

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Committee of Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc held via Skype on Thursday 26th March 2020



Present:- Hugh Collins (chair), Irene McGinnigle, David Fox, Judith Trimble, Jan Lavelle, Anne Powers

Apologies received and proxies provided:- Helen Jordan, Bernard Jordan, Dorothy Trezise, Tim Rowley, Noelene Sandblom, Margaret Hughes.

The President welcomed members to this Annual General Meeting, thanking them for participating via Skype. He noted that all members had been advised of the change to an on-line format to ensure the Society complied with restrictions on gatherings that had been imposed by the COVID-19 crisis. All members had been provided with the agenda, President's Report and Financial Statements before the meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting had been previously distributed via email and were approved as correct. Moved: I. McGinnigle. Seconded: D. Fox. Carried.
2. President's Annual Report was previously distributed via email, is on the website and is attached to these minutes. The President's Report was received. Moved: J. Trimble. Seconded: D. Fox.
3. Treasurer's presentation of Financial Statements. Anne Powers presented the Financial Report, previously circulated and attached below. The Financial Report was received. Moved: A. Powers. Seconded: D. Fox. Carried.
4. Election of Office-Bearers and Committee members for 2020-2021.

Election of Office Bearers:

- President: Hugh Collins, nominated by D. Fox, seconded by I. McGinnigle
- Vice-President: David Fox, nominated by J. Lavelle, seconded by J. Trimble
- Secretary: Irene McGinnigle, nominated by H. Collins, seconded by J. Trimble
- Treasurer: Anne Powers, nominated by H. Collins, seconded by J. Lavelle

As there were no contested nominations, H. Collins declared the nominated Office Bearers elected.

- Janet Lavelle, nominated by D. Fox, seconded by H. Collins
- Judith Trimble, nominated by I. McGinnigle, seconded by D. Fox.

There being no further nominations, the above named people were elected to the Committee.

5. Appointment of Reviewer for 2020. A. Powers advised that she has not been able to find a reviewer for the Society's financial statements without incurring significant cost to the organisation. Each of the qualified professionals she had approached had explained that this task, which had formerly been undertaken pro bono, would now require a fee because of the insurance obligations upon the reviewer.

In discussion it was noted that the relevant Act (Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012) exempts associations in our category (Tier one) from review, provided certain safeguards are observed. The Society conforms to those safeguards. Discussion also noted that the committee receive regular financial reports from the Treasurer, and that the electronic banking processes now in place ensure transparency in our accounts. Accordingly, no appointment of a reviewer for 2020 was made. **Resolved that a review of the Society's financial statements for 2020 would not occur.** Moved: A. Powers. Seconded: H. Collins. Carried.

6. Membership Fee. A. Powers moved, seconded by D. Fox, that the membership fee remain at \$20. Carried.

7. General Business. None.

Meeting closed at 8.05

## GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY, INC.

### President's Report

Annual General Meeting, 26 March 2020

The Society's Annual General Meeting for 2019 marked a changing of the guard, with our President, Helen Jordan, retiring after a decade's service on the Committee, together with long-serving Committee member Murray Symons.

The Society honoured Helen Jordan's founding initiative and dedicated leadership by conferring Life Membership on her. In the same spirit, with gratitude for his many cheerful contributions, Honorary Membership was conferred on Bernard Jordan.

Thanks to the support of our members and donors, and much diligence by the Committee, I am glad to report that 2019 saw another series of memorable concerts, that our community engagement remained active, and that our finances are still sound.

#### **Concert series**

Our five concerts attracted good audience numbers, outstanding performances and enthusiastic responses. Alongside core works from major periods and styles in the chamber music repertoire, each of our performers included challenging contemporary compositions. This diversity is clearly welcomed by our audiences and has become a distinctive element in GCMS's programming.

On March 15 we were privileged to hear Stefan Dohr, Principal Horn with the Berlin Philharmonic, leading a wind ensemble of musicians from the Australian National Academy of Music. This performance continued our annual enjoyment of ANAM's emerging players and their internationally-renowned mentors.

May 3 brought us the youthful energy and superb quality of the Orava Quartet. To fresh expositions of Haydn and Brahms, they added works by Schulhoff and Kilar – composers sure to be new for all of us.

June 21 will be remembered by all present for the astonishing virtuosity of oboist Diana Doherty, performing with William Hennessy and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. Together with baroque masterpieces by Corelli, Vivaldi, Handel and Albinoni, we were rewarded with a new work, *Sanctuary*, by Melbourne composer Joe Chindamo for oboe, cor anglais and orchestra. For Chindamo's moving exploration of identity Diana Doherty was joined by Alexandre Oguey – a dazzling combination.

August 30 the Juilliard graduate, now Melbourne-based pianist, Elyane Laussade plunged us into an evening of full-blown Romanticism, with Schubert's great Sonata in B-flat major (D. 960) as the centrepiece.

For our final concert, on 25 October, the award-winning Melbourne-based Syzygy Ensemble juxtaposed contemporary Australian composers Tim Dargaville and Brenton Broadstock with works by Debussy, Bartok and Schoenberg. This ensemble's unique soundscapes (clarinet/bass clarinet, flute, violin, cello, piano) and rigorous repertoire brought our 2019 season to a thrilling culmination.

## **Community Engagement**

Last year's Annual General Meeting affirmed that, as well as presenting concerts, the Society's promotion of the appreciation and performance of chamber music in the Geelong area could be served by "providing performance opportunities and financial support to developing Victorian musicians" and by "providing for students in the Geelong area high quality listening and learning opportunities, and workshops designed to develop their performance skills and understanding of music."

We have sought to fulfil these objectives through three areas of community engagement.

- (i) *Musica Viva in Schools (MViS)* Following 2018's initial experiment with MViS in Geelong's northern suburban schools, we committed to collaborate with MViS again in 2019. This time the program focused on Hamlyn Banks Primary School. Our Committee colleague Judith Trimble liaised closely with MViS staff and observed the September workshops at the school. Judith's report found the event impressive: it was well-organised by MViS and the Hamlyn Banks PS staff; it received strong support from the Principal and staff; the program was well-received by students and well-presented by performers; and the theme, "Water, water everywhere," enabled students to learn some basic musical ideas (e.g., *ostinato*, improvisation, *piano*). The theme also connected to broader discussion of water as an essential element of life. The Committee is grateful to Judith for her careful attention to this program. We have committed to continue support for MViS in 2020.
- (ii) *Australian Youth Classical Music Competition* The Society again sponsored the prize for the winner of the Regional section of this annual competition. We are delighted that the Trustees accepted our request that this Prize be known henceforth as *The GCMS Helen Jordan Prize*. This year's winner was Adela Karol, a fine young pianist from Christian College. I'm glad to report that Mrs Jordan was able to be present for the inaugural award in her name.
- (iii) *Bay City Strings* Through collaboration with our friends at the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and local organisers of Bay City Strings, the Society again assisted with a workshop for Geelong's budding young string players. This opportunity is appreciated by the students; we're grateful to William Hennessy, AM, and his colleagues for their generous participation and encouragement.

## **City of Greater Geelong Grant**

Our activities in 2019 were again supported by a significant Grant of \$6000 from the City of Greater Geelong through its Creative Communities Grants program.

The Society's application for this Grant relied upon the continuing experience and skill of former Committee colleague, Murray Symons, and the financial acumen of our Treasurer, Anne Powers.

We're especially grateful to Murray for his contribution. I'm pleased that he was able to join David Fox, Vice-President, and me at the awards ceremony in Leopold late last year.

We're most appreciative of the City's support, which underlies our community engagement as well as our concert series.

## **Members and Donors**

The Committee are grateful for the continuing support and interest of the Society's members and donors.

Our annual *Soiree* to thank members and preview the following year's concert series was held at "Celie's" in Sacred Heart College on October 18. Maximilian Rudd provided the music – a soulful and tuneful journey through mostly Brazilian works for the guitar.

In place of this event, for 2020 the Committee is organising for members and donors to meet with our performers over drinks after concerts in our series. We hope that these occasions will maintain the sociability of our gatherings while offering members and donors an opportunity to engage with our visiting musicians.

Donors have become increasingly important to our ability to offer excellent concerts at affordable prices. We warmly thank all who assist us in this way. I'm grateful, also, to Judith Trimble, for her work in expressing our thanks to individual donors.

## **Sacred Heart College**

McAuley Hall is by now established as the familiar home to our concerts, while its new Atrium is the setting for refreshments at interval. The Committee thank the Principal, Anna Negro, and her staff, especially Julie Tucker, for their ready assistance throughout the year.

## **The Committee**

It is no mere ritual to express gratitude to those in the Society's engine room, who keep this vessel afloat and on course. Month by month and concert by concert, as well as in our related activities within the Geelong community, the work of the Society is efficiently and effectively sustained by our diligent Committee.

To Vice-President David Fox, our IT guru and creative publicity officer (I'm sure that Dave's program covers have become collectors' items, just as it is rumoured that some patrons go to the Pivotonian Cinema chiefly to see his GCMS ads); Secretary Irene McGinnigle, who keeps track of our meetings and minutes, performers' contracts and Committee liaison; Treasurer Anne Powers, whose welcome to audiences at our front desk is as reassuring as her financial reports to the Committee; Judith Trimble, whose essential contributions on several fronts have already been mentioned; and to Jan Lavelle, whose knowledge of local musicians is invaluable and whose general back-up when others are absent is crucial: my warmest thanks and admiration. We're fortunate to have such a hard-working and harmonious collective to guide and guard all that is done by and for the Society.

## **Coronavirus**

Our preparations for the 2020 AGM have been necessarily affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

I thank members for their willingness to adapt arrangements for this meeting so that we remain in line with the precautions enjoined on us all.

This year's concerts began on February 28 with a memorable recital by the cellist Miranda Brockman and pianist Kenji Fujimara. Already, we have had to accept cancellation of the performance by Piers Lane and ANAM musicians that was scheduled for May. This is unlikely to be the only casualty in our program this year. The full impact of the current crisis on the lives of our artists, as well as on the Society's plans and budget, is still unclear. The Committee will keep members and subscribers informed as circumstances change and decisions about our program have to be taken.

At a time of anxiety for everyone, I wish all associated with the Society safety and good health..

Hugh Collins  
President  
23 March 2020

Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc  
2019 Budget

<u>Income</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>
Ticket Sales	40,000	38,377
Sponsorship	1000	1,000
Memberships	1000	1,100
Donations	3000	3,520
COGG Grant	6000	6,000
Creative Victoria Grant	3000	3,000
Interest on Term Deposits	700	789
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>54,700</b>	<b>53,786</b>

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>
Workshop - MCO	1000	1,000
Music in Schools	4000	3,084
Postage	870	852
Printing	3800	3,704
Stationery	400	400
Gifts	100	96
Food	500	490
Advertising	1000	4,070
Artist Fees	25879	24,006
Travel/Accommodation	1200	-
Venue Hire	5270	5,270
Piano Tuning	660	660
Equipment Hire	0	-
Equipment Purchase	0	123
Soiree	1400	1,300
Insurance	650	630
PO Box Rental	135	127
Consumer Affairs Registration	59	57
RAV membership	250	250
Liquor License	120	120
Sponsorship	2000	2,000
Donations	0	-
Merchant Fees	350	256
Bank Fees	0	-
Website	500	389
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>50,143</b>	<b>47,883</b>

<b>Profit</b>	<b>4,557</b>	<b>5,903</b>
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<u>Artist Fees 2019</u>	<u>Performance Fees</u>	<u>Travel/Accommodation</u>
ANAM	6500	-
Orava	4400	1,200
MCO	8129	-
Elyane Laussade	3000	-
Syzygy	3850	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>25879</b>	<b>1200</b>

Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc  
**PROFIT and LOSS 2019**

<u>Income</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Ticket Sales	34,697	38,377
Sponsorship	1,000	1,000
Memberships	1,020	1,100
Donations	3,080	3,520
COGG Grant (Jan - June 19)	6,000	6,000
COGG Grant (July - Dec 19)	6,000	
Creative Victoria Grant	4,000	3,000
Interest on Term Deposits	765	789
Total Income	<u>56,562</u>	<u>53,786</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Workshop - MCO	1,210	1,000
Music in Schools	3,830	3,084
Postage	456	852
Printing	2,614	3,704
Stationery	68	400
Gifts	45	96
Food	178	490
Advertising	770	4,070
Artist Fees	26,699	24,006
Venue Hire	5,050	5,270
Piano Tuning	451	660
Equipment Hire	-	-
Equipment Purchase	-	123
Soiree	820	1,300
Insurance	650	630
PO Box Rental	130	127
Consumer Affairs Registration	58	57
RAV membership	250	250
Liquor License	122	120
Sponsorship	2,000	2,000
Donations	-	-
Merchant Fees	216	256
Bank Fees	-	-
Website & Online Subscriptions	602	389
Total Expenses	<u>46,218</u>	<u>47,883</u>
Profit	<u>10,344</u>	<u>5,903</u>



Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc.  
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	<b>2019</b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Bendigo Operating Acct	50,702	54,112
Bendigo Donations Acct	11,123	8,045
Term Deposit (142548924)	13,282	13,017
Term Deposit (144631769)	12,733	12,479
Term Deposit (148097215)	12,046	11,800
 <b><u>Expenses paid in Advance</u></b>		
Printing of 2020 Brochure	605	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>100,491</u></b>	<b><u>101,102</u></b>
 <b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
2020 Grants received in 2019 (COGG)	6,000	
2020 Subscriptions received in advance	10,790	
<b>Total Liabilites</b>	<b><u>16,790</u></b>	<b><u>27,745</u></b>
 <b><u>Equity</u></b>		
Carried Forward from 2018	73,357	
Plus: Profit	10,344	
<b>Equity as of 31/12/19</b>	<b><u>83,701</u></b>	<b><u>73,357</u></b>
 <b>Laibility + Equity = Total Assets</b>		
	<b>100,491</b>	<b>101,102</b>