

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Committee of Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc held at 22 Williams St, Newtown on Thursday 16th March 2023



Present:- Hugh Collins, Irene McGinnigle, David Fox, Judith Trimble, Jan Lavelle, Anne Powers, Simon Holberton, William Ness, Peter McDonald (via phone), Tim Rowley, Dorothy Trezise.

Apologies received and proxies provided:- None

The President welcomed members to this Annual General Meeting, thanking them for participating.

1. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting had been previously distributed via email and were approved as correct. Moved: J. Trimble 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: H. Collins. Seconded: S. Holberton.
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: W. Ness. Carried.
4. Election of Office-Bearers and Committee members for 2020-2021.

Election of Office Bearers:

- President: Anne Powers, nominated by I. McGinnigle, seconded by H. Collins
 - Vice-President: David Fox, nominated by H. Collins, seconded by A. Powers
 - Secretary: Irene McGinnigle, nominated by J. Trimble, seconded by S. Holberton
 - Treasurer: Jan Lavelle, nominated by A. Powers, seconded by I. McGinnigle
- As there were no contested nominations, H. Collins declared the nominated Office Bearers elected.

- William Ness, nominated by J. Lavelle, seconded by D. Fox
 - Judith Trimble, nominated by I. McGinnigle, seconded by S. Holberton
 - Simon Holberton, nominated by H. Collins, seconded by I. McGinnigle
 - Peter McDonald, nominated by D. Fox, seconded by I. McGinnigle
- There being no further nominations, the above named people were elected to the Committee.

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

7. General Business. **Resolution: that Tim Rowley and Dorothy Trezise be made life members of Geelong Chamber Music Society.** Moved: A. Powers. Seconded: I. McGinnigle. Carried.

Meeting closed at 8.30

Geelong Chamber Music Society, Inc.
President's Report to the Annual General Meeting
16 March 2023

This is my fourth and final Report as President on the Society's record over the year that has passed and our prospects in the year ahead.

After the cancellations imposed by the Covid pandemic for most of 2020 and all of 2021, 2022 marked our welcome return to live performances in McAuley Hall. We began in style with the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra featuring piano soloist Stefan Cassomenos. The Seraphim Trio (Helen Ayres, Anna Goldsworthy and Tim Nankervis) augmented by Chris Moore (viola) brought a program revised following their 'cellist's emergency appendectomy the week before, but which still included Mozart's wonderful Piano Quartet #1. In a departure from our customary format, our next concert presented tenor Robert Macfarlane with accompanist Nicholas Young in a memorable performance of Schubert's *Winterreise*. A new ensemble, the Melbourne Chamber Players, and the pianist Alexander Gadjiev, winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition, presented the fourth and fifth concerts in the year's series.

2023 has begun with a superb performance by the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra that marked Sophie Rowell's debut as Artistic Director. Sophie was soloist in Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* – not the familiar concerto many expected, but a dazzlingly virtuosic work from the composer's youth.

Later performances scheduled this year are a recital by Marshall McGuire (harp) and Paula Rae (flute) in April; the Flinders Quartet in May; ANAM musicians with Sophie Rowell and Timothy Young in August; and the renowned pianist Ian Munro in September. So a wealth of musical pleasure is in store for us.

Prospects

Musically, GCMS has no shortage of fine ensembles and soloists from whom we construct our annual program. The repertoire selected continues to offer an attractive combination of both new and familiar compositions. Our Geelong audience responds enthusiastically to contemporary works as well as to established classics.

The most important challenge facing the Society this year and next, I believe, is our viability.

We are still re-building our audience after the Covid-related wipe-out of 2021 and the slow recovery in 2022.

For the 3 years before the 2020/2021 cancellations, our lowest audience numbers for any single concert were about 150, while each of those years saw at least one concert with more than 200 attending (twice in both 2017 and 2018).

In 2022, audience numbers ranged from 58 to 87. These audiences were appreciative: the return to live performance was welcomed by them. However, at half our pre-Covid attendance levels, the pattern suggested that we would not be able to sustain our program. For 2022, indeed, we were

greatly helped financially by a Grant of \$6000 from the City of Greater Geelong, specifically to assist with post-pandemic recovery.

Our first concert this year drew an audience of 130. The Committee hopes that this heralds a steady improvement in ticket sales that will build to our pre-Covid numbers. Meanwhile, our best efforts are devoted to ensuring publicity and communication as we endeavour to recover former audiences and reach out to new attendees.

GCMS is not alone in facing this challenge, we know. Most organisations engaged in performing and presenting classical music have experienced similar downturns in audience numbers, are experimenting with ways to re-build support, and – like us – are attempting to plan for a future which is still highly conjectural.

Not only are audience numbers uncertain, but some external sources of funding can also no longer be relied upon. As already noted, GCMS has benefited from the City of Greater Geelong's Creative Communities Grants. That generosity certainly helped us through the recent lean years; it also enabled us to engage and support local musicians for summer concerts in the Geelong Botanic Gardens and for appearances on the Melbourne (now Australian) Digital Concert Hall. While we remain deeply grateful for the City's assistance, we cannot assume that this will continue indefinitely. Despite considerable time and effort preparing an application to Regional Arts Victoria for funding, that body's priorities no longer appear to be focused primarily upon the calibre of performers engaged and the quality of the repertoire offered. We were disappointed to have been unsuccessful there; so too, we know, were other major ensembles whose regional tours have previously received RAV support.

A decline in external institutional support makes our success with subscriptions and ticket sales even more crucial to our continuing viability. This change also makes the generosity of the Society's donors even more critical to our future operation. The Committee is tremendously encouraged by our donors' support. At present that fund is sustaining our ability to plan for 2024 and future years.

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

The Society continues to provide \$2000 to the winner of the AYCMC's Regional Competition. In 2022 the GCMS Helen Jordan Prize was awarded on 5 June to Emily Treloar, a clarinettist in Year 12 at Christian College. We congratulate Emily and wish her well in her studies.

The late Helen Jordan

The Society was saddened to learn of the death of our friend and founder, Helen Jordan, in Melbourne on 29 May last year. Many members were able to honour Helen at the Funeral Mass in Belmont on 10 June.

The Society's affection and esteem for Helen were marked both by the resolution conferring Life Membership on her in 2019 and by naming the Prize donated to the Regional winner of the AYCMC for her.

Helen's friends will know what pleasure Helen would have derived from the latest recipient being a clarinettist!

Sacred Heart College: McAuley Hall

With the Committee and members I thank the Principal of Sacred Heart College, Geelong, for our access to the amenity of McAuley Hall, which has been the venue for our concerts since our foundation in 2009. The Committee is indebted especially to Julie Tucker and her team for the smooth operation behind the scenes and at front of house on our performance dates, as well as for the cooperation required in scheduling and preparation. We're grateful for such cheerful and reliable assistance. Thank you, Julie!

The Committee

GCMS is dependent upon the effectiveness and hard work of our Committee. It is a privilege to acknowledge how much is owed to the commitment and good will of my colleagues: Anne Powers (Treasurer); Irene McGinnigle (Secretary); Dave Fox (Vice President – Publicity); Jan Lavelle; and Judith Trimble. We have recently welcomed the fresh energy and insights brought by two new committee members, Simon Holberton and Will Ness. Dr Gillian Turner, who joined the Committee at the last AGM had to resign for personal reason during the year, and we thank Gillian for her contribution.

Especially after a year in which my availability has been compromised by other preoccupations, I thank these friends and colleagues most warmly. In your collective hands are this Society's best prospects for a successful future bringing Geelong and our region outstanding performances of the chamber music repertoire. You have my admiration and every good wish.

Hugh Collins
President

Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc

Balance Sheet 2022

	<u>31/12/2021</u>	<u>31/12/2022</u>
Assets		
Bank		
Bendigo Card Acc	264.90	459.68
Bendigo Donations	14,963.00	15,962.73
Bendigo Term Deposit 1	13,490.36	13,537.25
Bendigo Term Deposit 2	12,922.15	12,960.68
Bendigo Term Deposit 3	12,318.36	12,339.35
Bendigo Trading Acc	39,535.32	33,201.61
Pay Pal	0.00	18.98
Trybooking	723.57	2,453.37
Total Bank Accounts	94,217.66	90,933.65
Total Assets	94,217.66	90,933.65
Liabilities & Equities		
Current Liabilities		
Contingent Liability 2020-unclaimed ticket refunds	4,880.00	4,880.00
Ticket Sales - 2022 Season	705.00	0.00
Ticket Sales - 2023 Season	0.00	6,952.61
Total Current Liabilities	5,585.00	11,832.61
Total Liabilities	5,585.00	11,832.61
Equity		
Current Year Loss	-665.34	-9,531.62
Retained Earnings	89,298.00	88,632.66
Total Equity	88,632.66	79,101.04
Total Liabilities & Equity	94,217.66	90,933.65

Geelong Chamber Music Society Inc

Profit and Loss 2022

	<u>Jan - Dec 2021</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2022</u>
Income		
Donation Income	2,765.10	2,605.00
Grant Income	6,000.00	6,000.00
Interest Income	146.87	107.70
Membership Income	420.00	480.00
Sponsorship Income	400.00	0.00
Ticket Sales	0.00	20,880.94
Total Income	9,731.97	30,073.64
Expenses		
Advertising & Marketing	0.00	852.99
APRA	0.00	257.40
Bank Fees and Charges	236.00	212.95
Booking fee	80.13	1,295.48
Catering	0.00	77.16
Complementary Ticket Expense	0.00	106.25
Consumer Affairs	59.20	251.20
Covid Safe Expenses	90.79	15.05
Donation - MDCH	1,050.00	0.00
Insurance	910.00	900.00
IT and Internet Expenses	1,556.43	1,055.87
Liquor Licence	0.00	63.90
Masterclass	0.00	550.00
Office Supplies	0.00	75.00
Performance Fees	0.00	24,912.50
Piano Tuning	0.00	426.00
Postage	171.20	178.29
Printing and Stationery	3,993.56	1,569.44
RAV Membership	250.00	250.00
Sponsorship	2,000.00	0.00
Travel Expense	0.00	859.78
Venue Hire	0.00	5,696.00
Total Expenses	10,397.31	39,605.26
Net Loss	-665.34	-9,531.62