

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus  
Minutes of Meeting 12th October 2010

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Sally Turnbull; Angela Argenzio; Jenny Swann; Els Pearse; John Spence; Sue Pennington; Helen Kirk; Rachel Mallaband; Richard Salt; Howard Dore; Paul Duffield; Dan Spicer.

1. Apologies

Ann Holloway; Kate Reece; Pamela Leon

2. Minutes of 27th May 2010 meeting  
were signed.

3. Matters Arising

There will not be a children's choir at the Christmas concert this year though Jenny will remain in touch with her contacts. She was thanked for her work. Janet will continue trying to get information about ticket sales and will enquire about possible chorus discounts if sales are poor.

4. Finance

- a). It was agreed to purchase new finance software at a cost of £41.
- b). It was agreed to pay cathedral tenors & basses for the semi-chorus for Gerontius. 8 singers @ £80each
- c). It was agreed that the leader of any sectional rehearsal be paid £80 per session.
- d). It was agreed to run a new series of music reading workshops for potential new tenors and basses. The payment to the workshop leader will be £25 per session. Sally & Sue to set them up.
- e). The new season's draft budget was circulated ahead of the meeting. Angela was thanked for taking on this job. She modified the draft budget during the meeting as items were fine-tuned. It was agreed to recommend a new subscription rate of £114 to the members at the AGM. The reduced rate to remain the same at £36. Payments to Nigel and Darius to rise by 2%.

The main strain on the budget now is the need to make payments towards the cost of our City Hall concerts. It was agreed that we use £2,000 of Miriam and Warren's legacy to pay for the soloist for the Henry V concert.

Even with this and a subscription of £114 it is possible there might be a deficit in our operational costs next year. It will depend upon ticket sales and how much income is generated from other activities.

Julie will produce a "Chat" article explaining to members how our changing financial commitments have required us to increase subscriptions again. This will be circulated before the AGM.

Julie, and possibly Darius, will talk about it at the AGM

- f). It was agreed to purchase a thank you gift for Bill Smyllie from chorus funds in recognition of his work on the chorus booklet. Helen & Els to arrange.
- g). We will be receiving a donation from Heather Clark in memory of Peter. It will be used to buy new music, possibly for the 5.45 series.
- h). We have received a fee of £400 from the BBC for our recent Songs of Praise recording.
- i). We have received a donation from Barbara Ball in memory of Tony.
- j). We are still working towards finding a wheel chair.
- k). The bank mandate has been changed as agreed at the May meeting - there are now 4 possible signatories and 2 are needed for each transaction on the account we can now use for funding bids.

#### 5. 75th Anniversary Celebrations

Helen has agreed to take over as Social Events Officer and was thanked. She will write an email, for distribution to members, outlining the arrangements for the June party in order to encourage ticket sales.

#### 6. AGM

The date will be 9th November. Most current committee members will be continuing into the next season but Richard Salt's 3 years are up. He will remain as Making Music rep. We need another 2 or 3 Member Representatives. Helen will need to be replaced as 1st Soprano Voice Rep.

#### 7. Membership

June Wray & Linda Cummings have accepted honorary membership. 4 potential new members will be auditioned before the next concert.  
2 new members have successfully auditioned tonight.  
9 members need to re-audition over the next few weeks.

#### 8. Publicity & Recruitment

Rachel's report was circulated ahead of the meeting itemising a number of successful initiatives. The web-site will have a new contacts page after the AGM elections. It will include Janet's mobile number and Angela's postal address with her title but not her name. In addition Rachel is currently working on setting up a web page for media & press, enhancing our Face Book page and getting started on Twitter.

Flyers are being printed for Gerontius and there are some big posters for the City Hall.

9. Date of Next Meeting

To be advised

10. AOB

a). We have been approached by the secretary of Bach Society suggesting a collaboration with themselves and Simon Lindley in Leeds. No details yet but we have agreed in principle.