

KEMS Chair Report for AGM on 2nd July 2024

During my 1st year as Chair of KEMS I have tried to build on the success Lynne Spedding achieved in keeping the musical society going following Covid. Throughout the last twelve months I have been to every performance our members have done under the KEMS Macclesfield umbrella – be it Concert Band, Contemporary Group, Symphony Orchestra (MSO) and Singers. I have been able to experience first hand how each performance has had its own unique qualities that gives pleasure to and at times has challenged our diverse audiences. To say I am proud of KEMS may be considered an easy statement to make but I really am proud of the whole Society and hope my enthusiasm will encourage us all to achieve even more success during the next 12 months and beyond.

Developing ‘my vision for KEMS’ document gave me the opportunity to talk to our members, Musical Directors, Committee Members and research how other musical organisations are responding to today’s challenges of keeping music alive. The results of those actions enabled me to propose changes to the committee that had the potential to ensure the long term viability and sustainability of the society. I was very grateful that after much discussion ‘A vision for the future of KEMS’ was approved by the committee in October 2023 and its implementation started immediately.

There were three fundamental changes:

1. Annual calendar of events – which section performed when and where – *evidence of this change is clear when we look at the programme for 2024-2025 Season*
2. Each section to have its own committee with a Chair that reported directly to the main committee – *this is building on what were informal arrangements and will be consolidated further with updated terms of reference for these section committees alongside those for the main committee from now*
3. Member engagement and financial control – everyone needs to understand what it costs and what support is required to put on each one of our performances.
 - *The appointment of a Concert Manager for each event for the Singers and MSO has to date shown to be beneficial to the success of the event. Throughout the year it has allowed us to refine and simplify what the role entails dependent upon section(s) performing and location of event.*
 - *The distribution of a financial summary after each event to all members has shown visually what are the cost and income items for an event. My intention has been to help everyone understand what contributes to KEMS putting on events alongside having a great musical experience.*
 - *Member engagement and support has improved throughout the year but I believe we need to share the load even further and encourage more members to be involved in doing things.*

As Chair I intend to leave our Musical Directors to report on our individual musical achievements and for them to identify opportunities/challenges we need to address regarding musical performances. My summary of last year's performances is every section had some outstanding moments and concerts but at times we felt our audience numbers did not reflect the success we ultimately achieved. When I became Chair, I set a target to the Committee of getting at least 100 in the audience per concert – well overall for last Season we achieved this but disappointingly not for every concert. In recent events our audiences have commented on the KEMS spirit, left with smiles on their faces and enjoyed our performances – please try to sell more tickets – performing to a full house is great!

During the last season we have certainly encouraged more people to volunteer to do individual tasks but as ever we do need more especially partners or friends that can help at performance times. Whilst there are many people who do sterling work for the Society, I would like to say a special thank you to four who have been extremely helpful to me during my 1st twelve months as Chair:

- Richard Moss for keeping me on the straight and narrow regarding procedural matters and getting/keeping on top of policies
- Paul Spedding for working with me to bring an increased financial understanding and awareness to all our members
- Moira Taylor for building on our previous marketing experiences alongside some of my new ideas – as well as developing very successful raffles and additional income
- Ginny Carter for maintaining our updated membership database and managing the distribution of emails to all our members

However, without our members there would not be KEMS and I would like to say a big thank you to you all for your support and encouragement to be your Chair.

As I end my note I would like to say a special thank you to our Musical Directors; Julia, Tony and Mark, the MSO Leader, Henry and the Singers Accompanist, James, who turn up every week to rehearsals to lead and encourage us to perform to the best of our abilities – it is their weekly commitment and leadership that has allowed us to achieve such memorable performances.

Wishing everyone at KEMS a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you all at the start and throughout next season.

Anne Thomson

KEMS Chair

23rd June 2024

King Edward Music Society of Macclesfield: Balance Sheet 2023/24

Opening balances at 1 June 2023

	£	£
NatWest Bank	7,558	
COIF Investment Account (Standard Reserves)	6,795	
COIF Investment Account (Capital Reserve)	6,250	
Cash (floats)	180	
Total Current Assets		20,782
Accounted Fixed Assets		5,600
TOTAL		26,382

Changes during the year

Increase in Current Assets	-	633	
Total increase in Assets (decrease if negative)			- 633

Closing balances at 31 May 2024

NatWest Bank	5,261	
COIF Investment Account (Standard Reserves)	8,358	
COIF Investment Account (Capital Reserve)	6,350	
Cash (floats)	180	
Total Current Assets		20,149
Accounted Fixed Assets		5,600
TOTAL		25,749

Purch Date	Accounted Fixed Assets	Market value (est)
?	Drum Kit	100
?	Lighting stands	50
08/09	Christmas Spirituals (44 copies)	100
08/09	Staging	3,000
09/10	Puccini Messa di Gloria Orch parts & full score	50
12/13	Carols for Choirs 5 (64 copies)	200
12/13	Bass Drum	50
12/13	Clash cymbals + cradle	100
15/16	Roland "Cube Street EX" Portable PA system	200
15/16	RATStands - accoustic music stands: six	50
17/18	Lights	200
Various	Large quantity of band music - some donated	1,000
Various	Orchestral music - some donated	500
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		5,600

Capital Reserve 2023/24

Opening Bal: 1Jun23	6,250
Transfer in (staging hire to NCO)	100
Closing Bal: 31May24	6,350

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 2024.

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:

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signature

Address: 6 CALVELEY RD

..... MACCLESFIELD

..... SK10 3NA

Date: 3/6/24