



# The Plainsong and Medieval Music Society

Council Meeting  
Manchester, John Rylands Library  
Friday, 13 November 2015, 12:30 pm

## Minutes

### Attending

Emma Hornby (chair), Thomas Schmidt (acting secretary), Christian Leitmeir (treasurer), Nicolas Bell, Joe Mason (administrator), Mary O'Neill, Matthew Salisbury, Hana Vlhova-Wörner, Eleanor Giraud (guest)

### 1. Apologies for absence

Margaret Bent, Sean Dunnahoe (student rep), Barbara Eichner, John Harper, David Hiley, Jeremy Llewellyn, Susan Rankin, Owen Rees, Bruno Turner, Magnus Williamson

### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2014

Approved with minor corrections

### 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 21 May 2015

Noted

### 4. Matters arising

All covered under respective agenda items

### 5. Chair's Report

The society had supported the following conferences:

- EH reported on the 'Senses of Liturgy' conference (Bristol, May 2015), in conjunction with the PMMS AGM and Study Day. EH expressed congratulations to the organising team, especially Kati Ihnat, for an excellently run and highly successful conference.

- Eleanor Giraud reported on the PMMS-supported conference 'The Influence of the Dominican Order in the Middle Ages (Oxford, September 2015) which had attracted 87 delegates; the concert for which the PMMS had provided support had gone exceptionally well.

- No report had been received for the conference 'Facing the Music of Medieval England' organised by Lisa Johnson (Huddersfield, March 2015). TS to request a brief report. **Action: TS.**

The CUP series was shaping up well. The first volume, Karen Desmond's book on the Ars Nova, was now under contract, even though the syndicate had not yet given final approval to the series. There was substantial interest in the scholarly community

(especially given the current precarious position of Ashgate publishers), and the series received excellent support by the new CUP Music editor, Kate Brett. At the AGM, Rebecca Maloy had suggested that PMMS should stage or sponsor events in the U.S. to raise its profile. EH suggested that the best way forward in the first instance would be to approach Daniel DiCenso who co-ordinated the musicology sessions at Kalamazoo. **Action: EH.**

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The finances of the society were largely unchanged and sound.

CL had informed the membership about the increase of membership fees as agreed at the AGM in May. This had met with little response, so was apparently uncontroversial.

Some members had already paid their 2016 fees before the rise came into effect; it was decided not to pursue this actively, but to install a donation option on the PMMS membership site and encourage the respective members to donate the difference.

**Action: CL**

## **7. Chair and council elections**

Bruno Turner had informed the society that he wanted to step down as President with effect of the forthcoming AGM. It was decided to approach David Hiley to replace him stand down as president, with John Caldwell to replace David in the vacated VP slot. Should David not want to serve as President, it was decided to ask John Caldwell to assume the position. **Action: EH**

CL would have to step down as treasurer for a year at the forthcoming AGM; TS who was to come back on council in 2016 would replace him as treasurer *pro tem*.

Other than that, the council would remain unchanged. Assuming that Magnus Williamson would step down at the next AGM after having organised the Study Day in April, one slot would become vacant. NB opted to stand down from Council; Council thanked him for his long service, and for his continuing activities for the Society. Nominations would be sought for a new member of Council, to be elected at the upcoming AGM.

Since Joe Mason had become administrator, another student rep would have to be found by the next AGM (Sean Dunnahoe to continue). **Action: EH and OR**

## **8. PMMS grants**

No grant applications had been received for this meeting. Given the limited resources of the society, it was nevertheless decided that no major effort should be made to increase the number of applications by more than word of mouth and the website.

An application was expected from Tim Shephard for the Med-Ren in Sheffield. This could not be in the form of supporting the keynote as in previous years as the keynote was to be given by EH herself which could be construed as a conflict of interest; but Tim was to be encouraged to submit an application for another public event. **Action: EH**

John Harper had asked whether the PMMS would consider supporting a performance-focused day. This was confirmed, and JH to be encouraged to submit an application. **Action: CL**

## **9. Report from PMM**

The last two issues had appeared as planned. Forthcoming was a special issue in honour of Michel Huglo (past VP). The submission rate was good, but as ever, members were encouraged to submit articles and encourage others to do likewise.

HVW proposed to publish regular printed updates in PMM about ongoing digitization projects, databases and websites, along the lines of the chant bibliography. CL to propose to editorial committee. **Action: CL**

## **10. PMMS conferences and events**

The forthcoming AGM / Study Day would be held in Newcastle, as part of Magnus Williamson's 'Tudor partbooks' project. The date is 9 April 2016, the theme 'The Afterlife of manuscripts'.

Given the great success this year of combining the Council meeting with a sources training day, it was decided to make this a regular annual fixture. Possible venues mooted were Durham, Worcester, Hereford, Trinity Cambridge, York, Oxford. It was decided that MS should explore the possibility to hold it at Worcester. HVW volunteered to organise a workshop on singing from originals as part of the day.

**Action: MS, HVW**

It was proposed to hold the 2017 AGM / Study Day in Bangor; HVW suggested to invite Frank Lawrence from Dublin to participate. **Action: HVW**

## **11. Website, Newsletter, and Publicity**

The PMMS Twitter account was still active, but had seen little activity recently. EH to approach Lisa Johnson who was tweeting on behalf of the Society to ask whether they would be willing to keep an eye on the account and tweet/retweet about relevant activities where appropriate. **Action: EH**

The relationship to Cantus Planus was discussed. There was currently little incentive for non-UK members to join - how might the attractiveness of PMMS membership be raised? More international activities might be a way forward (see above).

*Retrospective note:* BE had pointed out that PMMS was still lacking publicity flyers with information how to join to be distributed at sponsored conferences. **Action: BE**

## **12. AOB**

None

## **13. Dates of next meetings**

AGM: Newcastle, 9 April 2016

Council: tbd (possibly in Worcester), autumn 2016

The meeting closed at 1.45.