

NEMA - VISION & STRATEGY

LEEDS COLLEGE OF MUSIC - 10 MAY 2011

1. AIMS OF THE MEETING

- a. To map the British Early Music scene, as it is now and could develop over the next 3 – 5 years
- b. To establish whether NEMA could/should have a place in that
- c. To achieve a clear, shared, understanding of what NEMA stands for now and how, if at all, it should develop

2. SUMMARY OF KEY CONCLUSIONS

- a. That NEMA does potentially have an important role to play in encouraging the development of the British Early Music scene over the next 3 – 5 years, subject to being able to secure the necessary resources (both human and financial)
- b. That the definition of “Early” should be extended to the end of the C19th, with provision made for special interest groups within that broader scope
- c. That the focus of NEMA’s work should be encouraging and facilitating the place of informed performance, and that this should include music from genres other than the Western Classical tradition as appropriate (for example, in engaging with younger people)
- d. That NEMA should:
 - i. become more outward facing
 - ii. seek to expand its membership through some form of articulated link with the fora
 - iii. diversify its income streams, both through the link with the fora and by other means specific to particular types of activity (e.g. sponsorship, trusts, individual giving, legacies)
 - iv. encourage fora members and others to give of their “time, treasure and talents” in support of specific NEMA projects, clarifying the distinction between trusteeship and active support for the organization
 - v. seek to form a number of carefully selected strategic partnerships better to deliver its goals
 - vi. having drawn up its strategy, reconsider whether its current brand and constitution are fit for purpose
- e. That NEMA membership should become differentiated by level of contribution and associated benefits, those benefits potentially including:
 - i. A set of valuable web-based resources, with a reserved area for full (“gold”?) members
 - ii. Negotiated discounts on books/CDs etc
 - iii. A newsletter, directed more towards the practical, and at amateurs/semi-pros rather than scholars
 - iv. Early Music Performer – extra cost option for print version, or access to reserved website area
 - v. Discounted option on specialist short-run publications

3. SUMMARY OF POSSIBLE KEY AIMS FOR NEMA (PERCEIVED GAPS IN CURRENT PROVISION)

High priority

- a. Development of the NEMA website to become a primary national resource for HIPP and for related amateur/semi professional activity (discussion with NCEM needed re possible overlap here), to include:
 - i. Publication of HIPP research and HI performing editions
 - ii. Listings of amateur and professional musicians (data protection issues need resolution; possible link with e.g. Benslow's directory?)
- b. Organising (biennial?) conferences focussing on pre-C20th performance practice
- c. Encourage younger amateur/pre-professional musicians to engage with HIPP:
 - i. Develop links with existing specialist schools, Saturday schools, music services etc to promote the cause of HIPP and extra-canonical music in education
 - ii. Develop web-based resources for teachers
 - iii. Provide/facilitate professional development opportunities for teachers in conjunction with education providers
- d. Provide assistance to young British early music professionals, possibly in conjunction with the related units that exist in conservatoires and other HEIs e.g. by:
 - i. Facilitating a demo recording and other publicity
 - ii. Facilitating paid work, through NEMA activities and the fora
 - iii. Helping them to acquire good quality instruments
- e. Developing the skills of amateur musicians, where wanted, possibly in connection with the personal development programmes of existing education providers (e.g. Colleges/HEIs)
- f. Foster the growth of HIPP in singing – both professional and amateur

Medium priority

- a. An early music radio/web channel (check whether such already exists)
- b. Advocacy for more/higher standard specialist PG study in this country
- c. Advocacy with the fora for more HIPP amateur vocal performances

Low priority

- a. Advocacy for better informed broadcast commentaries
- b. Advocacy with fora for more public performances of early instrumental music by amateurs
- c. Advocacy (and possibly action) to fill the gaps in current fora coverage
- d. Advocacy for fora to be more progressive in their thinking and activities