

Chairman's Annual Report

For the years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.

It wasn't so very long ago that the CGO seemed to be doing rather well. 2018 saw us hosting the annual meeting of the Federation of Guitar Societies. In February 2019 we did a lovely concert at Stapleford Granary that seemed to be very well received. New and original videos appearing on our YouTube Channel. We also had a concert coming up in Manchester and a shared concert with Moonlight Mandolins planned for 2020. Then Covid struck and things changed dramatically.

Our last AGM was actually held on 19th January 2020 having already been postponed from September 2019. With Covid bringing all orchestral activities to a halt the next AGM, scheduled for September 2020, was also postponed. Hence this report actually covers two years rather than the usual one.

We took to Zoom, but it seemed like the whole world was turning to Zoom, particularly for work so that rather killed the novelty for everyone. Then we tried Virtual CGO recordings. One video got finished and put online. However, the next one failed to get enough players and the work on it was shelved.

We thought we might be able to restart CGO rehearsals in June this year but that was put on hold to wait for more members to be double vaccinated. All was looking good for starting at the beginning of the Autumn term, the official start of CGO's Orchestral year. There were a number of hoops to jump through, like the Covid requirements for Foxton Village Hall, but we were on top of that (thanks Colin). And then not many people turned up.

Mat had taken on the Conducting mantel, taking over from Valerie who has now relocated with her husband Robert down to Dorset where they both now teach at Leweston School. The committee were going to propose Mat become our new Conductor and Musical Director at this AGM. This with the full support of Valerie who wrote of Mat "You won't find a better candidate or a more supportive MD". I felt so sorry for Mat, trying to make the best of a rehearsal with only three players. We played his new arrangement of Arvo Part's piece called "Summa". It went well despite the low turnout and we made it all the way through the piece. Well done Mat.

But sadly the latest feedback from the membership and prospective new members meant that we could only expect four or five players at each rehearsal for now until the end of the year. Such low numbers are really not viable and this is why you will see "Proposal 1 – Dissolution of CGO" in the AGM agenda.

I would urge members to get together informally to get their regular fix of ensemble playing. There may be some light at the end of the tunnel, if you read clause 21b) of our constitution you will see that the assets of CGO will be held dormant for up to three years in case members decide to start "a new guitar orchestra or guitar society in Cambridge or elsewhere in East Anglia." If that doesn't happen then the assets will be "for the benefit of any musical organisation set up to promote the playing of the 'classical' guitar."

Michael Addlesee

CGO Chairman

To be put to the Membership at the AGM on Sunday 26th September 2021 starting at 2pm. The AGM will be carried out over Zoom. The rehearsal for that day at Foxton Village Hall having been cancelled. Mat has kindly agreed to let us use his Zoom account in case the meeting goes on for longer than the time allowed with a free Zoom account. The Zoom details will be posted to the CGO's website - members only pages, shortly before the day of the AGM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Approval of the Minutes of AGM 19th January 2020

3. Chairman's Report

4. Treasurer's Report

5. Future of CGO

Proposal 1 – Dissolution of CGO

That the CGO be dissolved due to declining interest.

Background

Currently there are 9 Full Members and 5 potential members. Of these we would expect to see only 4 or 5 at any one rehearsal for the rest of the year. This would make the orchestra unviable in terms of playing, performance and finance. The Constitution (para 21) allows dissolution on the following terms:

"Dissolution

a) The Orchestra shall be dissolved by a majority vote of Full Members.

b) Any assets remaining after clearance of debts shall be made available to Full Members of the Orchestra at the date of dissolution for the establishment of a new guitar orchestra or guitar society in Cambridge or elsewhere in East Anglia. If, after three years, a new orchestra has not been formed, Full Members may apply such assets for the benefit of any musical organisation set up to promote the playing of the 'classical' guitar."

The following proposals are conditional on the outcome of Proposal 1.

Proposal 2 - New guitar orchestra or guitar society in Cambridge

New guitar orchestra or guitar society in Cambridge, discuss. See what arises out of discussion of Proposal 1 at the AGM.

Proposal 3 – Election of Valerie as Visiting Conductor

Proposal 4 – Election of Officers and Mat nominated by
Committee as new MD

6. Any Other Business

General Information

Outstanding Debts

Refunds to members

Anyone seeking a refund for previously paid for rehearsals should contact Colin.

MD/Conductor Fees

All outstanding fees will be paid by the Treasurer.

Foxton Village Hall room hire

All outstanding fees will be paid by the Treasurer.

Website

Stutium subs paid to middle of Jan (18th) 2022.

The cgo.org.uk domain name is paid (and safe) until 8 June 2023. Annual renewal is £7.99, and MDA has offered to pay this until the three years dissolution period is over.

CGO Financial Assets

Barclays Bank Account to be maintained.

CGO Physical Assets

MDA has agreed to store these in his music room for three years unless someone can suggest a better location.

Archive – Created by Derek Walter Chapman

Action: MDA – Digitise the archive and put on YouTube or Dropbox.

Bass Guitar

Currently with Antonio Attanzio.

Blue Ties/Flowers

Black backing for music stands during performance

CGO fabric displays for music stands during performance

CGO CDs for sale

CDs given to or bought by CGO

Sheet music

CGO Records

Action: MDA – Collate or Digitise CGO meeting reports that can be located and put on YouTube or Dropbox.