

SATURDAY MAY 23rd 2015 – informal ZOOM meeting of LSO orchestras
Suggested for future contact: Saturday 18th July, Saturday 19th September
TIME ? : 4 pm ENGLAND/IRELAND 5 pm Berlin/Brussels, 11 am New York, 11 pm Singapore

Chaired by Seamus Doyle, 33 participants in the room
These are not minutes, just notes, apologies for omissions.

*Daniel Kellerhals was about to speak when the break came after 40 minutes, and did not get back in. **Apologies, Daniel.** Next time the meeting will be hosted from a laptop with a subscription to ZOOM so that the meeting will not be broken. Jane and COBWEB Orchestra – am afraid you were missed, Apologies till next time. **Offbeat Ensemble, Dublin,** were unable to join in. Contacted but not in attendance: Da Kapo LSO Singapore and Hackney Community Orchestra.*

*ZOOM ISSUES: Seamus Doyle suggested that an external microphone may improve the sound quality received from the teacher to the group of students, and is worth exploring. Seamus also introduced us to **CAMSCANNER** to get music to everyone. Our Library currently is locked up.
ZOOM POSITIVES: From every group the message came that staying in contact was vital, and doing this remotely despite technical issues is worth it.*

BELGIUM

Jacqueline Gernay reported that their small group in Brussels had not engaged as yet in remote activity, but that she has joined the Dublin ZOOM cello group which has been a very positive experience for her.

BERLIN – HAPPY STRINGS

Melanie Reineke reported that their small ensemble plans to resume rehearsals with social distancing in the near future and that are using ZOOM for **theory lessons**. The Tomatenklang music school is continuing **individual lessons** with ZOOM.

CoMA

Chris Shurety from Contemporary Music for All said that they have music **in four parts** which can be played by any instruments and can be made available to orchestras. This could be very helpful when it is possible to play in small random ensembles. They have created a LOCKDOWN ENSEMBLE. He recommended a different platform, **JAMKAZAM**, to overcome the delay problems of ZOOM

EAST LONDON

East London LSO mentioned the **need to give music teachers work**, which is essential. They have invested in **ZOOM subscriptions** for eleven teachers. Sectional rehearsals with 22 sessions per week are ongoing on Saturday mornings. They are working with all students MUTED and teacher UNMUTED. Problems of ZOOM are universally experienced, but also the positive side of ZOOM. Their very popular summer camp has had to be cancelled. **Musicianship classes** are also possible.

GLASGOW

Armored Allen from Glasgow Senior Citizens Orchestra reported that no activities have taken place, and that their membership will be cautious about resuming activity in real time.

HOUSTON TX

Penny Meitz reported that her plans to start an LSO in Houston were on hold due to Covid-19. Her teaching contact hours had been cut since March. She and a colleague were doing an on street performances and presenting gifts to their graduating music students.

IAYO IRISH ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Allin Gray mentioned the issues surrounding **child protection** for ZOOM remote teaching, which need to be addressed carefully by users. Around IAYO orchestras remote teaching is ongoing, with teachers reporting that it is very exhausting as compared with real time teaching. Important to keep music teachers working.

NETHERLANDS – HET BETUWS DAGORKEST

Bart van den Goorbergh said that from June 4th his ensemble will start rehearsals again in the deconsecrated church which is also his home with twelve players. Some more vulnerable players will choose not to participate for the time being. Their social distancing requirement is 1 ½ metres.

NEW YORK LSO

Elena Rahona reported that New York LSO has had a traumatic experience, including the death by suicide of one cellist, a doctor working frontline. She organised a **memorial** remotely. Their rehearsal **venue** is not available currently. It is not clear when it might be available again.

YORKSHIRE LSS

Sue Watts said that their orchestra is running a quiz for social contact on Wednesdays and has rehearsal in sections ongoing, using **tracks** to support learning. Everything is being done remotely.

DUBLIN – SOUNDS ENSEMBLE

Terry Clancy for Sounds Ensemble reported that ZOOM presents big problems for **wind players** as opposed to strings and so far the ensemble has had to be inactive since March.

DUBLIN – ST AGNES' PARENTS STRING ORCHESTRA

22 grade exam students at primary and secondary level had a series of ZOOM lessons. The orchestra has been divided into **four WhatsApp groups** to facilitate social contact. There are eight sectional rehearsals taking place on Monday/Wednesday evenings. In Dublin sections apart from double bass are **hosted by a volunteer** and not by the teacher. Creating **practice partnerships** is something to be developed more. **Rounds** with violin, viola, cello parts are being used by Intermediate-Beginner groups. **One new player** has joined since the lockdown. Some members use **WhatsApp Facetime** to play in pairs. A lot of ZOOM coaching has taken place to enable players to take part.

St Agnes' Community Centre for Music & the Arts has a **weekly singing project** on YouTube which can be made available to anyone, and is aimed at children. Contact Denise at ccmadenise@gmail.com to be included. The MUSICAL SOCIETY has play readings on Tuesday nights at 7 20 pm on ZOOM and read a new play every week. Audience from anywhere is welcome. *THE DEATH OF A SALESMAN* is on next Tuesday night. Contact Joanna for the audience link.

DUBLIN – ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Prof James Cavanagh reported on a successful concert with 18 students and 95 people in the audience which he organised recently for his own students on ZOOM. He gave advance notice to EVERYONE of a national / international music event to take place on Saturday June 21st which is WORLD MUSIC DAY, EUROPEAN MUSIC DAY and BEETHOVEN'S BIRTHDAY. Details to follow. Outdoors on the street in front of your own home socially distanced. Focus on Beethoven's Ode to Joy. Watch this space, details to follow. Great end to the meeting.