

Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM)

Annual General Meeting - 13 October 2018

Minutes

In attendance: Lucy Bond, Martin Parker, Charlotta Bolton, Corinne Gautier-Capes, Helene Steculorum-Delooopman, Emma Trevelyan, Posey Furnish, Rebecca Cresta (MMF), Elisabeth Wigley (MMF), Kate Wilson, Neil Wharmly, Dan Poulson, Javier Barreno, Wei-Ling Miyake, Jun Miyake, Ian Bond, Sarah Hetherington

Apologies for absence: Rachel Thomas, Soo Bishop (MMF), Sara Grint (MMF)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Ian Bond (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. Apologies were received from Soo Bishop and Sara Grint who were running music groups and from Rachel Thomas.

2. Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the 2017 AGM (dated 14 October) were circulated for anyone to take. There were no outstanding actions and the minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report (see attached slides)

Ian highlighted the wide range of activities that FMYM had undertaken over the previous year - ranging from the Saturday refreshments trolley to the Songs on Wheels fundraising evening and the "Let Freedom Swing" Jazz evening. Each of these events had involved a wide range of volunteers and FMYM is very grateful to all who have given up their time to assist with fundraising this year.

Ian also highlighted the ways in which FMYM was using digital technology to improve communication and ways of working. There is now a WhatsApp group which is used to coordinate Saturday trolley volunteers and a Google Docs trolley rota so that all helpers can amend and update it as necessary. Asana (project management tool) has been used to coordinate work on the "Let Freedom Swing" Concert and Eventbrite was used to facilitate ticket sales for Songs on Wheels and "Let Freedom Swing".

A number of questions were raised following the report:

- FMYM currently have a Facebook page and a Facebook group. Can these be rationalised? Are they relevant? **Action: new FMYM committee to address.**
- FMYM does not have a twitter handle. Would this be useful to support MMF and to publicise the work that FMYM does? **Action: Posey to take forward in consultation with Rebecca.**

4. Financial Summary for the Year (see attached slides)

Jun Miyake presented the FMYM financial summary for the last year. He noted that the bank balance as of 1/9/18 was £19,608. A few key observations on the accounts:

- the income from the refreshment trolley in the autumn term of 2017 was lower than would have been anticipated as stock had been lost over the summer and therefore had to be replaced and lockable boxes purchased to store stock in going forward.
- income from the summer term concert for 2018 was lower than in previous years as major efforts were put into the Songs on Wheels event and "Let Freedom Swing", and less focus was placed on fundraising at the concerts.

- the “other fundraising” was very significant in comparison to previous years - with £5,133 being raised this way.
- FMYM would be moving banks in the near future as the current account with TSB did not allow FMYM a debit card. A community account would be opened with Barclays to enable online shopping with a debit card to restock the trolley.
- the “Piano Key” appeal had been very successful - but not everyone who has pledged money has completed a gift aid form. Jun provided forms for anyone who had yet to complete one to take away.

Ian explained that FMYM had been fundraising over the past year to enable MMF to purchase a grand piano for the music centre and that as of this morning the total had been reached. This is a significant achievement. Lis updated those present that MMF may now wish to purchase 2 upright pianos instead as this may meet the needs of the music centre better. Those present agreed that they were happy for two upright pianos to be purchased in place of one grand piano, but that the money raised did need to be for piano(s) - it was not for unrestricted funds.

Ian asked those present to vote that when the FMYM bank balance had reached £20,250 the money could be transferred to MMF at an appropriate time so that purchase could be made. This was unanimously agreed.

Action: Ian to take forward in conjunction with Lis Wigley and Lawrie Meechan

5. Election of Committee Members

Ian confirmed that Wei-Ling Miyake would be standing down as Treasurer, and Sarah Hetherington as Secretary.

New committee roles:

- Javier Barreno: Treasurer
- Rachel Thomas: Saturday Trolley Rota Coordinator
- Helene Steculorum: Co-Chair

These were all voted in unanimously. All previous committee members were voted in, and additional offers of help for the committee were welcomed by Ian.

6. Upcoming Projects and Events

Ian explained that 2018/19 would be a lighter year in terms of FMYM fundraising, but a major focus would be the Royal Albert Hall hoodies.

7. MMF Update

The meeting closed with an update from MMF. Lis Wigley expressed her thanks to all the parents and carers who do so much to support MMF. She also expressed public thanks to Rebecca Cresta, who has done so much to improve the outward facing communications of MMF over the last year.

Lis updated those present on MMF funding and the challenges that MMF faced. She explained that MMF was looking to put a “donate” button on the website to make it clear that MMF is a charity. There are ongoing discussions around funding with the local authority and the Arts Council.

There have been a number of successful events already run this term - the MMF tutor event and an SEND Conference run in conjunction with Roehampton University. The major focuses for the year ahead will be the Royal Albert Hall concert in the Spring and further work with the Lincoln Centre from New York.