

Dear Jim, April and committee

I hope you are all well and managing at this stressful and difficult time.

I know that Tabea Debus has been in contact regarding a proposed project for providing accompaniments . I personally would find this extremely helpful for use in my teaching, we have all had our usual methods of delivery turned on their head and anything that could help students engage in different ways would be fantastic. I imagine many SRP members of all ages and ability could enjoy this as a way to make music in their own homes too. And it would be a positive legacy from this situation.

It is similar to something that the American Recorder Society is making available to their members at the present - and their monthly email newsletter is full of helpful suggestions and resources. I wonder if the SRP might consider doing something similar. One of this month's paragraphs concerned using Apps such as Accappella - something which I have seen Helen Hooker use with great success on facebook! Might Helen be able to write up something and even offer a short tutorial on line on the SRP website? As playing days etc will not be happening for the foreseeable future perhaps funds could be used to pay tutors for things such as this? The San Francisco Early Music Society is also (as are many others - but theirs are run by recorder players so I notice them more!) doing one off on line lectures/ classes on a variety of recorder related topics which can involve people playing along at home. Evelyn for example gave a great Zoom session to 16 of our students in their weekly class on the difference between French, Italian, German and English baroque ornamentation. It was very jolly - she had things that flipped up on the screen and music that the students could play along with.

Also I wondered about professional players giving on line performances. I was very sad that the SRP did not feel able to pay Parandrus the contracted fee for the cancelled festival performance. Many small organisations such as the Handel House Charity and City Music Foundation have honoured concert fees and I have seen players like Olwen Foulkes make performance videos that the organisations have then posted on their websites in return. This is a desperate time for this age group - with rent etc still needing to be paid but diaries empty of work. It would be great if there could be some support from the SRP for them - it would be sad to see them forced away from music as a consequence of this crisis. There could even be a festival of some sort - I have received amazing programmes from cancelled live festivals moving to online from the International Bergen Music Festival to a small local event in Cornwall! Perhaps some funds could be directed to paying for individuals to deliver products such as Tabea's plan - I am sure there are many who are able and grateful of some paid work.

Of course it is not only the younger generation who will be finding this a difficult time. Many well established teachers and tutors have seen revenue from teaching courses, regular coaching and SRP related activities disappear. With so much experience and expertise available the SRP could offer a whole range of members to keep them engaged? It would be sad to see the membership drop and for those that relied on the SRP for more than just recorder playing to feel isolated now.

As I think it is unlikely that branch meetings will take place before January - I am sure many members will consider themselves vulnerable in an intimate woodwind blowing setting!- it would be great to see the SRP pioneering new ways to deliver to their members. I know some individual branches have been coming up with new ideas - such as a concert delivered on line on a Saturday afternoon to the members with chat etc after.

Apologies for the barrage of suggestions. We had a Zoom meeting of over 20 members of ERTA yesterday with people logging on from Amsterdam to Barcelona. It was inspiring to hear about the different initiatives people are coming up with - even just hearing about the activities of others left me feeling less depressed about the future of the recorder community in general and less isolated.

All best wishes

Barbara