

Arts and Entertainments Board Report

Jonathan McNaught- AEB Chair

Introduction

In the spring and summer terms, Arts and Entertainments activities at Imperial College have continued to flourish with activities taking place on an ever greater scale and increasingly ambitious events being planned by societies. These activities take huge amounts of dedication and time from students to rehearse, organise and produce, (especially during the exam season) with many events close to a professional standard and selling out, even though members of the societies are studying Science, Technology and Medicine, and not Music, Art or Drama.

This report will highlight the many successes of these societies and give details on their activities so far this year. It will also aim to update members of the Clubs and Societies Board on the current membership and financial situation of CSPB societies, before outlining some of the issues highlighted by the clubs. The Arts and Entertainments Executive Committee is additionally responsible for organising ArtsFest, a week long Arts festival at Imperial and this was a huge success this year in comparison to previous years, creating a platform for further development next year.

Finally, the Exec feel passionately that the Arts at Imperial could have a much greater profile and have worked closely with both senior figures within the College and the Blyth Centre for Music and Visual Arts throughout the year to further Imperial's Arts Community, encourage collaboration between societies and increase knowledge about this hugely successful group of clubs.

I would like to thank the committees of Arts and Entertainments Clubs who have been responsive and enthusiastic at meetings, and in particular to the vast majority of clubs who submitted extremely detailed surveys to me.

Club Activities

Societies within Arts and Entertainments have recently been involved in a huge range of activities. Most societies rehearse at least weekly and have regular social activities alongside one or two major concerts, workshops or events each term, though this is not the case for all societies. Below I will outline some of the activities of societies during the spring and summer terms.

Imperial College Symphony Orchestra had a highly successful concert in Cadogan Hall in February, performing alongside Martin James Bartlett, BBC Young Musician 2014. They followed this by performing opera for the first time in the summer term with extracts from Carmen performed by four highly acclaimed professional singers and their first collaboration with Imperial College Chamber Choir.

Imperial College Sinfonietta also had success during the spring term with a packed performance of Disney's Fantasia performed live with film and then their main concert held in Holy Trinity Church with Sean Riley performing Sibelius' Violin Concerto. They have also had a summer term concert for the first time ever; another successful concert. This is fantastic from a society that has struggled over recent years and the vision and leadership shown by the committee this year has been amazing.

Imperial College Choir performed Carl Orff's Carmina Burana and Bob Chilcott's Songs and Cries of London Town in the Great Hall in March with an audience much greater than previous Great Hall audiences (and a lot of students in attendance). They also had a weekend away in Oxford. In the summer term they performed the Rutter Magnificat and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms at St Stephen's Church, Gloucester

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Road as part of their Festival of Arts and Faith which was made possible by the financial success of the previous two concerts allowing them to perform with an orchestra.

IC Chamber Choir held two tours- to Bury St. Edmunds and Galway in Ireland and these were both a success with multiple performances in Cathedrals, invitations to return and performing challenging repertoire to a high standard. They have continued to sing Evensong at Holy Trinity church, held a Spring Concert including some older music such as Gabrieli, Lotti and Hassler and collaborated with ICSSO's opera concert this term.

IC Big Band have a plethora of gigs coming up including at the Imperial Summer Ball, Dance Club Summer Ball, a gig at the British Library for American Independence Day and a potential gig on a bandstand in Hyde Park. Jazz and Rock held a gig night and jazz jams and will also be performing at the summer ball.

Imperial College String Ensemble held several performances such as at Imperial Festival, a lunchtime concert during ArtsFest, a Spring Concert and will hold their Summer Concert very soon. The Chamber Music society continues to hold masterclasses, competitions and performing opportunities for its members. IC Wind Band performed in the London Wind Orchestra Festival and had their usual, successful end of term concerts and this summer will see the first ever wind band tour to The Hague in the Netherlands.

The A Cappella society has continued to have a jam packed year. In January, the society hosted very first ICCA (International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella) event outside the USA - putting Imperial at the centre of UK a cappella with a fantastic show with over 600 music-loving students attending, with the winners going on to perform in New York. The society was also successful in Bloomberg's flashmob competition winning £1000 in prize money and held a sold out concert at the end of the spring term. The AGM saw two new groups- The Beatboxing Group and Surcery join and other groups have continued to do lots such as arranging charity singles and there will be a tour to Canada/ USA this summer including numerous school outreach workshops.

Imperial Cinema has continued their regular showings (in particular the Spring All-Nighter was a great success) and has introduced screenings of National Theatre live and NT Live Encore performances as part of their programme this term. This is hoped to increase the breadth of the audience attending the Cinema.

The newly formed Comedy club have continued to develop over the last two terms and now have a huge plethora of events. These include several Nice & Spikey events with several members performing alongside professional comedians, comedy workshops, taking part in the ArtsFest finale and socials.

DramSoc have had a very successful few terms including a performance of the Tempest and this term's The Last Days of Judas Iscariot. They have also introduced two £2 plays in lecture theatres to encourage those who don't want to commit to a big play to perform. They sent a play to the London Student Drama Festival and are also rehearsing for an Edinburgh show. The Tech side of the club have also continued to be used by many societies and did a huge amount with the International societies Great Hall season, tidied the propstore (a highlight for the club), did the tech for a dance show in the Union Concert Hall (a different side of tech for the society which was good) and have continued to develop the Concert Hall after its redevelopment (requiring a huge amount of work).

Design Collective has been very active this year with many talks from professionals, socials and workshops. A particular highlight for them was the Dyson Foundation Workshop with an inspirational talk followed by the opportunity to do some high quality designs to present at the end of the session. The society will also be going on tour for the first time: to Copenhagen.

Clubs not mentioned here did not submit surveys.

Membership

The following table shows the breakdown of membership for societies in comparison to their target membership.

Society	Actual Membership	Target Membership	Percentage of Target (%)
A Cappella	55	45	122
Calligraphy	2	20	10
Chamber Choir	29	30	97
Chamber Music	40	35	114
Choir	128	116	110
Comedy	36	30	120
Design Collective	77	50	154
DramSoc	59	65	91
Fashion	16	20	80
Gospel Choir	28	35	80
Guitar	21	25	84
Big Band	35	33	106
Cinema	307	150	205
Jazz and Rock	179	150	119
LeoSoc	100	100	100
Music Tech	51	35	146
MTSoc	45	32	141
Symphony Orchestra	82	80	103
Sinfonietta	70	61	115
String Ensemble	25	25	100
Wind Band	60	50	120
Total	1445	1187	122

This table shows that at the end of the year, many societies have well exceeded their membership target, and overall there is 122% membership compared to the target. One notable concern is Calligraphy Society who have only 2 members of 20, which appear to be memberships bought by mistake since the society essentially no longer exists (there are no committee members) and there have been no replies from club accounts. I am currently investigating whether this club needs to be closed down, although there is possibility that there are a couple of people interested in essentially restarting the club which is why I am hesitant. Overall this shows that the arts scene at Imperial continues to thrive with over 1445 memberships just within this Management Group (noting that dance societies and the medic's societies are within other management groups).

Financial Overview

Many of the Arts and Entertainments clubs have core aims and objectives which are expensive to run, however currently the clubs appear to have strong finances. For some clubs, a high positive figure can sometimes hide club financial difficulties such as overspends, however I believe that currently all clubs are in a reasonable financial condition. The table in the Appendix shows financial figures for AEB clubs currently.

It is heartening that many of the clubs have spent their entire Grant, and those who have not yet spent the Grant are being advised to do so, and it is hoped that all clubs will have zero grant by the year end.

The outcome for Annual Budgeting was in general a success for AEB. Most clubs were satisfied with their budget, in that it was enough for them to continue their activities next year without huge cuts. The Exec

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worked hard to ensure that societies who had not changed their activities and submitted a reasonable budget got an adequate allocation in line with previous years (particularly challenging for this was Choir and Sinfonietta who have large expenditure in their Repetiteur and Conductor, neither of which are covered by the Blyth Centre). Societies with evidently increased activities did receive an increase- notably A Cappella received a small increase due to their extra groups next year and String Ensemble received an increase due to the fact that they have been paying their Conductor an embarrassingly small amount in previous years, and have no other source of income. This allows them to pay a more reasonable wage but is still below the amount a conductor of their calibre should be receiving.

To some extent these successes in Budgeting hide the broader picture amongst clubs at Imperial, where there were serious difficulties securing similar funds to last year for many societies (due to the increased number of new clubs), and forced the Clubs, Societies and Projects Board to make some difficult decisions during the 18 hours of budgeting meetings. In short, the amount of money in the pot to distribute is simply not enough to fund the broad range of societies- particularly when many of these are expensive to run. I would encourage next year's AEB Exec to lobby the Union to allocate more money to CSPB funding. This eventually stems to the College giving more money to the Union. This money is exceedingly frugally spent by clubs (at least from my experience within AEB) and is used very well: I can't think of a better way to spend money to enhance the Student Experience at Imperial.

A few societies have had some success with Harlington applications, and some have been able to gain external sponsorship. This is often tough for Arts societies and whilst AEB Exec support as much as possible, it would be great to increase the support from the Union with greater tailored advice to clubs. Notable successes are sponsorship from KPMG for Cinema, TeachFirst for Sinfonietta, EY for ICSO, Bloomberg for A Cappella and O2 for Chamber Music Society.

Societies in Arts and Entertainments also often hold some SGI in reserve for numerous reasons. These reasons include summer tours (sometimes over a number of years), paying conductors, equipment contingency (especially for immediate replacements which cannot wait for other funding routes), sheet music and ground hire for events or future projects.

Finally, the AEB Exec account has risen out of the negative figure inherited from the previous committee. I would like to note my thanks to firstly Debra Humphris for granting the Exec £1000 to support ArtsFest. This was used to purchase publicity materials for the event (many of which can be used in future years) and also support the costs for some individual events. It will also be used to help enhance the student experience through collaborations and socials between clubs in AEB both this year and next. Secondly, I'd like to thank Rachael Fletcher for securing £300 of funding from O2 for ArtsFest. See below for an overview of ArtsFest 2015.

Administration

The major Administration this term has been with Constitutions. Many of the societies have made edits to these (including quite major rewrites by DramSoc and A Cappella) alongside some rejigging of committees from numerous other societies. This has been hampered by the process of uploading Constitutions onto eActivities which does not allow for the flexible formats used by groups in this Management Group. All Constitution changes were approved by the Board- those not able to upload their constitution via eActivities will be sent to Abi (DPCS) and Ben (incoming DPCS), in the hope that they can be added as PDFs to eActivities in the near future.

Improvements this year

College Conferences: In the first term it was reported that there were a number of issues with bookings, however that overall there were improvements with a smaller number of times societies were getting

kicked out of rooms at short notice. This appears to have continued in the last two terms, and I met with Charles Gallagher to pass on my thanks for the work his team are doing. We also discussed further procedures to improve this even further- such as knowing the state that the Great Hall needs to be left in, and finding out as soon as reasonably possible if a rehearsal venue does need to be moved.

Storage and Development: This was mentioned as an issue in the last report. Since then, club chairs with equipment in the Great Hall cupboard met and completely sorted out this cupboard, throwing out junk from a huge number of years and ensuring space was fairly allocated between societies and that equipment was as easily accessible as possible. The Union is planning a storage audit for late June, and this should hopefully aid the Union Storage issues (although it won't necessarily sort MTSoc's storage issues with Glendower School). The Union Concert Hall has continued to develop after its refurbishment, with many groups putting a huge amount of time into preparing this venue (particularly DramSoc).

Arts Imperial Board: ArtsImperial is the umbrella of the Union societies and the arts activities from the College which take place in the Blyth Centre for Music and Visual Art. This has a board which meet every term to discuss cross College-Union matters, one of which has taken place this term, and includes student representatives and the DPCS. Having been concerned about the lack of function that this committee actually had, I suggested some changes to Richard Dickins and then Stephen Richardson (Chair of the committee), some of which have now been implemented. Having both Debra Humphris (Vice Provost Education) and Pamela Agar (Head of Digital Communications) on the Board should really aid with communicating about Arts at the highest level. This has already shown from Debra's kind donation to ArtsFest and Pamela helping us promote ArtsFest on the College website and social media. The ArtsImperial Facebook page which I have managed this year has doubled in "likes" and the reach has been much higher. More societies are using this as another platform for advertising and this should continue to increase with a new cohort of students in October.

Highlighted Issues and Opportunities

West Basement- Jazz and Rock: During the renovation last summer, the Jazz and Rock practice room was moved from under a Beit kitchen to under some Beit bedrooms. Concern was raised during the planning stages but they were told "Soundproofing upwards is not a concern". During the spring term, J&R received increased pressure due to noise complaints, and the society did what they reasonably could including timers to disable all devices at 11pm, which then moved to 10pm and then 7pm during exam time. The Union repeatedly thanked the society for their cooperation and assured them that there was no blame attached. Towards the end of the spring term, complaints had reached a significantly high level, and it was agreed that the practice room should be shut until soundproofing was improved. Meeting Room 5 in the Union building was apparently the only option; however this had single glazed windows and was adjacent to another Beit bedroom. Their subsequent removal from this room was apparently not handled responsibly; a member of union staff confiscating a key and making them leave and no further effort was made to contact the committee. Bands then couldn't access the room and security had to put a lot of effort into tracking down the missing key. An email was sent by the society expressing dissatisfaction at the proceedings and an apology was received from the Union. MTSoc kindly lent the society their electric drums, Media lent some items and this helped cobble together a headphone only practice room, however this was unusable to a large proportion of the society (though significantly better than nothing). In the meantime, soundproofing work was carried out in the basement at the cost of tens of thousands of pounds. When this was finished (late), the acousticians returned to test the improvement and 3 weeks later produced a report to show that the soundproofing was somehow 4 times worse. A sound limiter was suggested, but this would not work in the case of using drums (almost all the time); the report suggests that the limiter should be "switched off" in this case. This is where the society stands at the moment: I would suggest there is significant risk to the future of a highly regarded, active society serving a large

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number of members with a lot of high quality equipment, and is probably the biggest risk facing any AEB club at the moment.

Better integration of art societies: Due to the set of societies making up AEB, I feel connecting with art societies has continued to be a struggle. It was fantastic to have LeoSoc heavily involved with ArtsFest but disappointing that Fashion didn't want to get involved and sad that Calligraphy did not elect a committee last year and so have not functioned this year. It would definitely be helpful to have PhotoSoc and LeoSoc in the same Management Group (whether or not a merger with the rest of Media goes ahead; which needs to be handled very carefully if it does) and trying to engage with all these four societies in the future about the support available to them from the College in the Blyth Centre and also in the SW7 studio would be good, and ensuring that they get as much as they would like out of AEB. There are a lot of very talented artists at Imperial and the work that I have seen from LeoSoc and PhotoSoc is of a very high standard, finding a way to make them feel more integrated within AEB would be the next step.

Further increase in facility of ArtsImperial: I believe ArtsImperial is a fantastic opportunity that could be developed further. ArtsImperial should be the link between the College (Blyth Centre) and the Union (AEB). Clearly this is very different from Sport Imperial; it should essentially be a brand used to show that Imperial has a thriving arts scene and should be a thriving social media hub for all societies and College arts events where all events are advertised on this and anyone who wants to find out about arts events at Imperial knows to go to the Facebook/ Twitter feeds. This has developed much this year in terms of the development of the Board, but could go much further with an increased profile.

More socials: By the end of the year, two socials have been held for the first time in AEB. I would love to see these develop into events of the scale of the ACC bar nights. A suggested first step for next year would be to hold a barn dance for anyone interested in the arts as a way to get to know new people- both Freshers and across societies, to immediately prove to Freshers that Imperial has a thriving arts community.

Managing new facilities at Woodward Hall: The opening of the new hall in Acton is both a potential opportunity and disaster for societies. Opportunity because there are music rooms and spaces available on site, it will be a hub of 693 Freshers, as well as its close proximity to arts universities in London. Disaster because there is a huge chance that Freshers simply won't want to stay for clubs due to the huge distance they have to travel, and engaging them in the social parts of the society might be difficult. Clubs need to think about how to manage this.

Supporting Calligraphy if it returns: Calligraphy has not operated as a society this year, and may well be closed down at the end of this year for this reason. However, there is apparently a small group keen to set it up again, and the AEB Exec will need to provide support to these people if they go ahead with it.

Cooperation with Union over their events: One issue that came up this year was the Union promoting events such as the Reynolds Battle of the Bands competition which is very similar to the function of one of the societies within AEB: battle of the bands competitions were traditionally a Jazz and Rock event. Indeed one of the rounds of this competition clashed with the Jazz and Rock event at ArtsFest. Although the Union did talk to the club, better coordination next time round would be preferable: it should be a huge opportunity for the Union to be throwing a lot of marketing behind an event!

ArtsFest

The Exec put a lot of effort into making ArtsFest bigger and better than it had been in recent years. With 18 events, a rebrand and a lot of marketing, I believe ArtsFest 2015 was a huge success. Particularly pleasing was the attendance: both the Fantasia Film Night and A Very Vocal Evening were totally full and the Finale was almost full. The increased amount of advertising: including over the stairwell in the

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Sherfield Building with a PhotoSoc exhibition and a several posts on the College social media and website as well as in Felix and consistent posting on the ArtsImperial Facebook and Twitter meant that we reached a much larger audience than in previous years. Hopefully the success of this year will give next year's committee something to build on.



	MONDAY 16 TH	TUESDAY 17 TH	WEDNESDAY 18 TH	THURSDAY 19 TH	FRIDAY 20 TH
ALL WEEK	'THE SECRET GARDEN' - PHOTO AND ART EXHIBITION, BLYTH GALLERY, LEOSOC, PHOTOSOC				
12-1	BIG BAND	WIND BAND	JUGGLING	IC CHOIR CONCERT TEASER SHERFIELD LVL 2	IC STRING ENSEMBLE
1-2	QUEEN'S TOWER	BUSINESS SCHOOL	DALBY COURT	BLYTH LUNCH-TIME CONCERT, READ LT	BUSINESS SCHOOL
2-3	CHALK DRAWINGS		PIANO MASTERCLASS (14:30) BLYTH CENTRE, ENSEMBLE ROOM 1		
3-4	OUTSIDE SHERFIELD		CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY		
4-5	LEOSOC		CHAMBER CHOIR EVENSONG (17:30)		
5-6			HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	THE FRINGE BUSINESS SCHOOL ENTRANCE	
6-7		WRITING WORKSHOP	A VERY VOCAL EVENING 3.0	ICSO	ARTSFEST FINALE
7-8	FANTASIA FILM NIGHT	HUXLEY CLORE LT	A CAPPELLA, MTSOC	CONCERT REHEARSAL GREAT HALL	IC SOCIETIES
8-9	SINFONIETTA, ICTV, FILMSOC, CINEMA	SCI-FI, WRITERS' SOC	UCH	TRIBUTE EVENING METRIC JAZZ&ROCK	UCH
9-10	UCH				
10-11					

AEB Awards

For their services to Arts and Entertainments at Imperial, the following people have been given an AEB Award. I feel this year has been truly outstanding for AEB clubs and the number of award winners reflect this. I would like to note particular thanks to the other members of my Exec: Rachael Fletcher (Treasurer) and Sofia Qvarfort (ArtsFest Chair)

Rachael Fletcher
Sofia Qvarfort
Harriet Campbell
Heather Jeffery
Natalie Bevan
Olivia Kuo
Enric Juan Alcocer
Peter Munton
Beth Woodhams
Rachel Januszewski
Kathryn Sayer

Jack Steadman
James Targett
Michael McCree
Will O'Reilly
Henry Harrod
Isabelle Barrett
Raymond Williams
Joshua Carr
Joseph Hoggett
Maria Schofield Legorburo
Luke Granger-Brown

Beni Bienz
Peter Bridgman
Rohan Arambepola
Ethan Haley
Peter Griffin
George Goldberg
Bethany Hall
Douglas Addy
James Craven
Justin Pither

Appendix

The following table shows the financial figures for A&E Clubs on 13/06/2015.

Committee	Grant (0) (£)	SGI (1) (£)	Harlington (2) (£)	ICTrust (3) (£)	College (4) (£)	Grand Total (£)
A&E A Cappella (421)	267.88	6,222.94	0	0	0	6,490.82
A&E Calligraphy and Oriental Painting (422)	20	154.98	0	0	0	174.98
A&E Chamber Choir (423)	-28.34	6,530.01	-36.67	712.88	0	7,177.88
A&E Chamber Music (412)	0	242.13	12.79	0	0	254.92
A&E Choir (403)	0	7,997.88	0	228.94	116.66	8,343.48
A&E Comedy Society (424)	0	86.37	0	0	0	86.37
A&E Design Collective (478)	656.6	1,999.42	0	0	0	2,656.02
A&E Dramatic Society (406)	0	27,296.59	0	30.95	0	27,327.54
A&E Exec (400)	-35.6	863.34	0	0	0	827.74
A&E Fashion (146)	89.48	148.42	0	0	0	237.9
A&E Gospel Choir (418)	0	1,496.12	201.83	0	0	1,697.95
A&E Guitar (409)	79.8	567.46	0	0	0	647.26
A&E IC Big Band & Jazz (408)	0	4,131.13	0	320.36	0	4,451.49
A&E ICU Cinema (411)	0	4,541.15	0	0	0	4,541.15
A&E Jazz & Rock (413)	-2.19	1,196.77	0	0	0	1,194.58
A&E LeoSoc (405)	-61.27	300.93	0	0	0	239.66
A&E Music Technology (414)	0	1,600.02	0	0	0	1,600.02
A&E Musical Theatre (415)	447.33	6,209.49	0	0	0	6,656.82
A&E Orchestra (401)	8.52	11,729.83	0	0	0	11,738.35
A&E Sinfonietta (402)	0	917.03	0	561.6	0	1,478.63
A&E String Ensemble (417)	7.31	1,927.23	0	1,001.50	0	2,936.04
A&E Wind Band (419)	125	2,460.69	-69.43	0	0	2,516.26
	1574.52	88619.93	108.52	2856.23	116.66	93275.86