

17th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UN MUSIC CLUB
19 March 2025
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

VILLA RIGOT, Av. de la Paix 9, 1202 Genève

Minutes and report on activities

1. **Opening of the meeting by the President of the UN Music Club, quorum analysis and adoption of the agenda:**

Opening: The President, Mr. Michael Wiener, opened and chaired the 17th General Assembly of the UN Music Club.

Quorum: With 26 members present (see the scanned attendance record sheet), the required quorum was met, that is 1/3 of the total membership of 51 members.

Adoption of the Agenda: The draft Agenda, that had been circulated to members on 27 February 2025, was adopted without changes.

2. **Designation of the Chairperson and Secretary of the meeting:**

Mr. Michael Wiener was designated as Chair of the 17th General Assembly and Ms. Stefania Ghittino acted as Secretary of the meeting.

3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the previous (16th) General Assembly:**

The assembly accepted the proposed draft minutes of the 16th General Assembly without changes.

The President noted that the scanned attendance record of the 16th General Assembly is available from the Secretary upon request, and that for data protection reasons the signed list has not been uploaded on the website of the UN Music Club.

4. **Report on activities of the Committee and activities of the sections/groups (President, Section Coordinators):**

The Section Coordinators reported on the activities of their respective sections between October 2023 and February 2025, as outlined with further details in the annex:

- UN Choir and Camerata UNa (Ms. Nadiya Dzyubynska),
- Rock band I (Ms. Karin Kaminker),
- Rock band II "Age of Denial" (Mr. Igor Paunovic),
- Rock band III "Magari un Giorno" (Ms. Margarita Yordanova),
- Jazz group (Mr. Patrice Piguet), and
- Classical Music (Mr. Michael Wiener).

5. **Adoption of the financial report of the Treasurer:**

- *Auditors of the financial report (Article 4.1.e of Statute);*
- *Increasing the number of music club members and supporting the UN Staff Union in order for the UN Music Club to become eligible for a subsidy from the UN Staff Union.*

The Treasurer, Mr. Massimiliano La Marca, presented his financial report, including on the cash flows for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024. The Treasurer underlined that the Choir accounts were audited separately, and he stressed once more the fact that the issue of separately cashing the Club fees of the Choir members was not provided for in the Statutes of the UN Music Club.

The Auditors, Ms. Anastasia Leskova and Mr. Igor Paunovic, recommended that a meeting between the Treasurer and the Choir should take place once a year to combine the financial reports and present only one annual report to the Auditors. They confirmed that payment by Twint, in addition to the bank transfer option, would be a good practice, since any related payment could be traced. The Auditors recommended to use bank transfers or Twint payments to straighten financial controls and ensure more transparency of cash flows with regard to the Choir.

In their written report, the Auditors noted that the financial statements of the UN Music Club generally present a fair and accurate picture of the club's financial situation, subject to the reservations outlined in the Findings and Observations section. The Auditors concluded that the records comply with club regulations and recommended the approval of the 2024 accounts.

The General Assembly then approved the reports of the Committee, Treasurer and Auditors, with 3 abstentions.

The Auditors noted that they had not assessed the 2023 accounts in view of the formulation of the minutes of the 16th General Assembly under item 5 ("As auditors for 2024..."). The 17th General Assembly appointed Ms. Anastasia Leskova and Mr. Igor Paunovic as auditors for the next audit, which would include the 2023 and 2025 accounts.

The Committee again suggested to increase the number of UN Music Club members who are paying dues to UNOG Staff Union, as once the threshold of 15 members in both categories is reached, the UN Music Club becomes eligible for requesting a subsidy from the UNOG Staff Union. Thus it was decided to continue waiving of the Club fees from those who are already paying dues to the UNOG Staff Union (see also minutes of the 13th, 14th and 16th General Assembly).

6. **Elections of the members of the Committee: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Section Coordinators (Classical, Choir, Jazz, Rock):**

Elections of Members occur every two years. It was decided to start now the elections for the next two years from March 2025 onwards.

The General Assembly discharged the members of the previous Committee (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Section Coordinators) and unanimously elected the following persons for the next two years:

<u>President:</u>	Mr. Michael Wiener.
<u>Vice-President:</u>	Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr. Massimiliano La Marca.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Ms. Stefania Ghittino.
<u>Section leaders:</u>	Classical Group: Mr. Michael Wiener; UN Choir: Ms. Anastasia Leskova (who replaces the previous Section leader Ms. Nadiya Dzyubynska); Jazz group: Mr. Patrice Piguet; UN Rock Band: Ms. Karin Kaminker.

Each member of the new Committee accepted the re-election and expressed their gratitude.

On behalf of the Committee, the President expressed deepest gratitude for Ms. Nadiya Dzyubynska's excellent work and her long-term dedication as founding leader of the UN Choir.

The President also whole-heartedly thanked the webmaster Mr. Thijs Cornelissen for his precious assistance with the UN Music Club website.

7. **Report on equipment** (inventory, losses, donations of instruments, damaged equipment, needs for replacement and new items):

As agreed during the 16th General Assembly, Mr. Patrice Piguet had planned to conduct the inventory in rehearsal room E.51 in Palais des Nations, but he was prevented from establishing it for health reasons. Mr. Piguet confirmed that a full inventory will be done in due course.

It was agreed that the future move during July or August 2025 (dates still to be confirmed by the UNOG Administration) is very important, and the President had communicated the needs of the UN Music Club to the UN Staff Union. The new space for rehearsals of the UN Music Club and the storage of its equipment is still being discussed between the UNOG Administration and the UN Staff Union. For the UN Choir, rehearsals at Villa Rigot have been possible since September 2024, however, this venue is not be suitable for other sections.

Mr. Piguet underlined the fact that in rehearsal room E.51 there is a lot of private equipment and he made a call to please put stickers on any private equipment.

8. **Future activities** (events, equipment):

A joint summer concert of the UN Music Club at the UN Beach Club is planned to be organized between June and September 2025.

An end-of-year concert of the UN Music Club at the Palais des Nations, during lunchtime, is also under study.

9. Update on Strategic Heritage Plan (SHP):

The future move away from Building E, including vacating the current rehearsal in room E-51, is tentatively scheduled for July or August 2025, even if the exact date has not yet been confirmed by the UNOG Administration. A new rehearsal room has not yet been defined; please also see above Point 7. of the present Minutes.

10. Any other business:

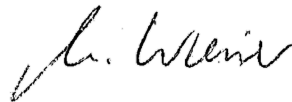
The Rock group reminded that before the Covid period numerous concerts were conducted at the UN Beach Club, while it is not the case anymore. It was suggested to try and have more concerts again at the UN Beach Club.

It was also encouraged to increase the use of UNOG Broadcasts for the advertisement of concerts and events, as well as the printing of flyers and posters to be displayed in the Palais des Nations.

11. Signed by:

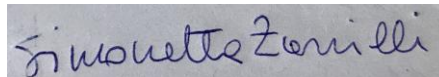
President

Mr. Michael Wiener



Vice-President

Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli




Treasurer

Mr. Massimiliano La Marca



Secretary



Ms. Stefania Ghittino

Annex:

Activities of the Sections of the UN Music Club (between October 2023 and February 2025)

UN Choir in Geneva

- Performing at the Christmas Concert in Victoria Hall (*23 December 2023*)
- Performing for the radio programme “*Kiosque de la musique*” (*December 2023*)
- Performing at the UN Christmas Concert in the Palais des Nations (*December 2023*)
- Performing in the “*Lessons and Carols*” concert-service at Auditoire Calvin (*December 2023*)
- Performing at the Christmas Concert in the World Council of Churches (*December 2023*)
- Performing at the Peacekeepers Ceremony in the Palais des Nations (*31 May 2024*)
- Performing at the Annual Summer Concert (*9 June 2024*)
- Performing at the King’s Birthday Concert (*11 June 2024*)
- Performing at the *Fête de la Musique* (*22 June 2024*)
- Performing at the 20th Anniversary of the UN Music Club at UN Beach (*7 September 2024*)
- Performing at the Christmas Party in St. Jean (*5 December 2024*)
- Performing at the Music Club Christmas Concert in the Palais des Nations (*12 December 2024*)

Vocal Studio Camerata UNa

- Concert at Fête de la Musique in June 2023
- Concert at Maison de la retraite (Résidence de Châtaigniers, Veyrier) – September 2023
- Concert at Auditoire Calvin in June 2024
- Concert at Maison de la retraite (Résidence de Châtaigniers, Veyrier) – December 2024.
- Recent plans : performance at Fête de la Musique on 22nd of June.

UN Rock Bands

The rock section currently comprises three groups: International Incidents, Age of Denial and Magari un giorno. Their activities have been limited by the unavailability of the practice room after the 19:00 closing of the Palais des Nations premises, and also by the present financial crisis, which implies savings on electricity and drastic reduction of cultural events.

- Age of Denial has been the most active with four or five performances at the Mr Pickwick Pub in Geneva
- Magari un giorno has also performed three gigs.

The Rock section groups plan to participate in the 28 June 2025 joint UNMC event at the UN Plage.

Classical Music group

- Performing during the end-of-year concert at Palais des Nations and at the Music Club's 20th anniversary event at UN Beach;
- Musical performance on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at Temple de la Madeleine, with a chamber music composition by Michael Wiener ("Violins, not violence");
- Two concerts at Collonges-sous-Salève, linked to the annual "Faith for Rights" walks (which was also included in a France2 TV documentary);
- Musical improvisation at the opening of the Minority Artist Human Rights Defenders Exhibition at the International School of Geneva on 6 November 2024.

Jazz group

Rehearsals: regular rehearsals in different groups, some on afternoons or lunch times, others in the evening at AMR Geneva.

Performances included:

- 2 retirement parties
- Private event for the UNOG Director of Administration
- 25 times Tuesday late afternoon + evening concerts at the UN Beach
- Music club anniversary at the UN Beach, Saturday afternoon 28 August
- Christmas Party of the UNOG Administration at the Palais des Nations
- Christmas public lunch time concert at the Palais des Nations
- Lunch time concerts on two Sundays at the Château de Cologny in Cessy (France) – Association Funding Parties
- UN Bazar at the Palais des Nations in November 2024