

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus  
Minutes of Meeting 17th November 2010

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; Els Pearse; Kate Reece; Angela Argenzio; Rachel Mallaband; Dan Spicer; Sue Pennington; Howard Dore; Ann Holloway; Peter Quarrell.

1. Apologies

John Spence; Sally Turnbull; Jenny Swann; Helen Kirk; Paul Duffield; Daphne Sydney; Elizabeth Charlesworth.

Angela was thanked for hosting the meeting.

Julie Welcomed Peter to his first meeting.

2. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

i) 29 tickets have been sold for the concert/ party in June. Members to be encouraged to pay a deposit and the rest later if wished.

ii) Philharmonic series ticket holders to have first priority when the tickets are on sale to the public.

iii) City Hall has not yet replied re discount on ballroom charge.

iv) Need to know minimum number of singers to make a viable concert.

v) Janet Hoyle will co-ordinate Bochum visitors.

vi) 3 members of 50 years will be presented with scores.

vii) The Grand Prize Draw will be drawn during the evening. Peter to look into getting a licence for the draw so that tickets can also be sold prior to the evening. A member has offered the use of her holiday cottage for a week as a prize.

viii) Bill's book has sold 158 copies. We need to sell 205 to break even. Daphne to help Helen with book sales.

3. Christmas 2010

i) Dan to organise collection of £1 donations from members towards sherry & mince pies which will be served during the evening interval.

- ii) Section reps to sell raffle tickets for cake 50p each.
- iii) The City Hall is providing a buffet during the interval between the 2 concerts.
- iv) Poppers will be used at the end of the evening concert only.
- v) Last year the decorations were sponsored by 2 members. Ann Garbett will decorate again this year but there will be no additional budget as finances are so tight. In January Janet will ask John Lewis if they have use decorations they might donate to us for the future.

#### 4. Weddings

Singing at weddings could be a good way of raising funds but it needs to be managed. Julie will write about it in her next "Chat" to get a feel for how many members would be interested in being part of a pool of singers.

#### 5. Fund Raising

The important point is that this work is constrained by the amount of time anyone has to give to it.

- i) We have a number of items suitable for small raffle prizes. Need to go through some of the vouchers and if possible consolidate them into one big prize. Alternatively there could be a weekly raffle for the prizes as they are.
- ii) Howard to sell Armed Man DVDs. £15 each. We have paid £17.50 +VAT for 30 copies and have received 100 additional copies as our fee. We already have enough orders to ensure we at least break even.
- iii) We have a collection of donated music and will start to sell it at rehearsals after Christmas. Kate will co-ordinate this. Janet to announce.
- iv) It was also suggested we try to sell some of the music in our library, as it is taking up too much space in Kate Wilson's cellar. This could possibly be done via our website to avoid moving large amounts of boxes around. Anything we couldn't sell could be advertised on Ebay. Angela to set up an Ebay account and a paypal account so that any left-over music can be sold on Ebay.

v) Rachel will take on the idea of the “Friends” organisation some time in the future when time allows.

vi) No decision taken on the “100 club” idea, as this would ideally fit with the establishment of a “friends” organization.

## 6. Financial Matters

i) Maggie thinks more frequent vocal training would be helpful as individual sessions have shown her that people forget what she has already covered. There is no money for this in the current year. We will look at it again for the future. Darius to be asked to reinforce Maggie’s work during rehearsals, where appropriate.

ii) Heather Clark has made a generous donation in memory of Peter and we will use this to part “sponsor” the Mozart concert if she is happy with this.

## 7. Membership

i) The current run of music reading workshops for new men has made a very successful start. We will look at increasing the funding for this project next season to run other sorts of workshop eg stage 2 music reading for existing members.

ii) The new membership cards will be laminated by Peter. New ones will be issued every year.

iii) 6 members sang at the Gerontius concert despite knowing they had not fulfilled the attendance requirements, thus holding standards in contempt. John will speak to them.

## 8. Marketing & Publicity

Rachel has had a very useful meeting with the City Hall. Main points:-

i) We will provide posters.

ii) We will liaise over press releases

iii) The promotional emails they send to their customers on Thursdays are not focussed as they have no staff to customise them.

iv) They will provide free press tickets to suitable press or media.

v) Next season we can have a tear-out section in the main brochure advertising our season.

vi) City Hall is intending to do an exit survey to gain information about audience attendance patterns.

- The concerts generally have sold better this year than last, (including the choral concerts.)
- vii) SPC will get a credit on the tickets whenever space permits.
  - viii) The City Hall is introducing a new discounted subscription scheme for children. They will give an additional discount to any children whom we introduce.
  - ix) Our forthcoming “Songs of Praise” will be promoted on the website. It will be available on the i-player option from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Discussion on “Sheffield Singers” was deferred.

#### 9. Minutes of Meeting 12th October 2010

Were signed

#### 10. Matters Arising

We have no firm decision as to whether or not Sam West will be the narrator at the Henry V concert. Ruth Jones continues to liaise with his agent.

#### 11. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011

#### 12. AOB

- i) Our music library needs to be moved again. Julie will ask during a rehearsal if anyone has spare room. Decided that it is too difficult to run a rental system. Some of this music also can be sold on ebay.
- ii) Ann Holloway will be the 1<sup>st</sup> sops section rep.
- iii) In January a Saturday will be arranged for auditions.
- iv) An idea for the future is to invite school children to the final rehearsal in the City Hall
- v) We could look into the “Lost Chord” initiative, (patron Lesley Garret,) with a view to being involved in a grand fund-raising concert, perhaps involving several choirs.