

## SHEFFIELD PHILHARMONIC CHORUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 27 May 2010

At Angela's house - Thank you for hosting the meeting

Present: Dan Spicer; Jenny Swann; Kate Reece; Howard Dore; Ann Holloway; Helen Kirk; Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Paul Duffield, Els Pierce; Angela Argenzio.

1 Apologies were received from Sue Pennington, Sally Turnbull, John Spence, Rachel Mallaband and Pamela Leon.

2 Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 20 April 2010 were accepted as correct and signed.

### 3 Matters Arising

#### \* Christmas Concerts 2010:

Pam will speak to Darius about the junior choir. Jenny has already a contact with Dore Primary school. They are very keen and the teacher in charge seems to have good ideas on how to move forward.

General agreement that this would boost afternoon audience.

Jenny will discuss further with school contact after half term with a view to firm decision by the end of September.

### 4 Finance

#### \* Negotiations with HCS:

- it was agreed that we will contribute to each concert (£1,000 initially) and receive a percentage of Box office (5% per £1,000), similar arrangements for the Brahms. Agreed to contribute £2,000 for the Mozart concert as it should sell well; this would be in exchange for 10% of box office.
- Also it was agreed that we may offer more for a Saturday concert as there would be no travel cost for a weekday rehearsal in Manchester.
- We will relinquish our ticket discount; though will ask for a possible complimentary ticket allocation.
- We are planning to engage and pay for Samuel West for the Henry V.

\* Budget for next season including specific budget for publicity and marketing :

- Peter's recommendations for the printing costs were accepted.
- There was a brief discussion about the number of leaflets needed and it was agreed that we will print 1,500 leaflets to start with and we will increase the number if needed. (Subsequently Peter confirms that this is OK.) Also discussed radio advertising of our concerts (Radio Sheffield, Classic FM).

\* Julie and Darius have now purchased music for repertoire development - the Committee endorsed this decision.

\* Wedding payments for Chorus-related weddings:

- There will be no official charge for members of the Chorus but we will indicate that a donation to Chorus funds would be appreciated. Also members will have to cover organist and music costs (if applicable).
- Develop Wedding music repertoire and just offer that, so no music hire necessary.
- Our external charge (including members' families) will stay at £350.

\* Final three subs have been paid.

Also the two members who lost their rehearsal CDs have agreed to pay. The SPC will pay invoice and then charge Nos 108 and 800.

\* Purchase of wheelchair, useful for members with mobility problems. Ann will check on Freecycle. Angela will check on Ebay. Else may be able to help too.

\* Gift Janet Hoyle: Julie will organise this and we will present.

\* Angela is going to stand as Finance officer to replace Pamela. They have a meeting next week to ensure a smooth transition. During the short meeting after rehearsal on Tuesday 18 May it was agreed that the Chorus current account will be changed to have four signatories, these will be: Angela Argenzio; Julie Smethurst (Juli will check accessibility for the online banking); Janet Bower and John Spence.

5 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations

\* So far 119 books have been sold. Bill Smilley has kindly donated £500 out of the printing expenses to the Chorus. We decided to pay

the remaining printing cost to Bill to simplify the accounting for the selling of the book.

\* We have agreed on figures, people and deadlines for buying tickets. Julie/ Helen will include something in the summer newsletter.

\* Invitation to the Bochum Choir for next year's event, plus a possible extra concert with the Endcliffe Orchestra. Angela and Julie have already made contact.

## 6 Fundraising

\* Stair climber: we are hoping to move on the lottery bid once the signatures on the Current account have been changed. Other ideas were also discussed including: the Funding fair at Town Hall which focuses on Community projects; the City Council offers up to £500 if we qualify; Santander foundation also interested; South Yorkshire Funding Advisory Bureau (SYFAB) are willing to help with the application; Els also suggested to contact Irwin Mitchell who sponsors the hall; South Yorkshire Community Foundation may not be too willing to help us as we are too "well off"; Lloyds TSB want longer term projects, but may be useful for the future.

\* Kate suggested that it may be possible to sell our books at fairs. We need to book a stall in advance, maybe for next year (for example the Green fair in summer 2011).

\* Chorus clothing: Thank you to Anne for printing items with our logo. So far we have raised £90.

## 7 Membership

\* Honorary membership will be offered to June Wray.

## 8 Publicity and recruitment

\* 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo ratified.

\* Recruitments of tenor was discussed at length. Ideas included: target different groups/ communities; get into fairs (including Sheffield Pride next year); have an open rehearsal again?; advertise for the Chorus using local organisation intranet facilities (a draft advert to be drawn for members to use); Community magazines.

It was agreed that we should also re-visit ideas which were discussed in the past.

9 Picnic.

\*Invitations to honorary members have been sent. Rachel took on the VIPs but we don't know whether these have been sent out yet.

10 Date of next meeting: 21 September after rehearsal, venue TBC.

11 AOB

\* B.Lee: it was suggested that he should probably sit in a different place during concerts.

\* We are going to ask the City Hall whether we can have a few free tickets for each concert, as we are relinquishing our discount deal. We can then use the tickets as gifts or prizes.

\* All our concerts for next season are on the Making Music website.

\*Adopt a composer: we need to wait for Darius's opinion on this.