

The season commenced with the usual successes:

- great enjoyment for members;
- stimulating challenge in some works and joyful familiarity with other works (in the Sept-March period);
- several well-attended and much-appreciated concerts;
- significant progress on a number of Society issues.
- excellent Contemporary Music Day (7th March)

The Committee has met regularly and I am immensely grateful to all committee members, who are full of enthusiasm and ideas. Being a novice myself in the role, I have relied heavily on the more seasoned committee members for advice, guidance and much support. It has also been very encouraging to welcome a new member onto the Committee, Moira, who in her role as Publicity Officer has really invigorated this area.

My sincere thanks go to Tony, Ian and Julia for their unstinting hard work, enthusiasm, energy and commitment in leading our sections, and to Ellis as Leader of the Orchestra and Rachel as Accompanist to the Singers. We are very fortunate to have such talented and inspirational professionals.

I am very mindful that the Society could not run as smoothly as it does without the time, effort and skills of a large number of volunteers – too numerous to mention by name (and risking offence should anyone be overlooked). However, I would like to encourage those members who do not currently undertake a specific role to be open to volunteering in some area: we constantly need people willing to offer time and expertise to a specific aspect of the Society or their own section. I am clear that no-one should feel that they have taken on a job for life when they do volunteer (including myself) – we need to share out the work and pass it on when we have done our bit.

On this subject, in June, Steve (Kleiser) dropped the bombshell that he would like to relinquish both his place on the Full Committee and his many areas of responsibility. Steve has been a lynchpin in the smooth running of KEMS Singers and, in the wider Society as Concert Manager, for many years. I know I speak for everyone when I say that the Singers could not have operated as well as they do without Steve's tremendous input and his unfailing attention to detail. I cannot thank him enough. However, his "retirement" from active duties leaves a large hole to be filled. We have split his responsibilities into three main areas to create discrete "packages" of related tasks, and sincerely hope that volunteers will come forward to take these on. Singers have been emailed about these roles and encouraged to consider assisting. Steve has generously agreed to remain on the Full Committee for a further 12 months to oversee a transition period and to "coach" new volunteers.

Re-branding

In October 2019 we successfully reached agreement about the long-debated re-branding of the Society, after a survey of members' views and votes on new names. Our November concert saw the launch of *King Edward Musical Society: Macclesfield Symphony Orchestra; Macclesfield Concert Band; Macclesfield Singers and Macclesfield Contemporary Ensemble*. These new names are now an intrinsic part of all our publicity information - and we are even getting used to using the new names ourselves.

2020-2021 Dates and Programme - Symphony Orchestra and Singers

A real effort was made to ensure that next season's (2020-2021) dates were confirmed and publicised by Christmas 2019. That includes both rehearsal and concert dates. This is not as easy as it might seem as Easter is not a fixed feast, it is essential that we avoid peak holiday times for concerts, and we need to ensure a requisite number of rehearsal between concerts. We also have venue constraints, and potential clashes with other local musical societies. I have learned a lot this year about calendar constraints and hope that subsequent years will prove easier.

In addition, we ensured that the 2020-2021 programme for both the Symphony Orchestra and Singers was confirmed in January.

Our thanks go to Ian and Tony, the two music directors in question, who met our deadlines and involved us in interesting discussion about possible works. We hope that members of Singers and Symphony Orchestra will submit suggestions well in advance, so that MDs can consider these when designing the following year's programme – although we do understand that appropriate choice and combination of works is not an easy business.

It is important that these issues are decided early, not only for the benefit of members, but also to try to avoid clashes with other musical societies locally who have been quicker off the mark in the past. We intend to maintain this timetable for future years: dates agreed in the autumn preceding the next season (i.e. almost 12 months in advance) and the programme agreed around Christmas.

Finances

There is a separate Treasurer's Report on the agenda but, in brief, the Society's finances *were* in a healthy, position at the start of the season although we are recommending an increase in our annual subscription for next season, for reasons which are explained in the Treasurer's Report. We have been very successful in maintaining the sub at a very reasonable rate for many years (it was last increased two years ago and prior to that had remained unchanged for four years). However, an increase in the number of concerts performed each season – at members' request – incurs disproportionately greater outlay. Ticket sales contribute only in small measure to the costs of putting on a concert. Despite the proposed increase in subs, our rate remains very good value for money compared with many other local musical societies.

Singers

A few changes have been implemented in this section:

We have a notice-board which is brought to most rehearsals, and on which all relevant information is posted. Many have found this a useful communication tool.

We are trying to eliminate the use of disposable cups for our half-time drink (a particular interest of mine is trying to do what we can environmentally – and I know I am not alone in this). Singers are asked to bring their own mug for their drink, and we have a supply of mugs available for those who forget.

KEMS mugs

We purchased 100 KEMS mugs in the autumn, partly to encourage Singers to buy one to use for their half-time drink! We also thought that members generally would quite like to have a KEMS mug in their own mug collection at home. Sales have not been as buoyant as we had hoped but the stock is slowly diminishing and we can always use the surplus for our own Society refreshments at practices. Savings will be made on the non-purchase of disposable cups to offset any financial outlay.

Website

Our sincere thanks to Roger Dowling who maintains our website, and designs and produces all publicity materials (poster, programmes). The website is very informative and useful: we hope members use it regularly.

COVID-19

You will notice that, as yet, I have made no mention of COVID-19 and the catastrophe which has hit us all in so many areas of life and – most relevantly to this report - musicians of all description. As the country went into lock-down all physical rehearsals within the Society were suspended, and we have been pretty well in hibernation ever since, the Committee feeling rather powerless to plan the future meaningfully. However, just as lockdown was imminent we held a physically distanced Committee meeting, at which we agreed certain aims:

1. to ensure that the Society doesn't suffer long-term damage or even collapse;
2. to support our professionals as much as possible, mindful particularly of the precarious financial position they may be in as freelancers with "portfolio" careers. We value them highly both as extremely skilled musicians and also as friends;
3. to ensure that members receive some sort of "offering" while physical rehearsals remain an impossibility. Ian has been offering weekly Zoom sessions for Singers (and any other KEMS members who might wish to join in). Tony and Julia are in communication with their respective sections and thinking creatively about a way forward.

More recently (21 June) we held a Full Committee meeting (by Zoom), the first part of which was also attended by our professionals ~~also~~. The main topic was, of course, COVID-19 and possible ways forward as a Society. All members have received emails regarding the discussions and decisions which were made at this meeting (2020-2021 fees for professionals; 2020-2021 subs for members; proposed programme for the autumn if physical practices are still impossible, etc.).

Things may well have moved on between my writing this report and the AGM itself, but suffice it to say that we are monitoring the situation constantly, keeping in touch with expert opinion on group singing and instrument playing, and trying to think through all the issues for whatever eventuality occurs in September.

We are hoping to publish an online programme for Sept/Oct, which may well be superseded should physical meetings resume, but which can be held in reserve for any future tightening of restrictions in a "second wave".

We are exploring potential large venues for rehearsals, which could accommodate safe distancing, and are already considering other safety requirements (e.g. no refreshments to be served; one-way systems for entry and egress, hand sanitising, etc.). We hope to be agile in being able to accommodate whatever the situation is as it occurs. At present we are assuming there will be no concerts - or at least no concerts with a live audience - for the foreseeable future.

Finally, this has been an interesting year to take over as Chair/Chairman/Chairlady/Chairperson (pick your preference). If I weather all this and remain standing and sentient, I should be able to carry on for another year, or two.

Lynne Spedding

25 June 2020

King Edward Music Society of Macclesfield: Accounts 2019/20

Income

Note		2019/20	2018/19
1	Subscriptions	15,728	16,510
	Band Tickets, Fees etc	1,068	1,362
	Choir & Orch Tickets	4,287	6,429
	Orch Tickets	1,490	2,473
	Band and Choir Fee	210	175
	Charles Beswick Trust	2,370	2,270
	Donations (Gift Aided)	366	1,368
	Donations	43	26
2	Giving Machine	51	89
	HMRC - Gift Aid	3,346	3,128
	Interest	110	91
	Tea & Coffee (Rehearsals)	604	490
	Raffles (Rehearsals)	296	401
	Drink Sales (Concerts)	219	234
	KEMS Contemporary tickets	9	-
	Band T-shirt sales	185	-
	KEMS Mug sales	239	-
	Miscellaneous	-	145
	Choir Workshop - Dove	520	-
	Concert Raffle (Congleton)	40	-
	Other Income (2018/19)		1,896

Expenditure

Note		2019/20	2018/19
	MD - Ian Chesworth	6,339	5,789
	MD - Tony Houghton	5,854	5,334
	MD - Julia Harding	5,071	4,872
	Leader	2,250	2,775
	Choir Accomp	2,592	1,700
3	Soloists	1,060	2,230
	Guest Players	330	840
	Travel	67	30
	Rehearsal Venues	3,006	3,360
	Concert Venues	1,521	831
	Music Purchase (Band)	533	540
	Music Purchase (Choir)	-	-
	Music Purchase (Orchestra)	130	-
	Music Hire	1,677	1,286
4	Making Music	750	732
	Trailer Storage	180	720
	Printing Publicity etc	930	1,042
5	Equipment	98	-
6	Miscellaneous	531	920
	KEMS Contemporary tickets	9	-
	Band T-Shirts	201	-
	KEMS Mugs	409	-
	Choir Workshop - Dove	480	-
	Contemp. W/S - Lilly Bracegirdle	150	-
	Other Expenditure (2018/19)		3,879

TOTAL 31,181 37,087

TOTAL 34,168 36,880

TRANSF FROM CAP'L RES. - -

TRANSF TO CAP'L RES. - 200

TOTAL 31,181 37,087

TOTAL 34,168 37,080

SURPLUS -2,987 8

Notes

- 1 Membership: Total 185 (Previous year 189) Choir 89 (90) Orchestra 45 (44) Band 51 (55)
- 2 *Giving Machine*: an additional way of supporting KEMS - see <http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/>
- 3 Soloists: Nov: (Haydn SATB RNCM): £860; May: (Tchaik Violin B Holland) Cancelled so 50%= £200
- 4 Making Music: £750 (membership £365, insurance £160, PRS £225)
- 5 Equipment: including banners £83
- 6 Miscellaneous: includes website hosting (two years to 2022): £156; wine for performers, hospitality etc: £190

Band Tours 2019 accounted in 2019/20 financial year

Income	17
Expenditure	2,396
Surplus	- 2,380

Note: The tour in fact broke even. There was a similar-sized "surplus" in the year 2018/19

Charity Events / Donations (not formally part of accounts)

(Note: in all these cases the amounts did not pass through KEMS accounts)

Event	£approx
Band concert: Congleton URC nova 2019 to church funds	217
Band & Choir: Tatton, Dec 2019 to <i>Crisis</i>	575
TOTAL	792

KEMS 2019/20: Balance Sheet

Opening balances at 1 June 2019

	£	£
NatWest Bank	2,891	
COIF Investment Account (Standard Reserves)	13,964	
COIF Investment Account (Capital Reserves)	4,650	
Total Current Assets		21,505
Accounted Fixed Assets		20,437
TOTAL		41,942

Changes during the year

Increase in Current Assets	- 5,367	
Accounted Fixed Assets acquired	-	
Total increase in Assets		- 5,367

Closing balances at 31 May 2020

NatWest Bank	7,414	
COIF Investment Account (Standard Reserves)	4,074	
COIF Investment Account (Capital Reserves)	4,650	
Total Current Assets		16,138
Accounted Fixed Assets		20,437
TOTAL		36,574

Accounted Fixed Assets at 31 May 2020 (Qualification >= £300)

Date	Music	Other
Pre 21 sets miscellaneous orchestral music	840	
Pre DrumKit (bass, hi-hat, 2cymb, 2tom-tom, snare)		940
Pre Lighting stands		200
Pre Timpani (Copper Bottom) (2) - no sticks		500
08 Christmas Spirituals	337	
08 Trailer for Staging incl tow-bar lock		1,821
08 Conductor's rostrum (part of 2009 staging)		354
08 Staging		10,708
09 Puccini Messa di Gloria Orch parts&full score	350	
12 Carols for Choirs 5	1,082	
12 Bass Drum		300
12 Clash cymbals + cradle		313
15 Roland "Cube Street EX" Portable PA		600
1 5/1 6 RAT Stands - acoustic shields - six		912
1 6/1 7 8 LED lighting units		557
1 7/1 8 Staging - extra boards, frames & rails		623
TOTALS	2,609	17,828

KEMS 2019/20: Restricted Fund ‡

Band Music Purchase

Opening Balance at 1 June 2018	63	
Allocation from KEMS Committee	500	
Band tour surplus	46	
TOTAL		609
Band Music Purchased	- 533	
Closing Balance at 31 May 2019		76

- † A restricted fund is one which, legally, can only be used for a specific purpose.
The only restricted fund which KEMS holds is money used for the purchase of band music

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF KING EDWARD MUSICAL SOCIETY
OF MACCLESFIELD**

I report on the financial statements of King Edward Musical Society of Macclesfield (Registered Charity No 517554) for the year ended 31 May 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Society through its Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Committee considers that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Committee and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act;

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name MICHAEL V. HORNER

Relevant professional
qualification or body:


signature

Address: 6, CALVELEY ROAD

MACCLESFIELD

CHESHIRE SK10 3NA

Date: 10/06/2020