

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus Minutes of Meeting 27th February 2019

Present

Paul Henstridge; Anne Adams; Graham Dawson; Sally Turnbull; Els Pearse; Sue Pennington; James Oliver; Ben Stone; Richard Salt; Paul Duffield.

1. Apologies

Helen Kirk; Georgina Hulse; Paul Bedwell.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th November 2018 were agreed to be accurate and signed by the chair.

3. Outstanding Matters Arising not on the agenda

Meeting of 24/09/15

3.4 Els to sell scores gifted by Tony Pickles' wife on ebay. On going.

Meeting of 11/01/2017

6.3.1 John to collect next of kin details from chorus members. Partly done.

Meeting of 26/10/2017

12.1 Anne agreed to continue to take responsibility for the SPC area of the Classical Sheffield website.

Meeting of 10/05/2018

4.1 Paul H wrote to members of the Friends scheme to ask them what they want from the scheme. He only had one reply and this said that he just enjoyed being kept informed about chorus matters.

4.2 Paul H will consider seeking "ambassadors" eg Dan Jarvis.

5.2.1 Paul B to replace stationery items in drop box to include the new logo.

Meeting of 12/09/18

3.1 Paul B has revised the chorus biography and developed a version for concerts outside Sheffield. He will circulate the 2 alternatives.

5 Georgina's handbook for chorus members is ongoing.

6.1.1 Paul B to action the publicity schedule for exit flyers for each concert, a new tri-fold leaflet, SISC seasons brochure, and adverts in each SICS programme. See agenda item 6.1

6.1.4 Paul B to write a press release for each concert. See agenda item 6.1

6.1.6 Anne to liaise with Sheffield Brass Network re publicity for the Holy Face concert.

6.3.1 Rachel Mallaband will write a piece about the promotional mugs idea.

6.3.2 Paul B will ask Paul Boardman to draft an update of the banners using the new logo and including a photograph if possible, but not a Christmas photograph.

13.1 Rachel Mallaband will further investigate the use of "Easy Search."

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Meeting of 01/11/18

4 Paul H will ask Darius to speak about the new attendance ethos. This was mentioned in a recent Weekly Update. Paul H has spoken to the voice reps about the new system.

10.4 Graham has asked the Bochum choir if they wish to sing in other concerts in April 2020 and has had no reply.

4. Replacement of Membership Officer

Marianne Grayson has volunteered to take over those Membership Officer's duties which have been done by Paul H since John Spence resigned. She, Anne, Darius and Paul H will meet to agree the handover and assign tasks.

5. To Consider Proposals

5.1 To hold an open rehearsal on Tuesday 14th May 2019 as part of the national Get Creative festival.

Agreed to this providing Darius is also in agreement.

We cannot provide music as there are no spare copies of the Wilby which we will be rehearsing on that night.

5.2 In principal we are in favour of taking part in the Making Music Day on 21st June with a short, free concert as an elective using music we already know and with a volunteer conductor. Again, with Darius' approval.

5.3 A proposal to put on a concert in Bakewell Church to help to raise money for its organ appeal was discussed. No final decision made. Sally will check on Bakewell Choral Society's possible involvement, their repertoire and any ask for relevant information regarding concerts in Bakewell Church. Rutter's Gloria might be an idea as it will be in rehearsal in the autumn ahead of our CD with Black Dyke Band. Concerns were expressed regarding a possible disappointing profit after, as is suggested, our expenses are taken off the top of ticket sales.

6. Marketing and Publicity

6.1 Publicity for this season's concerts. Paul Bedwell has arranged a meeting with Ruth Bacon at SIV (City Hall) to discuss marketing our concerts. He has arranged for an advert to go into each SISC programme. No information about flyers.

It was noted that the press release for the B minor Mass must be ready by 4th March. Our advert for the 21019-2020 season brochure also needs to be ready as it is usually requested in March. It needs to include our Messiah concert as well as our usual bio page.

6.2 The Music Reading Workshops for potential new men have been cancelled owing to lack of publicity. Work on this publicity still needs to be done so that the workshops can be re-scheduled.

6.3 Rachel Mallaband took over the planning work for selling Christmas CDs. As a result approximately 90 were sold. Rachel was thanked. Els volunteered to help Rachel with this process in the future.

6.4 Paul Boardman, graphic designer, submitted a paper explaining the reasons why he will now need to be paid, at a preferential rate, for the work he does for the chorus. Decided we will accept this deal.

It was noted;-

i) that it is important that text is ready early enough for it to be proof read properly before being submitted in order to keep costs to a minimum.

ii) printing at the University, as used by Els for music, is good value.

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James offered to help with publicity if required. He was thanked.

7. Governance

7.1 Graham reported that the transfer to the CIO is progressing. It will be completed when the gift aid is finalised.

7.2 The Privacy Policy for General Data Protection Regulations was considered. It has been written by Anne and was well received as being a comprehensive and professional document. She was thanked for this work. Anne also agreed to be the DP Officer. As part of the Privacy Policy members can request sight of their audition notes and Darius is happy with this.

7.3 Finances remain healthy. Graham gave a verbal financial report.

The cost to the chorus of the recent visit to Bochum was £40 which was spent on gifts for the German choir. 750 euros were contributed towards expenses by Bochum City Council.

Most of the subscriptions have now been paid with around 8 being outstanding. Graham was thanked.

7.4 The 2019 AGM will be held on Tuesday 19th November.

8. Review of Recent Concerts and Events

8.1 It was noted that parking permits for outside the City Hall are few and carefully controlled. They are only available to people who have significant materials and equipment to transport.

8.2 Graham was thanked for organising the Bochum visit. The picture which was given to our chorus will be offered to the City Council since we have nowhere to display it.

9. 2019-2020 Forthcoming Performances / Recordings

9.1 Planning for the 10th March concert for the Sheffield Classical Festival is well advanced. Decided to have a single sheet running order, which Paul H will arrange and print. Darius will also speak about the pieces. The rehearsal will be on the stage in the main (Oval) hall. Signing in will be on the production corridor. The list of people to be offered complimentary tickets was agreed.

Music costs, excluding income from members, are around £700. Other costs likely to total around £1,000. A grant from Classical Sheffield of £850 has been agreed but is dependent upon ticket sales for the whole festival.

9.2 Bach B minor Mass on 6th April

Planning is well advanced. Soloists are booked @ £1,250 each. Anne has also made arrangements for transport for soloists from Gateshead where their rehearsal will take place the day before. Paul H will take Fflur Wyn to the station after the concert.

Anne will write to the Friends asking which of them would like complimentary tickets. Agreed there will be an event for them in the City Bar at 6.00pm.

It was reported that there are significant problems with the City Hall website which is causing frustration for people trying to buy tickets.

9.3 Holy Face 9th June

There will be a meeting at the end of March with a limited agenda the main item being how to publicise this concert.

There will be a party after the concert.

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10. Future Planned or Possible Performances / Recordings

10.1 Rutter Gloria Black Dyke Band CD recording will be in St Oswald's Church Abbeydale Road 21st October.

10.2 We are invited to Bochum on 8th December to take part in their Christmas concert. This would be an elective event. No decision made until the date of our Christmas concerts is finalised.

10.3 Christmas Concerts. Dates to be confirmed.

10.4 Messiah (self-funded) 3pm April 26th 2020 to include 2 visiting choirs and Black Dyke Band.

Lots of enthusiasm for this from Germany. Maybe as many as 80 will come. There will be a party afterwards.

Bill Smille has offered financial support should it be required.

10.5 Verdi Requiem 02/05/20

Not yet confirmed. It will be in the City Hall and include another choir.

10.6 Mahler 8th 20/06/20

Wrexham Symphony Orchestra in the Bridgewater Hall Manchester. The orchestra funding arrangements include provision of choral scores.

11. Officers' Issues/ Reports

11.1 Three people will be presented with a bound score to mark their 50 years of membership. Hilary Olsen Mozart Requiem; Donald Watts Dream of Gerontius; Christopher Wren Bach B minor Mass. Els will purchase the scores and arrange for the binding.

11.2 The shelves in Howard's garage are now full of music. Storage on the floor is not suitable. Agreed to purchase additional metal shelving. Els will speak to Howard first to ensure he is in agreement.

11.3 Issues raised by officers. - None

11.4 Issues raised by members via reps. - None

12. Correspondence - None

13. AOB

13.1 Concern was expressed regarding the relative shortage of tenors for the Bach concert. Two named members of Bach Choir and a third singer from the Cathedral were mentioned as suitably experienced potential singers. It was also agreed that if necessary we will pay singers in order to ensure the required standard of performance. Paul H to speak to Darius.

13.2 A member has suggested that Petroc Trelawny be invited to be a Patron along with Sam West. Paul H to action.

13.2 Paul H suggested that members wear name badges to each rehearsal. No decision was made.

13.3 The importance of social media in publicising our concerts was raised. Agreed this is something we need to action.

Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 28th March 2019.