

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus
Minutes of Meeting 4th April 2011

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; John Spence; Angela Argenzio; Sally Turnbull; Els Pearce; Kate Reece; Howard Dore; Peter Quarrell; Jenny Swann; Daphne Sydney; Helen Kirk; Sue Pennington.

1. Apologies

Ann Holloway; Rachel Mallaband; Dan Spicer; Paul Duffield; Elizabeth Charlesworth.

2. Minutes of 15th February 2011 meeting
were signed.

3. Matters Arising

- a. There have been no offers to house the library. Els to ask Jim to check at the university. Angela to research commercial storage. Janet to ask the Chorus gan.
- b. There have been few volunteers for the group of wedding singers. Decided to continue with the present ad hoc arrangements and look at it again in September.
- c. A piece of writing from a member of each section about how they came to join the chorus is required for the website. Dan and Howard agreed to do this. Decided we should each send our own photos to Kirsty to update the website.

4. Finance

a) Angela circulated interim finance information ahead of the meeting and was thanked for this. She is now in a position to be able to produce monthly updates. Income is generally higher owing to increased subscriptions, fund raising and gifts. Expenditure is also higher for most things except music hire. The financial position is generally positive.

All subscriptions have now been paid.

b) Julie's provisional schedule for Maggie's sessions was approved. She will now check it out with Darius and Maggie.

5. Fund Raising

a) Peter brought a draft prize draw ticket to the meeting together with costing details. Costs for holding the draw including the licence and printing of 5,000 tickets will be about £550.

Decided to go ahead with the draw, providing the prizes are organised in time. Tickets to be available from September. The winning ticket to be drawn during the interval of the Christmas concert.

Peter offered to organise the purchase and distribution of the tickets.

Janet will speak to John Lewis and Rachel to the City Hall to ask for prizes. Once these are in place the draw will be mentioned in the summer newsletter and Julie will motivate the chorus in September.

Each member will be expected to sell at least one book of 10 tickets at £2 each as their contribution to fund raising. No other fundraising to be required of members till after Christmas.

b) The initial meeting of the “Friends” group was productive. From this a steering group has been appointed, led by John Hyde and to include Officers, Committee and non-Committee members and if possible one or two non-members who are already committed supporters of the Chorus – e.g. regular members of our audience. The steering group will report regularly to the full Committee.

6. 2011/ 12 Season

a) The proposed Tickhill “Last Night of the Proms” concert has been postponed.

b) Rachel was thanked for putting together the successful “Music Nation” bid. There was a cautionary note from a member about putting in a lot of work for no money. It is important to delegate where possible. It will be necessary to source some funding.

Julie and Rachel meet with Amy Carter, Sheffield’s Arts Officer next week. Rachel is in discussions with the agent for the Ian McMillan Orchestra.

Ideas should go to Rachel.

c) The committee ratified decisions taken at the short 22nd March meeting. We will self-promote a City Hall concert on 28th April 2012. It will include “The Armed Man” and feature Black Dyke Band and some members of Halifax Choral Society. It will be included in the season prospectus as part of the season. It will cost approx £12K to £15K to promote.

In discussion among various Chorus members it was felt that video images were important to enhance the concert, as in the Birmingham

one. Darius had spoken to the Halifax member who had prepared the footage for the Birmingham performance, and he is willing to put together a similar show for us but using some local Sheffield images, if we can source them. Rachel is in contact with someone who was involved in videos for a Sheffield performance some years ago.

d) Julie has had a recent proposal from the Hallé for a contribution to each of next season's City Hall concerts. No decision was taken but initial discussion produced the suggestion that we should contribute to the Saturday concert but not the Friday one as this will already involve us paying for coaches to Manchester for a rehearsal. Discussion will continue via email.

7. Singclude

The stairclimber has been ordered and will be here soon. It is to be delivered to the City Hall. Andy Bridger, Health & Safety manager, has agreed to receive it and be included in the training. Janet and John will also be included in initial training which they can then cascade. Janet & Julie will meet with Andy to agree the details of organisation. Janet will check on maintenance costs. There will be a national launch sometime between August and October depending on the availability of the celebrity launchee.

8. Membership Matters

a) John circulated details of proposed new folders and brought some examples to the meeting. There was general approval of the product but no agreement on the number to be ordered. There is a distinct unit cost advantage to having 500 but a high initial outlay. John to research the cost if the folders are left plain.

b) Agreement in principle to have name badges for voice reps and committee members but no time to decide on details.

c) A gift and card have been delivered to David Tuke plus a letter conferring honorary membership.

9. Publicity

Rachel's suggestion of the dotted rhythm for the logo was accepted. Decided we do not want a tag line.

10. Grand 75th Anniversary Celebration

120 tickets have been sold and they will now be offered to people outside the chorus. We can have up to 336 in total this being the number of available chairs. Rachel to ask the City Hall to email people on their subscription list.

Presentations will be made to 3 long-standing members. Els will get the scores and Helen / Angela will organise the binding.

11. Making Music Rep

Richard Salt to be invited onto the committee as an ex-officio member.

12. Business Plan

Julie's briefing notes included ideas for a business plan to inform forward planning. It was agreed to work on this.

13. AOB

- a) It was agreed to run the music reading workshops again in September. Sally already has enquiries.
- b) Decided to go ahead with discussions with Graham Keen about motivational work.
- c) Visitors who wish to travel to Leeds on the coaches for the Verdi concert will be accepted, providing there is space, and will be charged £5 each.
- d) Katrina Hulse has agreed to be 1st sop rep and was thanked.
- e) Tomorrow will be the last rehearsal in the Arts Tower this season as it is being refurbished. We will be moving to Springs Academy from 12th April.

14. Date of next meeting

TBA