

# CORK ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1938 by Aloys Fleischmann (1910-1992)

Registered Address: Civic Trust House, 50 Pope's Quay, Cork, T23 R6XC

Email: [info@corkorchestralsociety.ie](mailto:info@corkorchestralsociety.ie) Website: [www.corkorchestralsociety.ie](http://www.corkorchestralsociety.ie)



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

*prepared for the*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

## CORK ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Sunday 18 October 2020

I don't think anyone here needs me to tell them that it's been a difficult year.

We began the year with a flurry of chamber music concerts. These concerts celebrated our newly forged link with the National String Quartet Foundation and they took place both in the Triskel Arts Centre and in our traditional home in the Curtis Auditorium. Following our last AGM, I took on the role of concert manager until a suitable replacement could be employed. This provided me the opportunity to better understand the responsibilities involved in the role and it afforded us the time to find a suitable person to take on concert management. Michelle Kiely took on this role in the new year, though this arrangement was soon to be abandoned. Not long after our concert with the Salterello Trio in March, which was part of a Music Network national tour, our programming, like that of many other organisations, was curtailed.

I'd like to commend my colleagues on the Board for working together quickly and proactively in deciding to cancel planned concerts, in the interest of public safety, before we were called upon to do so at an official level. As Chairperson, I was also proud of our unanimous decision as a Board to remunerate the artists their agreed fees for the cancelled concerts from March to June last year. In doing so, I feel Cork Orchestral Society very much exemplified our founding aims; to nurture and sustain classical music in Cork.

Over the summer I worked with Tom Doyle, and under the Board's guidance, to reimagine a programme that could work within new confines. To that end, I have overseen a recording project with a 13-piece string orchestra with some of Cork's finest string players. The video is currently being edited and we will be announcing its release to the general public shortly. We have another recording project lined up with the CSM Emerging Artist, Brendan Garde, for later in the season, and we also look forward to two string quartet concerts in the Triskel Arts Centre – collaborations with the National String Quartet Foundation. At time of writing the status of these concerts is uncertain as we await news of further restrictions. Looking ahead, it is our intention to do what we can to keep the lights on as best we can at COS without debilitating the Society's future financially.

I would like to express deep gratitude, on behalf of the Board, to Tom Doyle for his brilliant work for the Society. Tom has excelled in securing funding for the Society both from the Arts Council and from Cork City Council and has performed all responsibilities of a treasurer deftly and thoroughly. Tom's contribution to the Society does not end here as Tom has served as impromptu secretary for

---

**Directors (Oct 2020):** Tom Crowley (chair), Tom Doyle, Maria Judge, Prana Lapré, Coral O'Sullivan, Joan Scannell

Cork Orchestral Society is a company limited by guarantee registered in Ireland (No. 181608) and a registered charity (CHY 8808).



the Society while we currently lack one. Tom's contributions have played no small part in our continued successes during difficult times.

Tom Crowley  
Chairperson  
Cork Orchestral Society

---

**Directors (Oct 2020):** Tom Crowley (chair), Tom Doyle, Maria Judge, Prana Lapré, Coral O'Sullivan, Joan Scannell

Cork Orchestral Society is a company limited by guarantee registered in Ireland (No. 181608) and a registered charity (CHY 8808).

