

President/Secretary's Report 2009-2010
Music in Peebles Scottish Charity: SC006906

The objectives of Music in Peebles are to bring quality chamber music to as wide an audience as possible in the Peebles area, engage musicians of the highest calibre and give opportunities to young artists striving to build their careers. We also aim to provide music of a variety of styles, taking into account the music brought to Peebles by other music promoters.

These objectives were met with a programme of seven concerts in 2009/10 (our 63rd season), namely:

Fujita Piano Trio, on Tuesday 13 October 2009

Jennifer Pike, accompanied by Jeremy Pike, on Friday 6 November 2009

Dunedin Consort Virtuoso Baroque, on Thursday 10 December 2009, followed by a social evening

String Trio (in place of the Vardanyan Quartet), on Tuesday 2 February 2010

St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh, on Tuesday 2 March 2010

Steven Osborne and Jean Johnson, on Monday 15 March 2010 (rescheduled from 5 January)

The Schubert Ensemble, on Saturday 20 March 2010

The Steven Osborne concert was rescheduled at short notice owing to injury. The Vardanyan Quartet concert was replaced, also at short notice, when Astghik Vardanyan was refused a visa to enter the UK; we are grateful to Rowan Bell for providing the alternative String Trio concert.

Music in Peebles had over 90 members in 2009/10. In addition, about 30 non-members regularly attended the concerts.

We continued to win substantial grant support from Enterprise Music Scotland. In 2009/10, total income approximately equaled total expenditure, including the transfer of an additional £1000 to the piano fund, despite additional costs incurred as a result of the rescheduled concerts.

The success of Music in Peebles depends upon the efforts of many people. Special thanks are due to the treasurer Derek McLachlan, for keeping the accounts, raising grant support, dealing with membership, and also helping to inform members about the two rescheduled concerts; to committee and other members for an exceptionally successful Strawberry Tea and Tombola on 18 July 2009; to the Press Secretary Herbert Burchnall, the Minute Secretary Rosemary Hamilton, Derek Arthur for preparing excellent Programme Notes and to Alison Cruickshanks for page turning at four of the concerts. I am also grateful to the honorary president, Elizabeth Luke, for her continued support.

This year, Herbert Burchnall is leaving the committee. We are grateful to Herbert for extending the number of press notices and for the timely preparation and submission of publicity material, which played a significant role in enhancing our membership and audience. Herbert also helped transport musicians on many occasions. We are delighted that Alan Herd will assume the role of Press Secretary.

We are also grateful to the staff and volunteers of the Eastgate Theatre for their work in selling tickets and programmes, caring for the piano, advertising, juggling concert dates, attending to the needs of the musicians and managing the auditorium.

The Music in Peebles programme in 2010/11 will be:

Doric String Quartet, on Monday 11 October 2010

Michael Collins (piano) and Michael McHale (piano), on Thursday 11 November 2010

Philip Higham (cello) and Simon Lane (piano), on Tuesday 7 December 2010, followed by a social evening

Passacaglia Baroque Quintet, on Wednesday 19 January 2011

Derek Watson lecture 'Liszt and Scotland', on Tuesday 1 February 2011

Atrium Quartet, on Tuesday 15 March 2011

Melvin G R Cannell (Trustee; President and Secretary)