

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus
Minutes of Meeting 1st May 2012

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Els Pierce; Sally Turnbull; Kate Reece; Howard Dore; Richard Salt; Jo Payne; Paul Duffield; Helen Kirk; Elizabeth Charlesworth; Sue Pennington; Peter Quarrell.

1. Apologies

John Spence; Angela Argenzio; Rachel Mallaband; Daphne Sydney; Kate Arrowsmith; Paul Maddox.

2. Minutes

of 24th Jan & 29th March were signed.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Rachel is finalising the Returns to the Arts Council and other funders for Alight. An informal recording of Alight Twilight will be available shortly. Possibility of recording the 2 commissions with orchestra to be discussed in the future. The balance sheet for Alight will be circulated shortly.
- b. An interim balance sheet for the Wilby / Jenkins concert was circulated ahead of the meeting. The final report will be available soon. There is likely to be a loss of £3K - £4k. It was felt that this was acceptable since this was an adventurous programme. Peter Miles' report on the programme writing will be circulated.
- c. Jim Monach and Sally have visited King Edward's School and their report, which recommends this venue, has been circulated. Darius will visit on 15th May. Ideally we will try out this venue before the end of this season but only if the car park is finished in time.
- d. Another Friend for Life has signed up. John H will sort out a governance document but then wishes to hand over the project. The Friends will be listed in future programmes.
- e. Julie will include an item about the imminent Marketing & Publicity vacancy in her next "Chat." This job may need to be split up to make it more manageable. Eg programme

writing & applications for funding could each be separate jobs.

- f. Members to be reminded about the need to sign up for the Alexander Nevsky concert. Darius will check out St Marie's Cathedral as a possible venue for a self-promoted concert next season.
- g. The City Hall is producing a booklet as part of its heritage project for its 80th birthday celebrations. Julie to check if Sarah Hyde is still prepared to work with the City Hall on this project. It was felt that a number of long-standing members and ex-members may like to contribute their memories. John to be asked to identify them. The CH birthday concert clashes with our Coventry date but "Messiah" could be badged as being our contribution to the CH celebrations.
- h. Decision-making powers were delegated to the working group which is taking forward the planning for the Torch Relay / 2012 Voices / Chorus Picnic event. These people are:- Julie, Janet, Kate R, Helen, Rachel M, Paul M, Sarah Hyde. There should be news of funding in a week or so. The 2012 voices is likely to be in Barker's Pool. Julie's part of the torch relay is in the Parson Cross / Chaucer area at about 5.00 – 5.45pm. Up-dates will be via email.
- i. A working group will consider the recommendations of Paul M's report on Outreach & Education. People suggested to be in this group were Sue, Sally, Paul M, Elizabeth and a newish tenor, Thomas Mitchell, who can't commit to being on the Committee but has expressed a willingness to help from the stance of joining the Chorus with very little singing experience.

4. Membership Matters

Sue Silcock has accepted honorary membership.

The soprano re-auditions will be held in July.

There was further discussion about increasing the number of tenors.

There was no consensus about asking some altos to sing tenor.

Maggie's opinion to be sought.

John and Matthew Morgan are working on a plan to make it easier for designated officers to circulate information to the chorus electronically.

Work on FAQ is ongoing.

5. AOB

Approx 45 greetings cards featuring the Brontë sculptures have been donated to us by the Halifax chorus. Decided to offer them for sale at £1 each.

There was a mix-up at the end of Saturday's concert during the time the applause were being taken when the band got up and left the stage earlier than anyone had expected. This left the chorus soloists unacknowledged and made an abrupt end to proceedings. In future such matters should be agreed in advance. Also it was felt that guidance on concert procedure in general should be re-confirmed with the chorus.

Paul D needs an idea of numbers for the Coventry concert coaches both for the Salford rehearsal and also for concert day when extra guests are likely to be travelling with us. Lists to be out by the end of June.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13th June