

FLINDERS QUARTET

Minutes

Flinders Quartet Inc.

Date/time of meeting	Wednesday 9 September 2020, 5.00pm
Location of meeting	Zoom (online)
Attendees	Julian Burnside, Zoe Knighton, Mary Vallentine, Sarah Hunt, Sandra Stoklossa, Helen Ireland and Wendy Avilov
Apologies	
Guests	Wilma Smith, Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba and Kirsty Hillhouse

Agenda Item/Topic	Discussion/outcomes	Person accountable for action
1.4	No issues or questions arising from the meeting minutes from 2 September 2020	
2.1	<p>New board member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to invite Carrillo Gantner AC to join the Flinders Quartet Board (replacing Ian Roberts)• All in agreement however Mary raised that Carrillo may perceive a conflict gives his position with a potential funding body (Playking)• Mary proposed we should consider board composition before extending the invitation: determine what range of skills we need on the board while ensuring diversity• Use of a board skills matrix to determine what areas we need to fill• Mary to send board skills matrix to Wendy to set up for FQ and start the process of determining what areas we need to fulfil (Wendy also has a board skills matrix example from Sarah, which we'll incorporate also)• Julian invited the board to propose potential invitees to consider over the coming months	<p>Mary Wendy</p> <p>All</p>

Programming - 2020 final wrap up

- Composer Development Program undertaken in November: COVID prompted us to stream the workshops (as well as concert) this year. The main takeaway from this experiment is that composers far prefer to be in the room with the quartet with much better sound quality; but the streamed workshops helped us reach a greater audience, so in the future we will look to continue streaming, with the composers attending in person
- Monash residency concluded in November with live streamed Deborah Cheetham *Bungaree* and Ella Macens *A Love Worth Fighting For* premieres. This was FQ's first concert in the Sound Gallery; loved this versatile space and now looking for ways to perform there in the future. New work premieres went well.
- Beethoven Op.132 digital concert 'gift' filmed/recorded in early December, very worthwhile project to bring the quartet back together again, consolidate musical personalities, glad we pushed to get that done. The filmed concert will be gifted to supporters with a prompt to donate, and pure thank you for those who have already donated this year.

Programming - 2021 and beyond plans

- Adelaide Festival invitation proceeding COVID permitting; there is a contingency plan for if FQ will have to quarantine going into Adelaide, but currently no plan for if FQ have to quarantine coming back into Melbourne
- Australian Festival of Chamber Music (Townsville) proceeding
- Margaret Sutherland recording with ABC Classic is proceed, with 2021 dates booked for the first recording (second to be undertaken in 2022)
- Margaret Sutherland mini-festival at Villa Alba proceeding
- Seeking to engage Kabuku PR to support 2021 publicity efforts
- Vignette commission update: 5 past Composer Development Program participants commissioned to create a 2-3 min work based on their response to Beethoven's Grosse Fuge; works to be composed in 2021 and premiered in 2022 in program with the Beethoven
- Sutherland song cycle commission update - Katy Abbott working on it in 2021 and premiering in 2022
- Cheetham commission update: school choir + string quartet commission for premiere in 2023, sung in Indigenous language, and parts suitable for high school string players
- Zoe invited board to suggest potential supporters to invite to MRC 6pm concert and post-concert supper
- Julian proposed inviting composers (in general, not necessarily programmed) to those dinners, e.g. Katy Abbott to May supper

2.3	<p>Financials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2020 forecast update provided in financial report; 2020 financial year (ending 31 December) will finish with a surplus and final accounts will be shared early in 2021 ● 2021 budget presented with a deficit of \$1,726 and \$216,500 in funding (grants and philanthropic) yet to be confirmed, broken down as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Private donations - \$113,000 ○ Trusts & Foundations - \$28,500 (<i>Betty Amsden \$20,000 is now confirmed, so is not included in this figure</i>) ○ Government grants - \$75,000 ● The Board determined that this a manageable and acceptable level of risk and approved the budget, given the number of funding applications currently in (and to be submitted in 2021), and our capacity to be flexible ● Julian proposed inviting Creative Victoria and City of Melbourne representatives to a 2021 concert as a thank you ● Zoe queried the idea of increasing our publicity budget, asking if it was a good investment ● Sarah suggested identifying the programs that are priorities to expand exposure and investing the publicity there 	
2.4	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Philanthropic revenue received January to November 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Private donations \$104,942 ○ Trusts and Foundations \$100,000 ● Kirsty anticipates a return to private giving more strongly in 2021, as grant opportunities reduce ● Clarification about queried acronyms in development report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COM - City of Melbourne ○ OZCO - Australia Council ○ JNQP - John Noble's Quartet Program ○ HHV - 'Hear Her Voice' initiative, focusing on female composers ○ HHV2 - second phase of 'Hear Her Voice' initiative ○ FSH - Footscray High School ○ CV - Creative Victoria 	
2.5	<p>2021 Board meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board meetings to continue via Zoom in 2021 ● 5pm start times, aim to cap at one hour ● Four Board meetings to be scheduled, plus bi-monthly financial catch ups (four of the financial catch ups to be schedule two weeks prior to the Board meetings) ● Board meeting dates to be set around decisions to be made, e.g. changing programs based on funding outcomes, 2022 budget approval ● Wendy to propose series of dates with reasons why they are trigger dates and the key activities around those dates 	Wendy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tentatively planning first financial catch up for early February and first Board meeting in last week of February (avoiding Feb 26th) 	
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Time closed	5:58pm
Member absence during meeting	n/a

Date, time and location of next meeting	Financial update - 5pm, TBC week commencing February 8 (Zoom) Board meeting - 5pm, TBC week commencing February 22 (Zoom)
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