

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus
Minutes of Meeting 14th November 2011

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; John Spence; Angela Argenzio; Sally Turnbull; Kate Reece; Howard Dore; Rachel Mallaband; Els Pearce; Helen Kirk; Sue Pennington; Paul Maddox; Kate Arrowsmith; Elizabeth Charlesworth; Jo Payne; Richard Salt (making music rep); John Hyde (chair of Friends steering group.)

1. Apologies

Peter Quarrell; Paul Duffield; Daphne Sydney.

Julie welcomed Kate A, Jo, Paul M and Elizabeth to their first meeting and introduced John Hyde. Paul M is the new Education & Outreach Officer.

2. 2011-2012 Season and Beyond

2.1 Alight

The budget for the afternoon concert, for which we are financially responsible, should not exceed £1,500. This includes payments to 4 instrumentalists, conductor, a tenor soloist & room hire (£200.) We also need to pay Darius for a 2 hour rehearsal on 5th November. Julie, Angela & Rachel will have further discussions about this budget. Kate R has already volunteered her support but Rachel will also need additional help in promoting this concert eg for producing the programme.

The Alight festival as a whole now has Arts Council funding agreed of £9,500. Rachel has also applied for a grant from the Sheffield Town Trust.

Janet will be in Australia for several weeks from the second half of February and requested a volunteer to shadow her work in preparation for taking over admin duties during her absence.

2.2 The Armed Man

The Muezzin has been organised by Peter who was thanked in his absence. Janet to check with Nigel Castledine that he is producing all the images, including those of Sheffield and of the mosque. 100 circle tickets are being held by the chorus in case they are needed. Julie to make an approach to Amy Elkington who is a sponsorship

seeker. She would charge a 20% commission. This is seen as a short-term arrangement until the Friends are properly up and running, at which point they would take over sponsorship matters. There is likely to be a £3-4K deficit on this concert unless sponsorship is found. Angela, Rachel, Julie, Janet, John S and Els will meet before Christmas to progress planning for this concert.

2.3 Halifax Concert 1st April

Bronte Mass, motets by Bruckner & Brahms. Approx 100 members are invited to sing at this concert. Darius to be asked for his view on numbers and a breakdown of voice parts so that numbered signing-up sheets can be used for first-come first-served volunteers. On-line signing-up sheets are a possibility for the future.

2.4 Leicester Concert 27th October

Alexander Nevsky. Decided to accept this invitation though again it may not be for the whole chorus. We will probably need to pay for our transport.

3. Friends Brochure

John H was thanked for his work in chairing the steering group and Peter Miles for producing the publicity. The Friends brochures will be distributed to members at the next rehearsal. 5,000 have been printed. Members will be asked to look for Friends. It is an invitation to become part of the SPC family without being a singing member. John H will attend rehearsal the following week to answer any questions.

4. City Hall 80th Birthday Heritage Project

This is being celebrated from March 2012 and the CH marketing team are hoping for contributions from long-serving SPC members to include on their commemorative DVD. Sarah Hyde is to be asked if she would be interested in taking on the admin for this.

5. Complimentary Tickets to Christmas Concert for Springs Estate Staff

Janet will check if it is acceptable for individual staff members to receive gifts. If it is, then Rachel will request some complimentary tickets for the afternoon concert. If necessary we will buy some.

6. Singclude National Launch

The BBC Disability Affairs Correspondent Peter White has agreed to attend and formally launch Singclude. He will include a piece about it in Radio 4's daily programme "You & Yours". The event is likely to

happen in the mid afternoon of January 25th. The CH has offered us the use of the Memorial Hall free of charge. The stair-climber will be demonstrated and there could be a photo shot on the steps in front of the main entrance. Peter has requested that some singing be included. Committee members are requested to comment, via email, on Janet's paper regarding arrangements for hiring out the stair-climber.

7. Minutes of meeting of Tuesday 20th September

The minutes were signed.

8. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere on the Agenda

The SPC budget has been modified and re-circulated

There is no longer a need to make a loan to the Alight project since funding has been secured.

John S attended the BBC production meeting in Coventry at which it was agreed that the chorus would now be placed at the east end of the Cathedral, subject to agreement from Paul Daniels.

The Coventry concert promoters were reluctant to engage Sam West for this concert as he cannot make a definite commitment until very close to the date. However, Sam has made it clear that he is very keen to work with us again and John S will pass this to the promoters at an opportune moment. (Post-meeting note: In an article provided by Christopher Wren this week it is clear that a soloist has already been engaged, not Sam unfortunately)

9. Membership Matters

9.1 Agreement to begin Peter's lift-sharing scheme asap.

9.2 Janet brought examples of suggested badges and it was agreed to order individual badges for key committee members and generic badges for section reps.

9.3 Stephen Knight has accepted honorary membership.

9.4 John has re-negotiated his arrangement with his e-mail provider to enable him to continue to distribute mass copies of messages. He would prefer to move to a system based on the website in the longer term. It was agreed that Janet be enabled to distribute emails in John's place should he be unavailable on occasion.

9.5 Several committee members visited the Arts Tower lecture Theatre 4 and the Richard Roberts Auditorium ahead of the meeting and reported back. There are advantages and disadvantages to each of these possible venues. Following a discussion with the Chair of SingSoc there could be an opportunity to sort the piano problem in conjunction with 2 other singing groups who use the University venues. Decided that Darius be asked to view both venues and that the

views of chorus members be sought next week. Members to be asked to use a paper-posted-in-a-box system to indicate their preference for either Springs or the University. Julie will explain that this is not a vote but a way for the committee to gauge the opinion of the members. Rachel, Janet, Sally & Darius will be asked to comment on the wording she intends to use. In the meantime Janet will re-book for Springs for after Christmas.

9.6 There are currently 45 subscriptions outstanding which is much better than this time last year. The card reader will cease to accept old cards at the rehearsal before the Christmas Concert.

10 AOB

10.1 Els is experiencing acute problems with sourcing music owing to issues beyond her control. Els, Howard and Richard were thanked for their work during what is, for the librarian, a difficult season.

10.2 There was discussion about the constitution and the fact that it may need to be updated to reflect recent changes. Writing a business plan is another task which needs to be addressed when pressure of immediate business allows.

10.3 The Tickhill programme will have the Friends leaflets inserted into it.

10.3 There was a brief up-date on the progress of the search for a solution to housing the music collection when the Wakefield library closes next March.

10.4 Assurances have been received that the thumping noises emanating from the Ballroom during last Friday's concert will not be repeated.

11 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th January 2012 at 9.15pm.