

Derby Chamber Music Society

Registered Charity Number 1181263

Affiliated to *Making Music*

Chair's Report

Season 2023 – 2024

1. Introduction

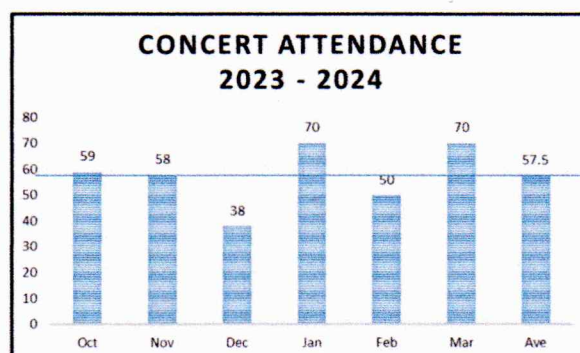
The recent season has been the first complete one that we have held since the disruption caused, firstly by the impact of the Covid pandemic and then by the major changes in the membership of the managing committee. Additionally there has been the change from holding concerts on Friday evenings to late afternoon on Sundays. There has been a lot for us all to learn and to adjust to and things have not always run as smoothly as the Society had become used to but, nevertheless, the season was, I believe, relatively successful.

There are further issues that we need to address and problems that need to be resolved which present an existential threat to the Society. Also we have started to develop a closer relationship with Music at Duffield and we need to work out how far that should go to benefit both societies.

2. Membership and attendance

Since we started holding concerts on Sundays attendance has been quite variable. The concert in April 2023 on a Sunday which featured members of the London Mozart Players attracted an audience of around 90 but attendance has been lower through this last season as shown in the adjacent chart.

In the past we have offered Society membership at a small charge either as part of a season subscription or on a stand-alone basis. With the various disruptions this system has broken down so for our present purposes we are regarding those on the emailing list as members. This is only a temporary arrangement and we will establish proper membership arrangements for the coming season.



3. Financial Standing

Mr James Holliday has reviewed and audited the accounts for last year and we are grateful for his help in this respect. Len Jenkinson, the Society's Treasurer will present a report on the financial standing of the Society as part of this meeting.

4. Sponsorship, grants and other financial support

Once again we are grateful to have received financial support this year from several sources. We received another donation from the M. T. Gibson's Charitable Trust. We also received a significant legacy from the estate of Mrs Margaret Mallender. There have been other anonymous donations made. For all these we are most grateful.

The estate of the late Jeffery Tillett informed us that they could no longer support us as they have done over several years. We are very grateful for their support and thank them for this help.

General funds have been supported by the raffle with two donated CDs at each concert and Annelle Mackenzie has continued to make and sell her greetings cards on behalf of Society funds. We have agreed that, as sales of cards has fallen significantly this last season, and recognising other pressures on her she will not continue sales of cards in the coming season. We thank her very much for the significant contribution she has made to Society funds through her efforts and also for the contribution to the life of the Society that the presence of the sales table at the back of the room has made. At Christmas Kathryn and John Hey provided cakes and mince pies in place of the usual biscuits during the interval.

Kathryn Hey and Katherine Boyes have been working on applications for possible new funding sources for the coming season and beyond.

5. The 2024 – 2025 season

5 th October 2024	Katherine Jenkinson and friends Shared concert held at St Alkmund's Church Duffield	10 th November 2024	Martin Owen (Horn) & Anna Tilbrook (Piano)
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8 th December 2024	David Wright (Harpsichord) Goldberg Variations	9 th February 2025	Laurence Flower (Double Bass) & piano.
16 th March 2025	Benjamine Frith (Piano) Shared concert at the MFC	27 th April 2025	Musicians from the London Mozart Players.

6. The seasons past and to come.

This has been the first fully planned season that we have held since the disruption caused by the covid pandemic, the impact of the need to move away from the practice of holding concerts on Friday evenings, and the changes in personnel within the Committee. We are very grateful to Katherine Jenkinson for the work she had to put into putting together a season of six concerts. These have, on the whole, been very satisfying and it has been a little disappointing that we have not always had the attendance that they deserved to have. There are several possible reasons for this:

- Holding a concert too near to Christmas on the 17th of December was a mistake.
- The move to a Sunday may not have been popular. While any change of timing will always put off some it will, and I believe has, brought in others who prefer not having to be out so late of an evening. This is something we can review over the coming season and invite your comments but our options for alternative times are rather restricted.
- Our concert publicity may not have hit home as it should. In order to control costs we have moved towards more use of electronic communication. We have built up an email database of interested people and use this to send out programme notes in advance of concerts rather than to post paper programmes to members as we did before. This saves the significant costs of postage and the work required in preparing these mailings when we are under pressure of resources. We have continued to display posters at various locations in and around the city. Katherine Boyes has taken control of the website and is learning how best to manage it and she has created and maintained an Instagram account for the Society. We need to continue to develop our publicity processes and find ways to raise the profile of the Society in the area.
- The choice of performers and programmes may not have always been appealing. In my view the programmes were very satisfying. Had I had any concerns it might have been for the two harp concert yet that turned out to be a most interesting, absorbing and enjoyable evening. We gave opportunities for local performers (Kathryn Monteiro and Lucy Nolan) and had an overwhelming performance of Pictures from an Exhibition by Victor Maslov plus the thoroughly enjoyable evening with the Aquinas Piano Trio. So I do not think that we have failed to provide a satisfactory season but would welcome any contrary views.

An encouraging feature of the season was seeing an increasing number of young people in the audience and then seeing them coming back a second time. This is an encouragement to us to find ways of increasing our appeal to the younger generation.

Our main challenge to the continuity of the Society is around the resource available for the Committee. Apart from the retirement of Mike and Jenny Elliott and David Phypers during the previous season and acknowledged in the last annual report, Mike Wild and Vivien Wilson have also stood down from the tasks they did for the Society. Vivien has been responsible for compiling the programme from notes and other material provided for her and submitting the master to the printers. Mike has been the front of house man for many years and has also played a major part in putting out chairs ahead of concerts. I thank them both very much for the long service they have given to the Society but we have to recognise that they have left gaps. Furthermore Kathryn Hey wishes to stand down from her roles as Secretary and concert day host and I would like to stand down as Chairman. This means that we need new people to come forward to help with running the Society, otherwise we will not be sustainable. One way that we are working to improve sustainability is to work more closely with Music at Duffield. While we intend to maintain our respective identities and constitutional independence we will work together to share resources and publicity and encourage our respective audiences to attend each other's concerts and there is evidence of this in our next planned season.

7. Conclusions

On behalf of the Society I wish to put on record our thanks to those who have helped in running the Society this last season. Several people have helped with various tasks on the day of concerts including Gwen Schaffer and Eirlys Smith who helped with refreshments, Ashley Smith who helped with setting out, and Austin Smith who issued programmes at the door.

We also thank Mike Wheeler for providing his usual very detailed and informative programme notes which are so much appreciated by our audience and for the reviews he also produces after each concert.

Finally I wish to thank the Committee for all the work they have done in supporting this season and the Society in general.



Lindsay Smith
Chair, Derby Chamber Music Society.

DERBY CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Financial Statement for the year ending 30 April 2024

	Actual 2023/24	Actual 2021/23
INCOME		
Membership	£286.00	£0.00
Ticket Sales	£5,296.00	£6,028.40
Advertising	£0.00	£0.00
Refreshments	£214.88	£116.20
Raffle	£132.10	£124.25
Grants	£0.00	£0.00
General Donations	£5,694.58	£1,270.98
Hugh Gibson Charity	£1,000.00	£2,000.00
HMRC Gift Aid	£0.00	£162.50
Interest	£8.07	£2.35
MFC Piano Hire	£250.00	£625.00
Miscellaneous	£60.60	£96.20
Debtors	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£12,942.23	£10,425.88
EXPENDITURE		
Artists' Fees	£4,725.00	£9,600.00
Artists expenses	£251.34	£1,693.47
Hire of Hall	£1,855.00	£1,180.00
Page Turner	£20.00	£0.00
Piano Tuner	£200.00	£332.00
Printing brochure, tickets and membership	£89.43	£56.65
Web Hosting, Name retention and SSL	£190.80	£446.40
Insurance	£104.00	£190.00
PRS	£61.99	£74.49
Subscriptions Making Music	£109.00	£343.00
Refreshments	£39.65	£56.81
Commission on ticket sales	£45.22	£0.00
Administration	£0.00	£710.56
Auditor	£0.00	£30.00
Programme Notes	£420.00	£560.00
Miscellaneous	£20.00	£70.00
Creditors	£43.00	£0.00
Total	£8,174.43	£15,343.38
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£4,767.80	-£4,917.50
BALANCE SHEET as at 30 April 2024		
Net Assets		
Coop Main	£6,974.59	£2,171.86
Coop Piano	£534.99	£526.92
Concert float in cash	£120.00	£100.00
Debtors	£0.00	£0.00
Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors (Audit fee)	£43.00	£0.00
Money received in advance of next season	£0.00	£0.00
	£7,586.58	£2,798.78
Being		
Retained Reserves brought forward	£2,698.78	£7,616.28
Concert float in cash	£120.00	
Surplus for year	£4,767.80	-£4,917.50
	£7,586.58	£2,698.78
Yamaha C3 Piano estimated value	£14,550.00	
Kawai Piano estimated value	£5,335.00	
TOTAL	£27,471.58	

I have examined the accounts of Derby Chamber Music Society for the year ended 30 April 2024. The accounts give a true and fair view of the affairs of the society at 30 April 2024 and of the surplus for the period ended that date.

James Holliday
Auditor
30 April 2024

