

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus
Minutes of Meeting 13th November 2012

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Els Pearce; Sally Turnbull; John Spence; Angela Argenzio; Helen Kirk; Jo Payne; Kate Arrowsmith; Sue Pennington; Peter Quarrell; Paul Maddox; Anne Adams; Nigel Wright; Joanne Briddock.

Els was thanked for hosting the meeting
New committee members Anne, Nigel and Joanne B were welcomed

1. Apologies

Elizabeth Charlesworth; Daphne Sydney

2. Christmas Concerts & Messiah

Decided to accept Rachel Mallaband's offer to work on the programmes for the coming Christmas concerts & Messiah despite the fact that she has now resigned from the committee. Peter to shadow her in order to learn the process. Janet will email Rachel M to ask for a list of Friends to be included in the programmes if there is space. At the very least Frances Lavender must be mentioned in the Messiah programme as she is sponsoring the concert.

3. Recruitment & Outreach

Sally reported that the current men's workshops are being well attended with 6 or 7 regulars. 12 people are due to be auditioned on Saturday, 1 sop, 6 altos, 3 tenors & 2 basses. Additionally there are 3 auditions planned for December in time for Messiah. The recent recruitment drive has resulted in a total of 30 prospective new members.

The current run of workshops is being extended by 2 weeks to take account of Ros's enforced absences. There are 3 women interested in a possible run of workshops during the spring. The sub-group will discuss how the workshops should be developed. There are 16 sessions budgeted for during the season.

The new members' booklet was updated.

Paul reported that he has developed an on-line survey for members to complete to capture details of individual's links with other organisations and groups. It is envisaged that this information will help us to target our publicity and information more effectively.

A vote of thanks was recorded for Sally who has led the current recruitment drive so successfully.

4. Concert 8th March 2013

A draft budget for this concert had been circulated previously.

We will be sole promoters of the concert. The break-even point for ticket sales is 300. The cathedral will print the programmes. Julie will check on arrangements for staging and changing facilities. Following the current run of auditions Julie will also seek Darius' view as to whether or not it will still be necessary to have the Cathedral Songmen for this concert.

5. "Voicing" the chorus

A report on the meeting with Maggie was circulated previously. A proper discussion of issues around "voicing" will be held at a later time.

6. Financial Agreement with The Halle / SIV.

It was agreed reluctantly that, following Julie's report on these discussions, the financial agreement we have been offered should be accepted. Julie will ask for reassurance of our security within the series.

7. Membership matters

i) Sheila Barber will be offered honorary membership.

ii) Although KES is generally a popular venue there are problems with seating which is very uncomfortable upstairs. John will ask Darius for more short, interspersed standing opportunities. He will also request that he mentions a time for restarting after the interval.

There is an issue with lack of space for basses and tenors in their section of seating. John will email the chorus asking for altos and sopranos to leave seats towards the middle of the hall so that men can occupy these seats as required.

8. Friends & Honorary Members

There was a feeling that the Friends & Friends for Life are not being nurtured properly as it is currently no-one's responsibility. Julie is looking for a replacement for John Hyde who has indicated that he is standing down but she will request that John does the Christmas cards for the Friends. The summer newsletter should have gone out to Honorary Members and did not. It will be included with their Christmas cards.

Decided to offer a pair of tickets for the March concert to Friends and also invite them to a drinks reception on that occasion.

At the moment we have 4 Supporters, 8 Friends and 6 Friends for Life.

9. Minutes

Were signed

10. Matters Arising

i) Part of Rachel Mallaband's donation to Chorus funds will be used to make her a Friend for Life. She has indicated that her preference is that the remaining funds be used to enable a recording of Olympic Tryptich if this is possible.

ii) It was agreed that £3k be transferred from the general to the charity account.

11. AOB

i) Julie will ask for free tickets for Nigel and for Maggie for Messiah. It was agreed that Els will buy 40 additional copies of "Word made Flesh" at a cost of £2.75 each.

ii) Julie & Helen will check the Christmas card list.

iii) There was some discussion around the notion of putting a time limit on how long a visitor could remain as a visitor without asking for an audition. The issue arose following the attendance record of a particular visitor. It was decided not to give a number of weeks but to ask people to audition at the next appropriate opportunity.

12. Dates for Next Meeting

Julie will circulate possible dates for the January meeting.