

## MINUTE

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND MUSIC

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 at 7.30 pm, the Waterside Hotel Inverness**

PRESENT: Moira Leslie, Convenor welcomed 12 other members and there were 5 proxies.

APOLOGIES: Roddy and Eilidh Ross, Ian and Rosemary Condie, Coll Findlay, Mr. WEA Fraser, Kathleen Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Martin and Beryl Campbell, Iain MacIllechiar, Marion Stewart, Peter Christie, Emmeline Warmbath, Kirsteen MacCorquodale, Mr. and Mrs. Green, Patricia Moore, Alison and Colin Mackenzie, Morna Cameron, Gordon Fleetwood, Dave Greer, Jim Leslie.

1 The Minute of the 2017 AGM was Approved by Oona Sim and Seconded by Kathreen Hunter. Moira added that, in consideration of members' suggestions from the 2017 AGM for the most part, because the Committee had been so busy streamlining procedures, it had not been possible to organize a Ceilidh. And whilst contact had been made with Dougie Pincock at the School of Excellence in Scottish Traditional Music at Plockton High School, because they have sufficient performing opportunities already, there is no time to add further events. Approach to the Conservatoire was similarly unproductive. The Macaulay Room at Balnain House was not available for rent. It was not possible, for protection reasons, to obtain information about young people who were winners of the FoHM sponsored trophies at the Inverness Music Festival. Consideration of a scheme to revive a Highland Council Pipe Band had not been considered.

2 Receive and consider the Annual Report from the Committee as previously circulated. Convenor Moira Leslie said committee had worked hard in their new roles and in streamlining the documentation, and that the grant recipient area would now include the Western Isles. Our Music grants totaling £2,750 had been awarded for very worthwhile music tuition to four young people, and one of them, Kyle Cameron would be entertaining us later on at the AGM, as well as to the Come and Try tent at Belladrum, a joint venture between Fèisean na Gàidheal and Friends of Highland Music, which had been a great success. Moira noted the death of our long time faithful member, Mr. WEA Fraser. The death of Mrs. Kathlyn Fforde had allowed Friends of Highland Music to receive £5,672.78 from her legacy, for which we were most grateful. Eric Allan continued to donate the proceeds of his Tune For You scheme which had so far raised in excess of £16,000 from composing over 260 Tunes. His Slow Jam venture gives opportunity for all ages to play traditional music. In addition to Eric and Helen Allan, Moira also thanked Ken Houston who had examined our accounts for many years, and Anne Maciver our new Independent Examiner.

3 Receive and consider the Independently Examined Annual Accounts

3.1 The end of year balance was £27,514 as against £22,277 for 2016 bolstered by the legacy gratefully received from the estate of the late Kathlyn Fforde mentioned above.

3.2 Moira mentioned that as Interim Treasurer she had not had time to reclaim the Gift Aid tax which would therefore appear on next year's Accounts. Similarly, the payment for the use of Ness Bank Halls for the Slow Jam would also appear in next year's Accounts.

The Adoption of the Accounts was Proposed by Oona Sim and Seconded by Helen Allan.

4 Receive and consider any Resolution which has been competently lodged and circulated in terms of clauses 7.4 and 7.5 of the Constitution.

The Committee proposed a Resolution making three changes as previously circulated: -

3.1a To allow a maximum of 10 committee members as required.

5.3 The Annual Subscription period to run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December in line with the accounting year.

6.2 The Accounts to be 'Independently Examined'. The wording reflects the new OSCR requirements. (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)

Each part was approved by a show of hands of at least 11 of the 13 Members present, and the Resolution was duly passed.

5 Determine the amount of subscriptions payable during the ensuing year.

Mr. L Donald Proposed, and Mrs. Sybil Macaulay Seconded, a motion that the subscriptions remain at £5 for an Individual, and £10 for a Family. There was no counter proposal and the motion was carried.

6 Elect replacements for retiring elected members of Committee

Secretary Jean Fleetwood took the Chair and it was explained that Dave Greer, Kathreen Hunter Oona Sim and Jean Fleetwood were happy to continue with their second term of office. However, Convenor Moira Leslie, and Rhona MacDonald were both up for re-election after completing their two years. Helen Allan Proposed the re-election of both Moira Leslie and Rhona MacDonald and this was Seconded by Eric Allan.

Moira Leslie returned to the Chair.

7 Receive suggestions to the Committee for future activities of the Society.

Moira said that there would be the opportunity for Members to note any suggestions on the sheet provided that would be available on the table during the refreshments and entertainment to follow. Compliance with General Data Protection Regulation by 25<sup>th</sup> May is a priority.

There being no further items of competent business, the meeting was closed at 7.55pm.

Moira introduced Kyle Cameron, the Our Music grant recipient who has won many awards trophies and accolades, receives tuition from the National Piping in Glasgow where he is highly regarded and was chosen to play solo for the visiting Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. He also plays in the National Youth Pipe Band despite learning for only about 4 years. Kyle, in addition to his love of Piobaireachd, admirably supports his community in Rosemarkie and has fund raised for Diabetes UK and Heart UK. It was a privilege to have this remarkable young piper play for us. Jean gave the vote of thanks and Moira thanked Kyle's father for bringing him to the meeting, and he praised our society for all our good work.

Tea, coffee and shortbread were then served during which time, a short video of Fèis Inbhir Narainn's very recent concert from the 20+ musicians who had a weekend of tuition from composer and accordion player John Somerville, Graham Mackenzie and Rachel Newton. The 'Voyage of the Hector' had been commissioned by Fèis Rois.

After that we were treated to a video, again thanks to Rhona MacDonald of Fèis Inbhir Narainn, whose daughter had filmed their Come and Try Tent, An Teanta Chèilidh, a joint venture with Friends of Highland Music at the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017. With excellent tutors, about 300 participants had enjoyed the experience as we were able to see and appreciate.

The Convenor thanked Rhona's husband Iain for his technical assistance in the showing of the videos and to all for attending the AGM. The evening concluded.

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### FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND MUSIC (formerly Friends of Balnain House)

is a recognised charity No. SCO22098 established for the advancement of education and interest in Highland music and culture.

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