

**University Music Society**  
**Honorary President: Andris Nelsons**  
[www.ums.org.uk](http://www.ums.org.uk)

Minutes: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Chair:** Dan Avery

**Present:** Dan Avery, Emily Bannister, Maryanne Coughlan, Rosamond Cox, Rebecca Dent, David Dunphy, Katrina Foster, Tom Garry, Zoe Green, Sarah Halls, Katherine Hannaford, Hannah Hogben, Christina Holmes, Leigh-Anne Janaway, Andrew Kirkman, Abigail Lau, Jack Lovell, Ed Mylechreest, Fergus Norrie, Emily Pentreath, Paul Rodmell, Chris Sheldrake, Ellis Thompson, Colin Timms, George Wheatley.

**Absent:** Jo Sweet

**1) Apologies**

None.

**2) a) Minutes from last meeting**

**b) Matters arising from last meeting**

Freshers' week

LJ: Generally went well and fairly smoothly.

RC: It would be good if there were more specific guide lines for the publicity team in the committee guide book. The team felt they had been fairly organised over the summer break only to come back to a lot of extra work that needed doing.

LJ: The society managed to get a stall in the Guild of Students after Rozzy contacted the VP which was a great achievement and really successful.

RC: It's best that each new committee liaises with the new VP, as well as Steve Stretfield, one of the student group coordinators at the guild.

**AP: Read over committee guide and prepare anything extra that needs to be added.**

**3) Chamber Music**

(In reference to the Chamber Music proposal which was sent out this week by LJ)

DD: The Guild society, CMS, has now moved under the UMS as UMS Chamber Music. We provide a section of the society for chamber music groups to be formed and have performance opportunities. There will be informal concert style workshops, the first being on 29<sup>th</sup> October in St Francis Hall. These provide groups with a platform to perform and receive feedback from the other groups and any other UMS members who wish to be involved.

LJ: Concerts open to the public will not happen in Autumn term to give members a chance to get groups together and prepare a repertoire. Instead, the two concerts will happen later in the year, one in February and one in the summer term. A first meeting needs to be arranged for those interested to meet and get more information.

**AP: A date needs to be set and preparations should be made for the first meeting.**  
**The spring concert needs to go in the next brochure.**  
**Chamber Music managers to organise coming events with Publicity and LJ.**

#### **4) Conducting Auditions**

(In reference to the Conducting Auditions Proposal, sent out this week)

FN: The phrase "this has caused trouble in the past" could be taken out. Also, it may be a problem auditioning twice a year for Jazz Orchestra because there will be a concert in week 5 for the Rush Hour Blues.

LJ: Since we are trying to set a formal framework for the auditions, it would be counterproductive and unfair to allow Jazz Orchestra to be exempt from the new conducting auditioning rules.

EM: The proposal states that there will be a choice of two audition pieces for conductors. This may make it difficult to compare auditions.

LJ: It has worked well this way in the past. It means that the ensemble does not get bored and the effects of using up rehearsal time will be kept to minimum. Also it gives those auditioning to conduct a better chance to do something that they feel comfortable with.

**AP: Ensemble managers to prepare for auditions. Emails and posters should be ready to go out by week 5.**

#### **5) Publicity**

##### a) Website

RC: Michael, the website technician unfortunately dropped out in the middle of freshers' week. This means we cannot make any changes to the website and it and we need to keep it up to date. The Publicity Team propose that we follow the Summer Festival of Music and buy our own website framework which we can then edit ourselves more easily.

LJ: We must keep the domain as it is advertised everywhere.

RC: We would also like to take down the current website as soon as possible and redirect people to the Facebook Page.

DA: Not all of our members use Facebook and we need an online source for all. A static page should be set up for the website, with a note explaining that it is under maintenance along with a list of concert dates.

**AP: Publicity to try to get a website framework as soon as possible to set up the new website.**

##### b) Posters & Flyering

EB: Publicity are looking at creating a poster for the Symphony & University Choir and Philharmonic concerts both in one.

PR: Money is available as long as you don't spend more than £100

EM: Cheap paper posters will also be made for Wind and Brass

EB: We also need to organise a flyering rota for everyone to take part in. This will include going up streets in Selly Oak and Harborne.

**AP: Publicity to work out a flyering rota for anyone who is available.**

c) Hoodies

EB: The Publicity Team feels like they have quite a lot of work to do for the UMS presently and were wondering if it would be an option if Social Secretaries could be responsible for hoodies.

EP: Both Social Secretaries also feel that they are currently very busy and would struggle to take on this responsibility.

DA: Luther did quite a lot of work for the hoodies and set up a framework for orders, so it should not be a big task. Distribution can be spread out to ensemble managers so that people can collect in rehearsals.

CT: Last year's committee spent quite a lot of time devising the constitution and working out an equal distribution of the work load. I think it is important that the committee is willing to support if anyone is having difficulties.

EB: We are willing to complete the order so long as there is help from the rest of the committee with distribution and collecting money.

DA: We need the information from Luther about ordering and to put this in the committee guide for future years.

**AP: Luther to be contacted and hoodie information to go into the committee guide.**

6) **Finance**

PR: A thorough auditing has not quite been done, but an approximate summary of the last financial year is as follows:

Town Hall autumn concert lost £1700, which is average.

ABH autumn concert turned profit of £650, which is a great achievement.

Dream of Gerontius lost about £2000

CBSO centre Symphony concert turned a profit of just over £100.

Windband lost about £122

Jazz lost about £130

Social made profit of £650

Chamber Choir made a profit of nearly £600

Brass lost about £200

Selling things like scores and hoodies made about £500

£200 was carried over from things that happened the year before

Misc including membership gave us around £5000

This gave the UMS an overall profit about £3300, bringing the society back to where it should be financially.

DA: Great news. This sounds like a combination of a push to run more economical concerts along with formalisation of the membership process.

LA: Publicity has also been very good.

RC: Are we using the Great Hall again this year?

PR: Yes, but we should not have the same problems with hidden costs as Jo Sweet has got an absolutely binding quote from the University. However, we will only use the Great Hall again if we have to.

7) **Fundraising**

LJ: Helen made it clear at the end of last term that we should fundraise to aid the bank.

EM: Ordering UMS pencils, which people have to buy if they forget their pencils for rehearsals.

Another idea is a promotional "Calendar Girls" style calendar, which could sell really well.

DA: Unfortunately, it may be too late to organise this. For calendars to make a profit, they need to be sold in autumn.

LJ: A fancy dress rehearsal could be another good way of raising money.

**AP: Committee to develop ideas for fundraising and propose them at the next meeting.**

### **AOB**

PR: Committee members who have not already done so need to pay for their T-shirt.

HH: The Social Secretaries have been approached by Carnival Rag to do a joint Ceilidh with them. This means that while we may be able to get some profit for it, the social will be primarily a charity event. Hopefully this will take place before Christmas.

FN: The name "Jazz Orchestra" doesn't really reflect the ensemble. Given the instrumentation, it would be more appropriate to name the ensemble "Big Band".

LJ: We will have to wait until next term to make any official changes, since all the advertisement is under the name Jazz Orchestra.

KH: There are several music students that are hoping to be involved in Redbrick this year, some of which will be writing about music. We should use this opportunity to get more advertisement.

GW: There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year music student who will be an online editor for travel.

DA: We should definitely make use of these people to get as much coverage as possible.

KH: A list of soloists/conductors/accompanists should be compiled so that the correct number of bottles of wine can be ordered.

EM: It should be noted that some people may prefer non alcoholic wine.

CT: Giving out wine can also look inappropriate on some occasions (such as after singing a requiem).

PR: It was decided some time ago in a previous committee that both male and female soloists should receive the same, but there was never a decision for it to be wine.

Flowers are more tasteful.

GW: A drawback to consider is that flowers are more expensive.

KH: Also, since they are perishable, they have to be bought individually and on the day of the concert.

CT: Flowers look nicer and more professional so perhaps it is worth the extra money and work.

LJ: Concerto competition needs to be discussed between Paul and myself.

RD: Ensemble managers need to take registers so that the database and membership can be checked.

EM: Chamber choir and Wind Band clash, and it seems like a lot of people would like to be in both. Is there any way that one can change slots?

PR: Unfortunately there are not enough hours in a day or days in a week for all our rehearsals to go ahead without any clashes. This has been discussed before and it is the best possible option.

DA: AGM will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. There will be one meeting before then.

**8) Date of next meeting**

**2nd November 2011**