



The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall & Museum

Dr Eleanor Smith, Chair

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9th November 2020

Dear Friends,

2020 has been a very strange year for us all, and very difficult in many ways – I hope this letter and the AGM papers find as many of you well as possible, and that you are managing to stay safe and occupied in this year of pandemic.

You will note that this year's AGM is not on the date planned from 2019 but has been moved by a week – this is to accommodate various factors - not least the new experience of holding the AGM online rather than in person in St Cecilia's Hall.

We have been particularly sad that both our series of Festival Fringe Concerts, and the awarding of the annual student bursaries have had to be cancelled this year. There is more detail in the attached report, but we do assure members that these decisions were not made lightly, but with full consideration of travel restrictions. It is our fondest hope that both can be reinstated in 2021.

This has also been a year where many of us have been rethinking our own priorities, finding new ways of working, and making decisions about the future. I myself have made the decision to move away from Edinburgh after living here for nearly 18 years and will be making a new life for myself in Göteborg, Sweden from December. Whilst I am very excited to have new adventures in a new country, it is also bittersweet to be leaving my friends and colleagues behind in Edinburgh – a city that has become my home.

The practical implications of my move are that the Friends of St Cecilia's will be seeking a new Chair – whilst I am happy that the committee are keen to allow me to stay involved, especially over the next months as we make decisions relating to the Pamela Jackson scholarship – it will not be practical for me to remain as the Chair whilst living in a different country.

As a committee we are looking for the best solution (not an easy task at the current time) and we hope you will bear with us as we seek new leadership. We may not be able to vote in a new candidate at this year's AGM, but any nominations or suggestions would be most gratefully received, as they would be for the open position of Secretary.

I do look forward to coming back and visiting for events in the future – and perhaps writing some notes from afar for future issues of *Soundboard*.

As you will see from both the reports below, and from the treasurer's report, one place where we have finally been able to start making some more significant progress is with the discussions around the Pamela Jackson legacy. We have had fantastic support in this matter from Morag Murison, Head of Legacies & Planned Gifts as well as invaluable help from Jenny Nex in working with the Reid School, and finally from Jacky MacBeath with experience of other legacies. This support and advice has kept the process moving, whilst also leaving us free reign in our discussions - I am incredibly grateful for all their time and effort over the last couple of years.

In terms of practical matters for the AGM itself – there is a Zoom invite which is copied below. Please do log on 10-15 minutes ahead of the start time so that we can begin as promptly as possible. We are hoping to provide some musical entertainment at the end of the meeting too – which will be a small element of normality!

I am also planning to livestream the meeting simultaneously to YouTube for anyone who is unable to use Zoom or unhappy doing so. However, this is with the *caveat* that we will still require the voting quorum of 10 members on zoom for the AGM to be valid. I will also pass all these details on to Roger French as Webmaster to be available on the website.

Eleanor Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Friends of St Cecilia's AGM

Time: Nov 28, 2020 12:00 PM GMT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82709917684?pwd=VllseEdzZ2QzeDVWRVBNSUVHRjM2QT09>

Meeting ID: 827 0991 7684

Passcode: 371960

YouTube link will be available from the Website: <http://www.stceciliasfriends.org.uk/>

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eleanor Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Eleanor Smith.