

Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM)

Annual General Meeting - 14 October 2017

Minutes

In attendance: Hilary Nicholls (FMYM), Kate Hoole (FMYM), Phillippa Foskett, Corinne Gautier-Capes, Elisabeth Wigley (MMF), Rebecca Genockey, Ruth Merriman (MMF), Helene Steculorum, Wei-Ling Miyake (FMYM), Jun Miyake (FMYM), Elaine Davis, Posey Furnish, Dan Poulson, Emma Trevelyan, Sarah Hetherington (FMYM), Nicki Ashton, Martin Parker, Sara Grint (MMF), Lucy Bond (FMYM), Ian Bond (FMYM)

Apologies for absence: Maria Priestland (FMYM Licensing Officer), Louisa Wansborough (MMF)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Hilary Nicholls (Chair, FMYM) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking those present for their support of Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM) over the past year.

The MMF staff present introduced themselves: Lis Wigley (CEO of MMF), Soo Bishop (Programmes Director), Ruth Merriman (Arts Administrator) and Sara Grint (Woodwind Co-ordinator and lead for the Music Centre).

Apologies were received from Maria Priestland (FMYM Licensing Officer) and Louisa Wansborough (MMF)

2. Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the 2016 AGM (dated 15 October) were circulated and approved. The only outstanding action from these is the provision of guest WiFi at Harris Academy. It was recognised that this is something that MMF are working to achieve at the moment. In the meantime Hilary asked that anyone who was prepared to "donate" their WiFi hotspot on a Saturday so that others could use it should let the committee know.

3. Chair's Report

Hilary updated those present on the work of FMYM over the past year. On a week by week basis FMYM was perhaps most visible to those who used the cafe on a Saturday morning. This has been a major source of income for FMYM, and the provision of a room for the cafe to operate in on a Saturday morning was noted to be a particular success.

Hilary noted that many at MMF had been able to enjoy the Albert Hall Concert back in May, and that this had created a great sense of community amongst those attending MMF. One particular success was the selling of "Hoodies" to mark the Albert Hall Concert. Over 200 had been sold and this had been a significant fundraiser. FMYM appreciated the huge amount of time and effort that had been put in by the Bond Family to get the hoodies ordered, packaged and distributed.

FMYM was committed to creating a "community feel" to Saturday music centre. Hilary encouraged parents to consider using the FMYM Facebook page to share information, request lifts, or to link to other local groups.

Hilary Nicholls and Kate Hoole, who have given so much time to FMYM over the past few years, were standing down as Chairs of FMYM at this AGM as they no longer had children at MMF. They were thanked by all present.

4. Financial Summary for the Year

Jun Miyake presented the FMYM financial summary for the last year (see attached). He noted that over £6000 had been raised from the cafe, hoodies and concert stalls. Of this fundraising, FMYM had provided £200 for sheet music, £1000 towards the Royal Albert Hall Concert, £500 for the commission of the "Peoples Guide to the Orchestra", and £2000 towards the MMF summer tour. A further £2000 has been ear-marked for the grand piano appeal.

It was noted that the FMYM contribution to the summer tour was lower than in previous years. This was a deliberate decision, agreed with Lis Wigley, to ensure that money raised by FMYM benefited all children at MMF.

Jun highlighted that the weekly cafe at the Saturday music centre had been a major fundraiser, but that this required more people to keep it going on a weekly basis. The concert fundraising had been down on previous years, it was thought that the timings of the concerts had resulted in less families being around between the concerts to purchase refreshments.

Looking ahead, FMYM noted that a major focus for fundraising over the next year would be to raise money to contribute towards a grand piano for the music centre. A focus for this fundraising would be an evening of Jazz, hopefully held in the spring term.

5. Upcoming Projects and Events

Hilary invited MMF staff to update all those present with information about MMF and the upcoming projects and events planned.

- Lis reported that 2017 had been a great year for MMF, with the Albert Hall Concert a particular focus. It was noted that this was a huge amount of work for MMF staff, and very expensive but that it was a tremendous achievement and a great opportunity for all the children and young people who participated. Soo explained that March 2019 has already been booked.
- Financially, MMF is buoyant at the moment. A finance director is now in post, and has helped MMF to clarify expenditure.
- MMF are conscious that numbers at the Saturday music centre have dropped this term - they are aware of a need to analyse why this is and to look at new ways to publicise the work of MMF. This is an area that Ruth Merriman will be leading on, and she will be looking at how to make MMF accessible to children from across the borough. Lis Wigley encouraged those present to share any thoughts that they had about "what works" or "what could work better" at the Saturday music centre with her.
- Soo highlighted a major project that MMF will be running in conjunction with Sutton Music Service in the spring term - "KISS" (**Keep It Simple Stupid**). This will involve string players from MMF working with those from Sutton Music Service and "String Fever" - an electric string group; Jazz players from MMF and Sutton Music Service working together and a range of choirs coming together for a concert at St Andrews Church, Sutton. Soo requested a financial contribution from FMYM towards this project - this will be considered by the new committee.
- Soo also highlighted a further project for the summer term which would be in conjunction with the Lincoln Centre in New York, and will involve a series of jazz workshops with MYJO, MYJO2 and local schools. Ian Bond suggested that this might be something that FMYM could assist in getting corporate sponsorship for.

Action: Soo Bishop to work up a summary of what will happen that could be used for sponsorship.

- Ruth updated those present on the plans for an application for Merton to become the "Borough of Culture" in 2019. John Merriman has been leading a campaign to get Merton Council to bid for this. It is now thought that a launch event will take place on the 30th October and a bid submitted by the 1st December. Ruth will keep FMYM and MMF parents

updated so that parents can support the campaign. She also outlined the proposals for a concert hall for Wimbledon and agreed to circulate information to MMF parents on this.

- Ruth also explained that MMF was looking to have an online fundraising page for the grand piano appeal, and that some initial work had been done to mock up a website.
- MMF may be participating in “Light Up Morden” (1 December 2017) and Soo is organising a group of choirs to carol sing in central Wimbledon (16 December 2017). This may be something that FMYM could consider supporting.

Lis and Soo then invited questions from those attending. Questions were as follows:

- **Cost of the Albert Hall?** Soo explained that some of this was funded through an Arts Council grant, but that it was still a very expensive event. As a rough idea - the cost of the schools project for the RAH was in the region of £35,000-40,000; the venue hire and music centre costs were approx £30,000. The cost of the event was increased if the screen was required (@£8,000) or if the organ was opening (@£1,000).
- **What had happened to the concert orchestra this year?** Lis explained that the numbers of string players (especially violins) were currently too low to run a symphony orchestra, but that MMF would love to be able to offer one in the future if the numbers of string players increase. The KISS project is designed to provide some additional input for those string players currently in Intermediate Strings.
- **What would the arrangements for the Christmas Concerts be?** Sara Grint will confirm this in the next few weeks, but expects that the afternoon concert will involve guitars, strings, percussion and Young Voices; and the evening concert will involve the bands.
- **The website is easy to find, but very difficult to navigate. Can it be updated?** It was recognised that the MMF website requires some re-vamping. Ruth reported that they are currently having the website redesigned. FMYM offered to help to provide BETA testers if MMF would like parents input on the design of the new website.
- **How can MMF better reach all parts of the borough and all local schools?** A range of ideas were suggested about how to raise the profile of MMF, particularly in schools where there may not be a strong tradition of learning a musical instrument - this could include: subsidised music centre fees for a trial period, a recorders group to appeal to those who have not yet started to learn an instrument.

6. Election of Committee Members

The final item on the agenda was the election of FMYM committee members. Hilary explained that she and Kate would be standing down as the Chairs of FMYM this year. They were thanked for all of their hard work by Lis. Other existing committee members were happy to stay on for a further year (Ian Bond, Lucy Bond, Jun Miyake, Wei-Ling Miyake, Maria Priestland and Sarah Hetherington). Election of new committee members and a new Chair took place:

Ian Bond - Chair of FMYM (proposed Sarah Hetherington, seconded Wei-Ling Miyake)

Helene Steculorum (proposed Lucy Bond, seconded Sarah Hetherington)

Posey Furnish (proposed Ian Bond, seconded Wei-Ling Miyake)

Dan Poulson (proposed Phillippa Foskett, seconded Lucy Bond)

Following the meeting further offers to serve on the committee were received from Corinne Gautier-Capes and Emma Trevelyan. Both offers were gratefully received.

Appendix - FMYM Financial Summary

FRIENDS OF MERTON YOUNG MUSICIANS SUMMARY OF FUNDRAISING

DESCRIPTION	2016 - 2017	2015 - 2016
MMF TROLLEY		
Autumn Term	1,150	181
Spring Term	937	217
Summer Term	748	295
	2,835	693
CONCERTS		
Autumn Term	953	962
Spring Term	427	449
Summer Term	611	767
	1,991	2,178
ROYAL ALBERT HALL HOODIES		
Hoodie sales	970	-
CAF Matched Giving	350	-
	1,320	-
OTHER		
Cake Sales	-	208
Sponsored Practice	-	58
Other details unavailable	-	466
TOTAL FUNDS RAISED	5,147	3,603
PAYMENTS TO MMF		
Sheet Music contribution	(200)	-
Albert Hall Costs	(1,000)	-
People's Guide Commission	(500)	-
2017 Tour	(2,000)	-
2016 Tour	-	(6,000)
2015 Tour	-	(5,000)
Grace Project	-	(513)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	2,447	(6,897)
Bank balance @ 10 Oct 2015 AGM		15,790
Bank Balance @ 01 Sep 2016	8,893	8,893
Bank Balance @ 01 Sep 2017	11,340	