

UCL Chamber Music Club Chair's Report, 2022-23

Membership

- The club has 180 subscribing members currently, of whom 59 are in the 'staff (or other)' category and 121 are students.

Concerts

- There were 15 concerts during the year (6 in Term 1, 6 in Term 2, 3 in Term 3).
- Attendance was variable, some of the concerts coinciding with strikes in London's transport systems or by UCL's campus unions.
- We were able to take up the vast majority of performance offers from members received during the year.
- The committee has retained its target is that all concerts should include at least one work by a female composer; however, we met that target in just six of the concerts this year.
- Themed concerts included one on Asian and Asian-inspired music, one on baroque music, one on music from the turn of the twentieth century and one loosely themed on royalty and coronations, plus a new performers' concert. As usual, the Christmas concert was slightly larger-scale than the others and included performances from a small string orchestra and the club's choir.
- The Haldane Room was used in the event for all our concerts (it was too cold to hold the Christmas concert in the Cloisters as planned). This room has returned to UCL's central booking system this year but we had some challenges in finding suitable dates, especially in Term 1, because of bookings from teaching events (and UCL's 'winter festival').

Facilities

- Practice room: still paper diary (for now), shifted to sessions based on 'UCL hour'. Key collection location has moved.
- New music stands purchased (currently in Haldane Room)
- Club library re-organised and catalogued
- Harpsichord lid repaired
- Steinway piano overhaul (action and pedals) arranged for August

Other activities

- Publicity: Instagram account established, concerts publicised in The Week at UCL where possible as well as via the club email list.
- Playing day: took place on the afternoon of Sunday 26 February 2023. 25 people (mainly students) signed up and played in groups ranging from duos to quintets; the day received very positive feedback.

Status of committee

- Jin Xuan (graduating) and Gillian Hogg will stand down from the committee this year, as does Maria Khokhar as she ends her term as UCL Music Society President. I'd like to thank all three for their service to the club this year and also to thank the whole

committee for their hard work and dedication to the club. (Apologies to Gillian and to Jill House for the previous error, and to Maria for mis-spelling her name previously.)

- We welcome Amy Winterbottom as incoming Music Society President
- The officers (Andrew Fisher – chair, Diana Hughes – Secretary, Sergei Chebankov – Treasurer) are all willing and eligible to serve again in 2023-24, as are the remaining members of the committee.
- Require at least two further new committee members (and up to 8) in order to keep committee at the normally expected size (between 9 and 15).
- Three members have indicated a willingness to stand for the committee in 2023-4 (Soffia Nicholas – student, Chris Waudby and Maria Kiladi – both staff). If all are elected, this will take the size of the committee (including the officers) to ten.

Future plans

- Continue concert programme;
- Further taster day(s), including potentially baroque and voice-focused sessions;
- Coached sessions, starting with one focused on piano accompaniment;
- Improve practice room booking and access;
- Appropriate celebration of the 150th anniversary of Gustav Holst (1874-1934, UCL alumnus).