

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus
Minutes of Meeting 24th February 2010

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Sally Turnbull; Kate Reece; Angela Argenzio; Sue Pennington; Richard Salt; Howard Dore; Ann Holloway; Paul Duffield.

1. Apologies

John Spence (who had submitted his Membership report by email); Els Pierce; Pamela Leon; Jenny Swann; Helen Kirk; Dan Spicer.

Julie thanked people for travelling into Sheffield 2 nights running during a week of bad weather.

2. Minutes of 19th January 2010 meeting
were signed.

3. Matters Arising

- a. There are 6 bags remaining from the original order of 50.
- b. Julie is still researching the Creative Sheffield venture. Recent news is that the city is on a short list of 4 for the UK City of Culture 2013.
- c. The issue with the Arts Tower door has been resolved and an apology received.
- d. Rachel Mallaband has written to the Race For Life organisation declining their invitation to sing as there were not enough volunteers.
- e. Rachel is writing copy to submit to "Your Sheffield" magazine.

4. Christmas Concert Feedback

Programme content was generally well received. Some reservations about Joe Stilgo's contribution being a good fit. Universal approval of the band. Inviting the Academy choir was a success though their repertoire choice was unseasonal. Disappointment that the Sheffield carols were not broadcast. Ann was thanked for her decorations. We hope to add to these next year. £46 profit was made on the mince pies & sherry.

5. 75th Anniversary Celebrations

Celebrations to start on May 8th 2010 with the launch of Bill's book at the Brahms concert. Final event to be in the City Hall ballroom in June 2011.

- i) 500 books are expected from the printers shortly. We need to sell 259 at £6 each to break even. Julie/ Janet to check if we can sell them in the City Hall at the May concert. Angela will ask if the Millennium Gallery shop would take some on sale or return. Other possibilities are the Museum Shop and the Sheffield Shop. Helen will help with selling the books to chorus members.
Bill will keep 10 copies to give to people who have helped him to produce it. The chorus will buy 5 to present to:- Sam West, Darius, the Bochum choir, Rachel Copley, and our archive at the library. Rachel Mallaband will be asked to do a press release. Julie to contact Radio Sheffield.

ii) The ballroom event to be a semi-private concert and party for chorus members friends and family, honorary members, past members etc. Charge to cover costs. Invite the Bochum choir. Repertoire to include madrigals learned for this summer's visit to Germany. Book the bar. Refreshments. Helen/ Dan/ Angela to check dates and catering possibilities with the City Hall.

6. Fund Raising

Julie circulated a report ahead of the meeting detailing various suggestions she has received. Decided to work on the principle of 1 or 2 initiatives each year.

Ann circulated a comprehensive report explaining how her company, Ibex Design, could produce customised clothing items for us to sell. 4 members of the committee commissioned items from her which they will wear at a future rehearsal. The chorus will add £3 to the sale price of each garment. Members will pay the full price to Ibex Design in the first instance. Pat Brearton to help organise the sale of these items.

Darius to be asked to play for a silent film performance at the Showroom. Jim Monach to organise.

The remaining CDs to be taken to St Luke's shop after one more week on sale. Kate was thanked for organising this. She will start selling sheet music and vocal scores after Easter.

Julie and Janet were thanked for their work on applying for lottery funding for the stair climber and their application was endorsed.

7. Finance

A legacy has been received from Tony Pickles. This is being used to part fund the Brahms concert which will be dedicated to him.

A personal donation has been received from the chair of St Luke's board of trustees in recognition of our contribution to the recent memorial service for Professor Erik Wilkes.

A payment was agreed to Ruth Jones for professional services connected with contracting soloists for the Brahms concert.

A lengthy discussion regarding possible payment towards the Gerontius soloists did not lead to a decision as we did not have sufficient information. Julie to ask Darius to meet us for an extraordinary meeting after rehearsal one Tuesday in order to resolve this.

8. Armed Man Arrangements.

Coaches and music are being paid for. We will continue with the original plan of asking for a £5 donation from visitors using the coaches. Janet will check the dress code.

9. Education & Outreach

Jenny met with John Grundy, director of Sheffield Academy, before Christmas. He is keen to foster our links. He has access to funding if we decide on a workshop or other joint event. The issue will be an agenda item at the next big meeting.

10. Publicity & Recruitment

Ann Garbett tops up the leaflets in the City Hall. She suggests a different layout which takes into account the style of the racks. ie only the top part sticks out. Will discuss leaflets next time.

Our leaflets will be handed out at the Making Music concert in March.

Potential new members are awaiting auditions.

11. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 20th April 9.15 pm University Arms

Thursday 20th May 7.30 pm Angela's house.

12. AOB

i) We have been invited to sing in 4 Star Wars concerts in Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham and Newcastle. A significant fee is offered. Soundings have been taken amongst the members and it is likely there will be enough singers to enable us to accept all the invitations. Subject to Darius' approval we would like to invite the tenors and basses of the Academy choir to join with us for at least the Sheffield concert. Janet will find a venue for a rehearsal on Thursday 4th March. John was thanked for his work on collating numbers.

ii) Cards of thanks have been received from Betty Beeson and from Sally & Stephen Knight.