



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc held at 8:00 pm on Thursday 19 March, 2026 at 320 Myers Street, Geelong

Present: Hugh Collins (Chair), Irene McGinnigle, Judith Trimble, Rebecca Cowled, Simon Holberton, Dave Kershaw, Rosemarie Kiss, Aurore Mulkens, and Giselle Roux

Apologies received: Peter McDonald, Jan Lavelle, and Dorothy Tresize

The President welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting had been previously distributed via email. The Minutes were approved. Moved: S Holberton; Seconded: I McGinnigle. Carried
2. Presidents Annual Report, included in their minutes, was received. Moved: H Collins. Seconded Rebecca Cowled. Carried.
3. The Treasurer's presentation of Financial Statements. The Financial Statement was previously distributed by P McDonald and was read aloud by the Secretary. The Financial Report was received. Moved: S Holberton, Seconded: I McGinnigle. Carried
4. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2025-2026.
 1. Office Bearers
 1. President: Irene McGinnigle, nominated by H Collins, seconded by S Holberton
 2. Vice-President: Simon Holberton, nominated by Judith Trimble, seconded by I McGinnigle
 3. Secretary: Aurore Mulkens Srp, nominated by S Holberton, seconded by P McDonald

4. Treasurer: Peter McDonald, nominated by J Trimble, seconded by P McDonald

Election of Ordinary Members

5. Judith Trimble, nominated by S Holberton, seconded by P McDonald
6. Rosemarie Kiss, nominated by S Holberton, seconded by J Trimble
7. Rebecca Cowled, nominated by S Holberton, seconded by H Collins
8. Giselle Roux, nominated by R Cowled, seconded by I McGinnigle
9. Dave Kershaw, nominated by I McGinnigle, seconded by J Trimble

5. Membership fee. I McGinnigle moved, seconded by S Holberton that the membership fee remain at \$20 a year. Carried.

6. General Business. The President said he wished a vote of thanks to Jan Lavelle to be recorded. She had been an outstanding member of the Committee. He proposed it and J Trimble seconded. Carried unanimously.

I McGinnigle paid a warm and well received tribute to Hugh Collins, president, who was stepping down. Hugh joined the Committee in 2013 and was elected President in 2019. She noted his even temperament, diplomatic skill, negotiating skills. Her motion, , seconded by A Mulken, to award him Lifetime membership of the Society was unanimously accepted.

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm

President's Report to the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Concerts

I believe that our Committee can be proud of the quality of the Society's five concerts in our 2025 Season, and I thank our performers for their musicianship, our audiences for their enthusiasm, and our colleagues at Sacred Heart College for their assistance in bringing these concerts to McAuley Hall.

The 2025 Season featured:

The Firebird Trio. Josephine Vains, Curt Thompson and Benjamin Martin set the tone for our series with the artistry of their programming equalling the artistry of their performance. Works by Britten, Stravinsky, Lili Boulanger and Casella delighted our audience. For me, the highlight was Ravel's Piano Trio – a masterwork in the repertoire that the Firebirds played to perfection.

Markiyany Melnychenko . Our soloist was no stranger to Geelong audiences from past appearances here as Concertmaster with the Geelong Symphony Orchestra and Principal First Violin with the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra under Bill Hennessy. His emphasis for this performance was on virtuosic performances, with works by Mozart, Enescu and Medtner. Needless to say, our soloist's choices were as demanding for his associate artist, pianist Peter de Jager, as they were for him. Together, Markiyany and Peter thrilled us with the rare combination of skill and sensitivity brought to compositions of dazzling complexity.

Robert Macfarlane. Last heard here in a memorable performance of Schubert's *Winterreise* in June 2022, the outstanding tenor Robert Macfarlane drew on Beethoven, Britten and Schubert to immerse us in the heart of the lieder tradition. His accompanist for this beautiful concert was the pianist Konrad Olszweski. We are especially grateful to the Robert Salzer Foundation for a grant that supported this performance.

Eliza Shephard Panache and precision were again to the fore in our fourth concert for the Season, which featured the vibrant flutist Eliza Shephard, with Peter de Jager again at the keyboard. Alongside a refreshing series of works by contemporary Australian composers (Matthew Hindson, Sally Greenaway, Jane Hammond, John Shephard, Elena Kats-Chernin), Eliza brought life and colour to a demanding selection of works from the core classical repertoire – Gabriel Fauré, Georges Bizet (arr. Borne), Cécile Chaminade, Lili Boulanger, Franz Schubert.

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. The MCO's guest Director, harpsichordist Donald Nicholson, led the ensemble for our final concert. Three baroque pillars – Purcell, Bach and Corelli – gave structure to the program, which also included two contemporary Australian composers – Brumby and Eötvös – and two baroque surprises – the Venetian Barbara Strozzi and the Englishman Henry Eccles, whose Sonata in g minor for Contrabass brought the MCO's double bassist, Emma Sullivan, into the spotlight as soloist. This concert was assisted by a Small Regional Presenters Grant from Regional Arts Victoria, for which we are grateful.

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

Once again, a dozen talented local music students performed in the 2025 Regional Finals of this prestigious competition.

We were glad to salute a fine young cellist, Harriet Carter-Williams, who won first place and was awarded the GCMS Helen Jordan Prize. Congratulations, Harriet!

Challenges

As an organisation, we face several challenges. I'd highlight three:

- Audiences

We are still building back to pre-COVID numbers. While the attendances have been satisfactory we have still to reach a balance between ticket sales and costs. In particular, we'd like to attract more younger audience members. The Committee has this in mind, with some innovative ideas about marketing.

- Grants

The gap between ticket sales and costs has been offset by grants. We owe much to our Committee colleague, Dr Judith Trimble, who has undertaken the laborious tasks

associated with grant applications. For 2026 we are grateful to the Robert Salzer Foundation for renewing their recent grant.

- The GCMS model for concert series

The current fashion for support of classical music in regional municipalities is for weekend festivals. These initiatives can clearly boost tourism for the regional centre. Our challenge is to persuade funding agencies that a concert series spread over the calendar year in fact nourishes the lives of music-loving residents more effectively than a burst of activity over one weekend.

Tim Rowley

We were saddened to learn of the passing of a stalwart subscriber, friend, donor and Life Member: Tim Rowley. The Committee extended our condolences to Tim's family and friends, saluting his fortitude, kindness and cheerfulness. Tim's was truly a life well lived.

Thanks

We owe special thanks to Sacred Heart College for making McAuley Hall available to us. At SHC we are especially indebted to Julie Tucker and the staff at front of house and the sound deck.

I should also thank Gillian Norris for her wizardry with posters, flyers and programs.

Our thanks also to sponsors, Whyte, Just and Moore for their support.

Committee

A small band of volunteers works hard and collaborates willingly to present our concert series. I thank all members of the Committee for their commitment and their friendship alike:

Irene McGinnigle, Vice-President; Simon Holberton, Secretary; Peter McDonald, Treasurer; Jan Lavelle, Dr Judith Trimble, and Rebecca Cowled, Members.

We are all heartened by the willingness of several members to join the Committee and sustain the Society. Already their fresh ideas and initiatives are bearing fruit in plans for this year and next.

I am honoured to nominate Irene McGinnigle as President and grateful for her consent to accept this leadership role. Irene's influence on our activities for more than a decade has been remarkably fruitful.

Hugh Collins

President

Treasurer's Report

Profit and Loss Report for the year to 31st December: Refer to the 2025 figures in the first column

In the 2025 year the Society showed an increase in total operating income over 2024 of some \$3,000. This is made up of substantial increase in donation income of \$4,000 and an increase in grant income of \$9,000, offset by an actual reduction in ticket sales of \$5,000. The 2024 results have been distorted (and improved), by the recognition of Covid non-refunded ticket income of \$5,000.

Pleasingly, total operating expenses were down by \$3,000, mainly due to a reduction in performer costs (including travel expenses).

The Surplus for the year was therefore \$7,000, mainly due to increased grants and donations, offset by lower ticket sales.

Turning to the Balance Sheet at 31st December 2025, the Society's assets are bank balances totalling \$83,000. The liability for unearned income is the Salzer grant of \$6,000 for 2026 received in December.

The total net equity and reserves is \$77,000 which represent a very sound financial position to support ongoing activities.

Proposed: S Holberton

Seconded: I McGinnigle

Carried

Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc

Profit and Loss

Basis: Accrual

Account	Jan 2025 - Dec 2025	Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
	Total	Total
Operating Income		
Advertising income	500.00	500.00
Donation Income	5,500.00	1,200.00
Grant Income	14,800.00	6,000.00
Interest Income	1,433.35	1,356.47
Membership Income	200.00	340.00
Ticket Sales	0.00	28,516.51
Ticket Sales - 2025 Season	18,617.60	0.00
Total for Operating Income	41,050.95	37,912.98
Cost of Goods Sold		
Total for Cost of Goods Sold	0.00	0.00
Gross Profit	41,050.95	37,912.98
Operating Expense		
Advertising & Marketing	0.00	1,220.00
APRA	247.50	255.00
Bank Fees and Charges	18.81	38.70
Booking fee	0.00	69.89
Catering	31.67	0.00
Donation To AYCMC	2,000.00	2,000.00
Insurance	1,304.00	1,265.00
IT and Internet Expenses	569.12	1,290.57
Liquor Licence	0.00	95.40
Office Supplies	0.00	32.97
Performance Fees	20,200.00	21,650.00
Postage	181.00	212.40
Printing and Stationery	2,353.83	1,562.50

Account	Jan 2025 - Dec 2025	Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
	Total	Total
Sponsorship	204.50	0.00
Travel Expense	0.00	885.33
Venue Hire	7,039.00	6,677.00
Total for Operating Expense	34,149.43	37,254.76
Operating Profit	6,901.52	658.22
Non Operating Income		
Total for Non Operating Income	0.00	0.00
Non Operating Expense		
Total for Non Operating Expense	0.00	0.00
Net Profit/Loss	6,901.52	658.22

Amount is displayed in your base currency **AUD

Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc

Balance Sheet

Basis: Accrual

Account	31/12/2024 Total	31/12/2025 Total
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash		
Total for Cash	0.00	0.00
Bank		
Bendigo Card Acc	413.57	322.89
Bendigo Donations	552.70	52.70
Bendigo Term Deposit 1	13,922.98	70,111.08
Bendigo Trading Acc	3,918.15	8,678.75
Savings Account	60,632.15	3,875.65
Total for Bank	79,439.55	83,041.07
Total for Cash and Cash Equivalents	79,439.55	83,041.07
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable	0.00	500.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	0.00	500.00
Other current assets		
Total for Other current assets	0.00	0.00
Total for Current Assets	79,439.55	83,541.07
Fixed Assets		
Total for Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
Other Assets		
Total for Other Assets	0.00	0.00
Total for Assets	79,439.55	83,541.07

Liabilities & Equities

Account	31/12/2024 Total	31/12/2025 Total
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Unearned Income	8,800.00	6,000.00
Total for Current Liabilities	8,800.00	6,000.00
Long Term Liabilities		
Total for Long Term Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Other Liabilities		
Total for Other Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Total for Liabilities	8,800.00	6,000.00
Equities		
Current Year Earnings	658.22	6,901.52
Retained Earnings	69,981.33	70,639.55
Total for Equities	70,639.55	77,541.07
Total for Liabilities & Equities	79,439.55	83,541.07

Amount is displayed in your base currency **AUD