

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus Minutes of Meeting 4th Sept 2019

Present

Anne Adams, Paul Bedwell, Graham Dawson, Paul Duffield, Marianne Grayson, Paul Henstridge, Georgina Hulse, Helen Kirk, James Oliver, Ben Stone, Sally Turnbull

1. Apologies. Els Pearce, Sue Pennington, Richard Salt

2. Minutes

3. Matters Arising

4. New Patron

Petroc Trelawny has kindly agreed to be our Joint Patron.

Paul H to send Anne a notice celebrating his appointment

Anne A to then add biographical details and prepare a publicity release and website entry, and send these to Petroc for approval.

Anne A to include a notice in Weekly Update.

5. Recruitment Workshops for Men

Georgina H to run the workshops from 12th November.

Paul B and James O to arrange publicity as last time with posters in workplaces and flyers to be circulated by members

Anne A to send poster / flyer sheet to Paul B and James O, and to send completed flyers to Sing Soc at the university and the singing teachers at the Music Hub and the Music Academy.

Flyer to ask for people over 18 who might be interested in joining us, and to stress that although open to all it's men that we're really after. We would hope that those who came to the sessions would stay on to try us out at a rehearsal.

Paul H to let Darius know that this is what we plan.

6. Marketing and Publicity

6.1/6.2 Publicity for 2019/2020 season and Publicity and Marketing Officer.

Anne A was thanked for her work on the Publicity schedule, which was approved, noting that the first action was required next week.

Paul Bedwell suggested that the Publicity and Marketing work was extensive and would be better shared by a group of people rather than one. Paul B and James Oliver kindly volunteered to take on this area.

Paul B and James O to discuss implementation of Publicity Schedule asap

6.3 New Logo

Proposed that we commission Paul Boardman to design new banners to include our new logo – **Paul B** to action.

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We will continue to use our music folders with the old logo. The badges for existing committee members will continue to be used but any badges commissioned for new committee members will include the new logo and the role only, so excluding the name of the officer.

Anne A to order badges for new committee members

Anne A to approach Bill Best to insert the new logo into the banner on the Chorus website.

7 Governance

7.1 Finance

Graham went through the Financial Review for this year.

Committee agreed to increase the remuneration for The Musical Director, Accompanist and Voice Coach by 2% (the CPI for this year) and to leave their retention payments at the existing levels.

Graham to inform recipients.

Committee agreed to leave the Subscription rates for members at the existing level of £132 per annum.

It was noted the Chorus finances are very healthy.

The accounts for last year's Tickhill Carol Concert were discussed, the committee was please to note that the concert was financially successful.

The Committee passed on its grateful thanks to Graham for all his hard work.

7.2 Transfer to CIO – Graham reported that once the Gift Aid arrangements were complete, the assets of the old charity would be transferred to the CIO, hopefully before the AGM in November.

7.3 Draft Complaints Procedure

This was discussed and has been adopted for the Chorus; Anne was thanked for her work on this.

7.4 AGM Preparation

The timeline, agenda, email notification and Nomination Forms were approved and further discussion of this left until the next meeting.

8. Review of Recent Concerts and Events

Alex Burn's review of the Holy Face concert was discussed; it was agreed that her work was excellent despite the disappointing ticket sales.

Anne described her meeting with Dominic Stokes from SIV who agreed to reduce our fee for using their booking system which failed for 20 out of the 26 weeks for which the tickets for this concert were being sold.

9. 2019-2020 Forthcoming Performances / Recordings

9.1 BBC Music Day Thur 26th Sept 11am for 20 minutes

Rachel Copley has kindly agreed to conduct us.

Suggestions from the committee for possible music were as follows:

- Parry Songs of Farewell
- 3 Stanford motets
- Bruckner Locus Iste

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- Hallelujah Chorus
- Lift Thine Eyes
- Hail Smiling Morn

Sally to contact EIs to bring this music along to next rehearsal; Darius has agreed to finish 10 minutes early to allow for a run-through of the music.

9.2 Rutter Gloria recording Black Dyke Band 21st Oct 2019

The planner was discussed.

Helen to provide refreshments for the band only. Chorus to provide their own refreshments.

Anne A to prepare a press release

9.3 Ballroom Concert of unaccompanied Baltic music 9th Nov 2019

The planner was discussed.

Paul H to ask Darius if he would require the piano for giving the notes, which would need to be tuned at a cost of a few hundred pounds, or whether he would agree to an alternative, eg tuning fork or Georgina's electric organ.

Anne A to acquire tickets from SIV to send as comps to the usual people and to Friends of the Chorus.

Paul B and James O to design flyer and send to Paul Boardman for design. The design to then be used on the reverse side of a single sheet, double-sided programme.

9.4 Trip to Bochum for concert on Sunday 8th Dec 2019

Darius is in discussion with the recently appointed director of the Bochum choir as to what we could sing. At the moment 18 singers have agreed to go but the numbers are not well-balanced between the parts and Darius is reluctant to allow the singers to perform separately at the concert.

Anne A to ask for further volunteers in the weekly update. Should none be forthcoming then the feasibility of the trip may be in question.

9.5 Christmas Concerts 2019 (SICS) Black Dyke Sat 14th Dec 2pm and 5:30pm

Anne explained why the evening times are so different this year.

It was noted that there is very little time for the Friends' party between the two concerts but that we would run it anyway from about 4:15pm to 5pm as a trial for this year. **Helen** to organise.

9.6 Christmas Elective Events

Most of the dates are booked.

It was agreed that we would run the Tickhill Carol Concert again this year.

Anne A to contact John at Tickhill and arrange a date, eg Thu 19 Dec 2019

9.7 Messiah (self-funded) Sun 26th April 2020 3pm BDB and two visiting choirs.

The planner was discussed. Agreed that we would charge £20 per ticket, to include programme; under 18s will be free.

Agreed to print and sell tickets ourselves rather than use a ticketing service, since there will only be 350 or so available. A free service such as WeGotTickets will be used for on-line sales; link to be sent to our visitors before being released locally. **Anne** to arrange

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Helen to organise a Friends' event in the foyer, and investigate the cost of hiring the large events room for a party afterwards.

9.8 Verdi Requiem (SICS) Halle 20th May 2020

Anne is in the process of contracting the soloists. We hope to acquire some extra singers through an extended voice exchange. (See note 13 below)

9.9 Mahler 8 (invitation) 20th June 2020 Wrexham Symphony Orchestra, Bridgwater Hall.

The request from the promoters to reduce travel costs which are currently prohibitive was discussed. It was agreed that SPC funds would be used for one of the trips.

Paul D to seek quotes from other coach firms to reduce costs.

Anne A to write to promoters, offering to pay for one of the trips and to seek a reduced price for the other two.

10 Future planned/possible performances/recordings

10.1 Mahler 2 Sunday 10th March 2021.

Planning ongoing – Anne and Paul H attending the planning meetings.

11 Committee Officer issues/reports

11.1 Celebration of long-standing member was discussed. Chris Wren to be presented with his bound score at first rehearsal he attends. Case of David Whitworth was raised.

Paul H to look into offering David W Honorary Membership of the Chorus.

12 Correspondence None

13 AOB

The committee approved the extension of the Voice Exchange to include those choirs in Sheffield that have taken part in Robert Webb's Sounds of Heaven events, since these choirs are of high quality and are auditioned.

Anne A to inform Nigel Wright.

Agreed that **Helen K** will organise cheese and wine after the AGM and to collect the money for it at rehearsals.

Paul H to organise presentation of Bochum photo to Town Hall, to include photos and press release

Next Committee meeting 16th October 2019