

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus  
Minutes of Meeting 19th January 2010

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Els Pearse; Pamela Leon; John Spence; Sally Turnbull; Kate Reece; Jenny Swann; Sue Pennington; Helen Kirk; Richard Salt; Dan Spicer; Howard Dore; Paul Duffield.

1. Apologies

Angela Argenzio; Ann Holloway

Paul was welcomed to his first meeting.

2. Minutes of 9th November 2009 meeting  
were signed.

3. Matters Arising

Helen reported that all music bags are sold and she is taking names for a possible second order. She was thanked for her work on this project.

A meeting was held on 10th November between Sheffield International Venues (SIV) represented by Andrew Snelling & Dominic Stokes and the SPC represented by Darius, Janet, Julie, Pamela and Ruth.

Significant points:-

i) It is written into the contract between SIV and the Halle Concert Society (HCS) that SPC is guaranteed 2 concerts per season plus the Christmas concert thus safeguarding the Chorus' involvement.

ii) SIV is willing to hire the Irwin Mitchell Oval Hall to the chorus "at cost." This cost is considerably less if we do not need the extended stage, ie if we do not have a large orchestra.

iii) The chorus can hire the ballroom, which is very much cheaper, particularly during January or after April. It would be very possible for us to hire it for a concert we might promote independently.

iv) Should there be a 5.45 series the Chorus would be invited to contribute a concert.

v) SIV felt that the 5.45. series had lost its focus and this year early evening concerts on Wednesdays may be presented as part of Creative Sheffield's "Wednesday Live" series. (Julie is making contact with CS personnel to ensure they are aware of the existence and profile of SPC.)

No further formal communication has been received from HCS/SIV since this meeting, but informal dialogue is good. The committee gave officers a mandate to agree a payment towards enhancing the fee for the Gerontius soloist at next season's

concert should it be requested. Any such contributions should be discussed and agreed on a concert-by-concert basis.

#### 4. Membership Matters

John reported a problem with access to the Arts Tower when the outer door was locked tonight after rehearsal had started making it difficult for late arrivals. Janet to look into it.

#### 5. Financial Matters

A broadcast fee of £500 from the BBC has been agreed for the Christmas concert.

Darius' fee for his band arrangement of O Holy Night is £500.

CD sale results not known. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Donations have been received to pay for decorations at the Christmas concert.

£300 has been paid to the chorus, after expenses, for the Christmas wedding.

£10 was paid for flyers advertising the broadcast.

£60 has been received from Bluebell Wood to pay for the rehearsal venue.

Almost all subscriptions have now been paid.

The accounts are being audited.

Committee members are asked to email Pamela with name and date of birth.

#### 6. Access Issues

Janet & Julie to explore a possible grant for funding a stair climber. Chorus funds will not be committed.

#### 7. 2009/10 Concert Season

The chorus has accepted an invitation to sing at the memorial service for Professor Erik Wilkes, founder of St Luke's Hospice. Cathedral, 13th Feb.

There is no 5.45 series this season. Darius is happy that we have enough to do without it.

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind has its 150th anniversary this year. Rachel is working with them on ideas for a concert in June.

We have been invited to sing at the Race for Life in June at Don Valley Stadium.

Need firm commitments from members so a list to be generated.

Music for Bochum includes a selection of English Madrigals. Janet Hoyle to be asked to check up on who is providing music.

We have been asked to provide music for a wedding in Hathersage.

Decided to extend the season for 3 Tuesdays beyond the Brahms concert to rehearse music for all of the above, ie May 11th, 18th & 25th.

#### 8. AOB

Main concerts for 2010/11 season:-

4/11/10 Dream of Gerontius, Elgar

11/3/11 Mozart Requiem

11/5/11 Verdi Requiem in Leeds

11/6/11          Walton Henry V

Christmas concert is 12th December 2010. Julie to query the choice of Sunday.

There are 4 and a half boxes of leaflets remaining. Members are to be asked to take some. We should order fewer next season.

"Your Sheffield" is a new local magazine. Kate to ask Rachel Mallaband if she would write some copy or offer an interview.

Janet to find out who is liaising for the Birmingham concert as there are issues to discuss. Peter will book extra coaches if required so that we can invite visitors. £5 cost for the coach for visitors.

The new members booklet needs updating. Sally and Angela.

9. Date for Next Meeting

Wednesday 24th February 7.30pm University Arms