

## **5. Chair's Report**

2017-18 has been my first year as Chair. It's always hard taking over from someone good, and - in the case of Rahul - he made the role seem effortless. Of course, there's always a tremendous amount of 'action' out of sight under the water. So this year I have been paddling **as fast as I can!**

I've been part of the CYM family since 2004, when my eldest daughter Bridget arrived as an 8-year-old, so I have seen many changes as the organisation has developed and grown. In recent years I love the way it has embraced more and more genres, to reflect the CYM students' own interests: and this lunchtime concert is a great example. A **massive thank you** to our performers, to their tutors, and to their parents (whose often under-appreciated support makes such an impact on their development).

Ever since I got actively involved with the Friends I have been struck by what a dynamic group of parents the Friends attract. Giving up time each Saturday to set up and run the Notre Dame canteen, shopping, baking and making sandwiches on a regular basis, Friends also provide pastoral care for CYM students at external events, and raise much-appreciated funds for the Centre, on top of their busy weekday lives.

There are so many parents and carers who offer their time, skills and expertise to the Friends, playing my Chair's role becomes a pleasure. I can't begin to mention you all; but over the last year I have to mention some key committee members who have supported me most (and kept me from dropping too many balls!). They are :

- **Sarah Parish**, our experienced Vice Chair. As Canteen Purchaser and the mastermind behind all FCYM refreshments, Sarah also works closely with CYM tutors to get any donated instruments back into playing order. Her expertise and wisdom are invaluable.
- **Adeline Chan**, who supports us as Treasurer despite her extremely demanding day job. (Adeline has asked us to look for someone who can get involved with the role on a regular basis. *Please* come and see me anytime if you think you can help.)
- **Laurence Markantonis**. Laurence not only works closely with Adeline on Friends finance, but is also our fundraising 'supremo'. Her 'behind the scenes' work, persuading companies to donate thousands of pounds-worth of equipment is becoming legendary. (You'll hear more of her successes in the Treasurer's report.)
- **Ralph Dew**, who last year (his 12<sup>th</sup> and final year as a CYM dad) ran a series of amazingly lucrative Music Sales for the Friends. In a single year he managed to catalogue and sell a substantial proportion of a massive music bequest, maximising Friends profits by an impressive figure. These funds have allowed us to buy CYM a top-of-the-range professional drum kit outright.
- Ex-Chair **Nicy Roberts**, who re-launched *Upbeat* magazine and after 10 years as sole Editor now moves to the role of Editor-in-Chief. She continues to be one of FCYM's foremost 'alumni'.
- **Nigel Tudman**. Nigel coordinates all the photography and the distribution of *Upbeat* for CYM, and now co-edits the magazine with Nicy.
- **Judith Robinson**, who works closely with Alice in the office to run the extremely successful CYM 'Open Days'. (**Head's Up** – please tell your friends to sign up for this year's: 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January!)
- **Dagmar Morton**. Dagmar has run the Subscribing Friends scheme for a few years now, and coordinates the popular Christmas and Summer cake sales. This year she also takes over as Canteen Coordinator from **Cleo El-Shwarby**. As an ex-Coordinator myself, my heartfelt thanks go to both of them for their time, patience and enthusiasm with this crucial role!

Finally, it is really important to acknowledge the great support and goodwill we get from Geoff, his Heads of Department, tutors and the CYM office team led by Alice and Elaine, who make sure their doors are always open to the Friends. I also want to thank the Saturday Morley College and the Notre Dame Premises staff, who always go to the 'nth' degree for us.

Please forgive me if I have missed anyone out: there are so many people who make CYM the dynamic place it is. It is truly amazing just how many of you step forward with ideas and practical help each week. Last year was no exception, and I am looking forward to working with you again this year, and to welcoming new Friends.

## 6. Finance Report

Our treasurer, Adeline, is sending our apologies as she is working today. I will therefore read her review on her behalf.

Please find a copy of the draft accounts for the year ended 31 August 2018.

We are in a good financial position with cash balances of £20,000 and no debt which allows us to keep supporting CYM for the year ahead. The canteen has been particularly successful thanks to all your combined efforts. Combined with cake sale and refreshment, the canteen generated a record net £8,000 (after costs) and is the cornerstone of our activity. Other key contributors from our parents friends were the CD and Music sales and ongoing generous donations.

We made a small profit which would have been larger had we made a gift aid claim. We'll record the benefit of such a claim in the period in which we receive the payment from HMRC since our accounts are drawn up on a cash basis. Our main purpose, however, is not to make a profit but to support CYM.

In this regard, as well as organise the publication and contribute towards the cost of getting the Upbeat magazine to you and your school, we purchased £5.7k of musical instruments and accessories for CYM (listed on page 2)

We also elicited asset donations worth about £4,000 which we have in turn donated to CYM, namely:

1. 3 high quality bows for Double Bass, Cello and Viola generously donated by Marco Raposo and Maestro Archetier
2. Strings for violin, viola, cello and double bass donated by Pirastro
3. Clarinet and saxophone reeds donated by Marca Reeds
4. A fridge for our canteen donated by AEG and Electrolux
5. Leavers' books donated by Hachette, Penguin Random House and Sandstone Press
6. a 1/2 size double bass donated by Norman Lewis, a CYM and LSSO alumnus, which FCYM repaired and equipped.

And therefore we were able to support CYM and the students with some £10,000 worth of combined donations during 2017-2018.

Adeline Chan (presented by Laurence Markantonis, in her absence)

## 7. Canteen, Upbeat, Fundraising Reports:

### Upbeat Magazine (Nigel Tudman)

Upbeat is produced each term by the Friends of CYM, published in print and online versions and sent to each student. It is also distributed to primary and secondary schools in all London Boroughs, London music hubs and libraries, plus CYM's sponsors and donors.

*Upbeat* gives an overview of the activities of CYM, LYWB (London Youth Wind Band) and LSSO (London Schools Symphony Orchestra), we try to cover all the term's activities and keep you informed of upcoming events.

We have a core editorial team but are always looking out for volunteers to help produce and develop *Upbeat*.

If you have relevant skills (editing, writing, proofreading, photography) and are keen to be involved with the editorial team please leave us your mobile or email [friends@cym.org.uk](mailto:friends@cym.org.uk) and we'll be in touch.

We also welcome volunteers to help with distribution - envelope labelling and stuffing, franking and delivery to the post office - one Saturday morning each term. This is a good opportunity to meet other CYM parents - with a complimentary coffee from the canteen.

The Friends maintain a list of venues/shops where we can distribute copies of *Upbeat*, and would welcome volunteers to distribute a few copies of the magazine to any relevant venues and shops in their local area.

You can also see online versions of the latest issue and back issues at:  
<https://cym.org.uk/community/upbeat-magazine/>

### FCYM Music Sales (Ralph Dew)

My time as a CYM parent is now ending after over twelve happy and very interesting years.

Each term, FCYM sell CDs, sheet music and music books at Notre Dame. These sales offer affordable music to the CYM community, supporting CYM and raising vital funds. Donations of any size are always welcome – our generous donors are the life blood of these sales. We especially welcome advanced instrumental repertoire.

It's always a pleasure to see anyone discover something new musically. Try listening to different performances of the same work "back to back". There are usually some striking differences.

Volunteers to help run sales are always very welcome.

Watch out for a sale on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.