

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus  
Minutes of Meeting 9th November 2009

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Els Pearse; John Spence; Sally Turnbull; Kate Reece; Angela Argenzio; Sue Pennington; Helen Kirk; Richard Salt; Howard Dore; Ann Holloway.

Julia Shaw from Making Music joined the meeting for the second half.

Julie welcomed Howard Dore and Ann Holloway.

1. Apologies

Pamela Leon; Dan Spicer; Paul Duffield; Jennifer Swann.

2. Minutes of 15th September 2009 meeting  
were signed.

3. Matters Arising

i) There have been 40 requests from members for music bags at £15 each. Helen will order 50 as it was felt likely the extra 10 would sell well once people saw the bags.

ii) Discussions between Julie and Darius regarding the possible engagement of an agent are pending.

4. Membership Matters

i) Darius is loathe to close membership to potential new sopranos. Instead standards have been raised. It was noted that already this season sopranos have gone on leave of absence, and that often members from any section may leave without telling us they are going.

ii) Helen will become the new 1st sopranos' section rep in place of Janet.

iii) Warm letters of thanks have been received from Warren Gilchrist and Judith Pickles who have each accepted honorary membership.

iv) Sally reported a recent influx of people of varied backgrounds and ages. Many of these people found us through the leaflet distribution. Sally and the section reps were thanked for ensuring that everyone received a warm welcome.

5. Financial Matters

i) Janet reported on a new source of coach banners which are more suited to our needs than the old ones. £35 each. Agreed to have 3. Janet, Jenny & Angela will store them.

ii) There have been no further proposals from the Halle Concert Society. Janet, Ruth, Pamela, Julie and Darius meet tomorrow with Sheffield International Venues representatives. Julie gave some background information and there was a short discussion about agenda.

iii) The Christmas Concert will be broadcast by BBC radio 2 on Christmas Eve. The fee is still under negotiation. There was discussion about the importance of not infringing any copyright regulations if individuals wish to make their own recordings from the radio. Darius to be asked to speak to the members about this.

## 6. Access Issues

Janet, Julie, Ruth and Dorothy Plant recently attended a demonstration of a stair climbing wheelchair at the City Hall. Also present were Andrew Graham from the City Hall and Brian Mecerder City Council Access Officer. The chair can climb the stairs at the back of the stage to the top of the seating rig in 2 minutes. The next stage is to give it a dry run on a concert day to check that it is possible to see the conductor from a seated position. The chorus will facilitate the purchase of this equipment as far as possible by researching possible grants but cannot afford to buy it. (£3,000+.) Training will be needed for anyone who will use it - potential volunteers had already been identified.

## 7. 2009/10 Concert Season

i) A company in Leeds has been contracted by Sheffield City Council to provide Christmas entertainment in the Peace Gardens. Dates 27th November to 22nd December, early evenings in the week and afternoons at weekends. There will be a very small covered stage. We have been asked to take part. Agreed to do Tuesday 15th December if available from 5.00 -6.00pm if Darius is agreeable. No money is involved. We can distribute leaflets. Janet will ask for a show of hands at tomorrow's rehearsal.

ii) The carol writing competition will not happen this year. The Academy choir will still be singing. Darius liaising with John Grundy. Hallelujah Chorus was suggested as something we could all sing together.

iii) Angela to e-mail members regarding the interval sherry and mince pies and ask for £1 contribution from everyone to help pay some of the expenses of the evening. Section reps to be asked to sell the raffle tickets. There is insufficient space to include honorary members. In the future we will look at including them in a reception. Janet to check with Ruth about the position regarding Christmas decorations.

iv) Darius is writing the new arrangement of O Holy Night for brass band. The fee agreed is £500. CD sales have so far raised about £200 towards this. Members are to be invited to donate CDs to the box. The piece will be treated as a tribute to the work for the Chorus of Miriam Gilchrist - this fact to be stated in the concert programme.

v) Our concert in the 5.45 series is likely to be later in the season, maybe around April.

## 8. Marketing & Publicity

i) Rachel Mallaband will write the copy for programmes.

ii) Peter Miles will put the leaflets together.

iii) There were a number of suggestions for funding ideas. Decided it should be an agenda item for a future meeting.

## 9. Anniversary Celebrations

- i) Angela, Helen and Dan are working on ideas for a party.
- ii) The Chorus booklet printing has met with a delay but it is being sorted.
- iii) Possible "Classical Spectacular" style programme if we self-promote a concert during the 10/11 season.

## 10. Maintenance of Website

Kirsty Christer has agreed to join the website team. She will do some updating and also check our facebook presence. Kirsty will be added to the circulation list for the minutes together with Rachel Mallaband and Peter Miles after Julie has checked that they want this.

## 11. Bochum

There are about 20 people intending to go. Janet Hoyle will speak to the chorus tomorrow evening.

## 12. Education & Outreach

Jennifer had a meeting with John Grundy at the Music Academy to discuss possible opportunities for working together. John has access to various funding options. There could be money to pay for workshops along the lines of those we have already held, perhaps to enable young singers to join in a big work. There is currently no obvious place for young men leaving his choir to go so closer links would obviously benefit both organisations.

Julia Shaw introduced her group and its aims. These include sharing good practice and encouraging local music groups to work collectively. She mentioned the Making Music Yorkshire website which has an anti-clash facility where tentative dates can be entered. There is also a music hire facility. Julia asked us to include their logo on our publicity.

Next year the National Federation of Music Societies celebrates its 75th anniversary. Julia is keen to encourage more and better publicity for music making in and around the city. Her organisation has access to lobbying at national level eg with the Arts Council.

## 13. Making Music Rep.

Richard is our new representative on Making Music.

## 14. AOB

- i) Angela offered to video the station carol evening.
- ii) Julie reported an interesting offer from a DVD company which would make a DVD for no charge in return for a 50:50 split on sales.
- iii) Kate suggested that perhaps students looking for a project might be interested in making a DVD or video. Kirsty is a possible contact.
- iv) Julie was commended for her "Chat" initiative which she will repeat as required.
- v) Decided to offer seats on coaches to any supporters wishing to travel to Birmingham for the Karl Jenkins concert. Will charge.

- vi) The music hire charge for The Armed Man will be £3.50. Els reported the very late return of music from last January which has resulted in a £12 cost.
- vii) Angela will take photographs of new committee members and section reps for the website.
- viii) Letters of thanks have been received from Betty Beeson (for flowers) and Rachel Copley (for the presidency.)

#### 14. Dates for Future Meetings

Tuesday 19th Jan 2010 at 9.15pm

Wednesday 24th Feb 2010 at 7.30pm