

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus
Minutes of Meeting 13th June 2012

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Els Pierce; Sally Turnbull; Angela Argenzio; John Spence; Rachel Mallaband; Kate Reece; Howard Dore; Paul Duffield; Helen Kirk; Sue Pennington; Peter Quarrell; Paul Maddox.

1. Apologies

Richard Salt; Jo Payne; Daphne Sydney; Kate Arrowsmith; Elizabeth Charlesworth.

Angela was thanked for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes

of 1st May were signed.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Rachel M was thanked for her comprehensive final report from the “Alight” project, previously circulated. The books have balanced.

Darius is to meet Timothy Allen to discuss the feasibility and logistics of recording “Olympic Triptych.”

Audio files from the event are available. Rachel is exploring issues of copyright and performing rights.

Els & Rachel agreed to organize a bound copy of “Everyone Sang” for Yaron. Black leather with gold writing, cost £120. It will be presented to him at the AGM.

- b. Discussion of Peter Miles’ report regarding the production of concert programmes continues online. Decided he and Rachel Copley will be presented with bottles of champagne at the final rehearsal of this season.
- c. Following discussion of the relative merits and costs of venues under consideration decided to book the main hall at King Edward School for all Tuesday rehearsals from September until Christmas. Also for the rehearsal on

Saturday 15th September. The Saturday rehearsal in October to be at Springs if we have unused credit there, otherwise at King Edwards. Julie will write to Springs to thank them.

- d. Friends and Friends for Life to be invited to the final Bliss rehearsal on Saturday 15th September in the afternoon subject to approval from Paul Daniel.

Friends for Life to be invited to attend the concert in Coventry on 22nd September as guests of the chorus. The invitation to comprise transport on the bus and a concert ticket. Subject to availability a partner may also be able to have a seat on a bus and a ticket with a 10% reduction providing they apply early enough.

Friends to be offered transport to the Coventry concert, (subject to availability,) and a ticket with a 10% reduction.

3 names were suggested as possible replacements for John Hyde to lead the “Friends” initiative.

- e. Julie to draft an-all chorus email regarding the Alexander Nevsky concert. Decided to leave the signing-up list open until 4th September.

Our self-promoted concert at St Marie’s in Spring 2013 will not now be the Bruckner Mass. Alternative repertoire is under discussion but a decision is needed soon in order to hit the deadline for leaflet printing.

It’s possible there will be a series of City Hall Ballroom concerts again next season but currently there is no funding in place.

- f. The 2012 voices project to accompany the Olympic Torch Relay has been cancelled owing to funding difficulties. The Graves Trust prefers to fund projects with a lasting legacy. We then withdrew from the John Lewis application though they would have contributed as it fits their criteria of being a local community project.

Julie will speak to the chorus next Tuesday about the Torch Relay. It has been difficult to enthuse the local primary

schools as it is after school hours. “You’ll Never walk Alone” is the song chosen for chorus members to sing as Julie passes by. 4.30 pm is the suggested gathering time to allow preparation before the 5.25pm event. The chorus picnic will feature bring-your-own-food and will be in Hillsborough Park immediately after the torch relay.

- g. Paul M has re-drafted his Outreach & Education Strategy report. Sheffield Music Centre has been chosen by the Arts Council to be the regional Music Education Hub and will hold the funding for this. Paul has been invited to join its singing strategy group and will attend their conference in September.

Paul will convene a meeting of the chorus committee sub-group comprising himself, Sue, Sally & Elizabeth and Thomas Mitchell (Tenor).

Decided to create a new committee post of Recruitment Officer and advertise it in the summer News Letter.

4. Dates

The AGM to be on Tuesday 16th October.

Officers’ reports to be with Janet by the last day of August.

Julie will suggest possible dates for our September meeting which will not be a Tuesday.

5. AOB

- i) 25 more chorus bags have been ordered and will be sold for £15 each giving a small profit.
- ii) Coach costs for Salford will be £400 per coach; for Coventry £525 per coach; for Leicester £500 per coach. We are likely to need at least 3 coaches on each occasion. Angela to check with the Coventry Festival & Bliss Trust regarding funding for the Coventry coaches.
- iii) There was some unease about the proposed arrangements for rehearsing the Alexander Nevsky music. Currently only 40 or so members have signed up which means that the majority of members will not be required for a series of rehearsals during September / October. Split rehearsals were suggested as an

alternative together with a push to encourage more members to take part providing enough scores can be sourced.

- iv) A reminder was given that the Stair Climber needs a yearly maintenance and also that our members who are the trained operators need to practise their skills and record their practice. When other organisations hire it they are responsible for training their own operatives with the manufacturer and also for their own insurance. Angela is to seek legal advice from a chorus member regarding the drafting of a hire policy.
- v) Helen to send a thank you card to the member who organised the production of the rehearsal CDs for the Bliss music.