.

4. Election of officers

The AGM participants proceeded to elect a committee for the next season. The candidate for the post of Chair, Andrew Fisher, had agreed to being elected for one year. His tenure can be extended for two more years at the next AGM.

Chair: Andrew Fisher – initially for one year.

Proposer: Tabitha Tuckett; seconder: Dace Ruklisa. Declared elected.

Treasurer: Sergei Chebankov.

Proposer: Liz Mooney; seconder: John Kelsey. Declared elected.

Secretary: Diana Hughes.

Proposer: Tabitha Tuckett; seconder: Dace Ruklisa.

Declared elected.

Diana Hughes had told the committee before the AGM that she expected to be absent at various times next year. Roger Beeson mentioned that the incoming committee could appoint a Deputy Secretary, who could take over the Secretary's duties as necessary.

5. Election of other committee members

Proposed: All previously elected members of the retiring Committee not shown as resigned or standing down and not elected to an Officer position shall continue to serve (i.e. Yvonne Cheng, Gillian Hogg, Dace Ruklisa).

Proposer: Andrew Fisher; seconder: Sergei Chebankov.

Motion carried.

Proposed for membership of the Committee:

Liz Mooney.

Proposer: Andrew Fisher; seconder: Gillian Hogg. Declared elected.

Jin Xuan.

Proposer: Yvonne Cheng; seconder: Tabitha Tuckett.

Declared elected.

The AGM noted that Maria Khokhar, incoming President of the UCL Music Society, would be a member of the committee *ex officio*.

Thus a committee of nine people was elected – this is the smallest possible number of committee members according to the CMC constitution. It was noted that the committee can co-opt up to two additional members.

6. Election of Independent Scrutineer of Accounts for 2022/23

Proposed: Jenny Godfrey – UCL Finance.

Proposer: John Kelsey; seconder: Liz Mooney.

Declared elected.

7. Subscriptions 2022/23

The meeting accepted the outgoing committee's recommendation to retain the same subscription fees as those of 2021/22: £5 for students and £10 for other members. This motion was proposed by Tabitha Tuckett and seconded by Andrew Fisher.

8. Any other business

Roger Beeson expressed thanks to Tabitha Tuckett who was stepping down from the committee. She had done a lot of performing and concert organising and had recruited large-scale ensembles for a number of concerts. Tabitha's work had been instrumental in arranging a fundraising concert for a new CMC piano in February 2020. In recent years she had assembled lists of performance offers on a regular basis, which in turn had widened opportunities for participation in concerts, especially to new members of the Club.

Roger Beeson thanked Liz Mooney for being an excellent Treasurer for many years. Liz had brought an element of stability to the role and had managed the Club's finances with great efficiency. She had also helped in many other ways, e.g. by negotiating and securing bookings of the Haldane Room for the Club's concerts, and was a constant source of good advice.

Tabitha Tuckett thanked Roger Beeson for making clear and timely decisions as Chair in difficult situations, especially when the Club was faced with Covid-related issues. She also thanked Roger for introducing plenty of little-known repertoire to the CMC concerts and for supporting the women composers' project.

Tabitha Tuckett said that she will hand over the lists of performance offers to members of the incoming committee.

Roger Beeson and Andrew Fisher agreed to meet to talk about the handing over of the Chairmanship.

Liz Mooney expressed thanks to Roger Beeson for his work as Chair.

*Dace Ruklisa
Deputy Chair, UCL CMC*