

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus  
Minutes of Meeting 15th February 2011

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; John Spence; Angela Argenzio;  
Sally Turnbull; Kate Reece; Howard Dore; Ann Holloway;  
Rachel Mallaband; Peter Quarrell; Dan Spicer; Jenny Swann;  
Daphne Sidney.

1. Apologies

Els Pearce; Helen Kirk; Paul Duffield; Elizabeth Charlesworth.

2. Minutes of 17th November 2010 meeting  
were signed.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Combined ticket sales for Christmas were around 2,500, (maybe not including subscriptions – Julie trying to check this with City Hall). Our thanks to Ann Garbett and her team for decorating the stage area. Janet has acquired some used decorations from John Lewis for future use. Thanks to Janet who's cake raffle raised £124. Thanks to Helen and her team for co-ordination of book sales, raffle, sherry & mince pies.
- b. Armed Man DVDs from Black Dyke cost £22 each. 39 cost £857.84 and 91 were free. One was given to Heather Clarke as a gift. All the rest were sold making an income of £1,935. This represents a surplus of £1,077.16. Thanks to Howard for organising this.
- c. There is a need to move the library again and Julie will mention this in her next "Chat." Angela to set up an e-bay account and a paypal account so that any left over music can be sold.
- d. We have been offered a conditional grant from the Lottery for the "Singclude" project subject to our bank accounts being in appropriate order.

- e. Over £500 was raised for “Sing for your Heart” at the railway station in December.
- f. Heather Clarke is happy for us to dedicate the Mozart concert to Peter. Rachel to contact Heather about programme content re Peter.
- g. Thanks to Ruth for liaising with Sam West and his agent. Sam is booked for 3<sup>rd</sup> June. His fee is £500, (probably plus VAT,) and travel/accommodation as per contract. The reneguing clause is for one month which would give time to find a replacement.
- h. Our application to take part in the Cultural Olympiad has been forwarded to “Making Music.”

#### 4. Voice Coaching

- a. There will be 2 additional sessions this season.
- b. Janet will approach Maggie and ask what her fee will be from September 2011. Any increase up to £150 can be agreed immediately, anything above this to be referred to the committee.
- c. It was noted that there are a few members who do not enjoy Maggie’s style of warm-up. The recent joint session with Darius on the Mozart was judged to be very useful and others are planned before the Verdi and Walton concerts.

#### 5 Fundraising

- a. We have had an offer from John Hyde, who is the husband of a new member, to work with the chorus committee. He is an experienced administrator. Julie to pursue this and ask him to take on the “Friends” initiative.
- b. Peter was thanked for researching the Prize Draw regulations. Once we have it the licence runs for a year during which several draws can be made. Decided to start this in September and maybe draw the prize at the

Christmas Concert. We could ask permission from City Hall to sell tickets at our other concerts in the season.

c. Kate has offered to take on the sale of CDs and scores which have been donated by various members and former members. She will first ask if there are any more donations then offer the scores to members for sale. Then she will take a table at an appropriate summer event and sell the remaining items.

d. We have recently received a generous anonymous donation of £1,000. Julie will mention this in her next "Chat."

## 6 Financial Report

A report was circulated ahead of the meeting.

- i) There are still 9 subscriptions outstanding from "old" members. Angela to contact them individually by e-mail. If this does not get a result then she will liaise with John who will send individual notes advising members that they are not on the singing list for the forthcoming concert. The AGM will be on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011 thus giving more time for subscription collecting before Christmas during next season. Note: this means that reports will need to be submitted earlier than usual.

Angela also highlighted a problem about delays in members increasing their standing orders, meaning some people are paying less subs than others, and the Chorus is losing money. Julie to say something about this in her next Chat.

## 7 2011-2012 Season

a. Great disappointment that plans for "Messiah" have had to be shelved as there is no date available at the City Hall. Decided to book the hall now for Christmas 2012. (post-meeting note: Darius will liaise with the Hallé and the Hall about this)

b. This means we have no programme to rehearse between October 7<sup>th</sup> and Christmas except for the Christmas Concert. Ideas for some sort of Workshop event in November to be

discussed by email. Suggestions already made: Making Music "Overture"; choruses from Messiah; possible link up with Springs Academy – maybe hold the workshop there if available.

c. Decided to accept invitations to sing at Tickhill on 17<sup>th</sup> September for "Last Night of the Proms" and in the Cathedral for the St Luke's service on 11<sup>th</sup> December. These 2 events to be attended by members who choose to do them.

"Sing for your Heart" have invited us to sing at the station again and suggested dates. We have chosen 15<sup>th</sup> December.

d. Christmas Concert will be Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Not yet clear whether there will be 1 concert or 2.

Other confirmed dates:-

Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Walton	Belshazzar's Feast.
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2012	Bliss	The Beatitudes.

### 8Membership Matters

David Tuke to be offered honorary membership. Bass reps to make a collection for a gift for him from amongst those who know him.

John circulated a report. There have been 20 new members since September bringing numbers to 205.

Decided to run the music reading workshops as a regular feature and will budget for some next season. They will be supported by publicity.

Dan offered to write a piece for the website about his experiences as a member. Other contributions have also been received. Decided to feature the international mix of our members in forthcoming publicity.

Discussion of name badges deferred.

Julie to say something in her next "Chat" about late arrival at rehearsal.

Need to move forward on presentation scores for members of 50 years.

## 9 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

City Hall is hiring the ballroom to us for £500 which is a generous discount. The rest of our £1,500 deposit will be used to offset the buffet costs.

We are expecting about 25 guests from Bochum.

Helen sent details of the Anniversary party via e mail. There are now 93 tickets sold and the remaining ones to be offered to people outside current membership. Helen is looking at various band options.

Some of Miriam's legacy to be put towards this concert.

## 10 Any Other Business

a. Several committee photos are missing from the website. Issue of possible membership photos to be discussed at another time.

b. Selling the chorus booklet at concerts is difficult. We will discontinue with this. They will be available at the party in June.

## 11 Date of next meeting

To be circulated.