

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus Minutes of Meeting of 29th April 2015

Present

Julie Smethurst; Angela Argenzio; Els Pearse; Anu Adebajo; Helen Kirk; Sue Pennington; Paul Duffield; Nigel Wright; Paul Bedwell; Graham Dawson; Anne Adams.

Angela was thanked for hosting the meeting.

1Apologies

Janet Bower; John Spence; Sally Turnbull; Jo Briddock; Steve Terry; Richard Salt.

2Voice Coaching

Following concern at the number of people who miss Maggie's sessions now that entrance is prohibited to late comers it was decided to keep Maggie's sessions at the start of rehearsal time but to allow late comers to enter via a left-open door and stand in the entrance to take part. Notice will no longer be given as to when Maggie is due. Julie will have a discussion with Maggie about the possibility of "colouring" the chorus. Julie will also ask Maggie and Darius for their views on Rachel Rowland's suggestion of small group work with Maggie. Julie will mention voice coaching issues in the summer newsletter.

3.2nd May concert

Peter will print 200 programmes at a cost of £40. They will be sold at £1 each. To date approx 200 tickets have been sold and 22 complementaries have been taken up. Julie to offer remaining tickets at £3 each to students of Girls High School and Sheffield Academy.

Cheese & wine and soft drinks will be available to Friends from 5.30pm.

4.Christmas CD

A marketing sub-committee was set up to look into options for acquiring a card reader in time to be used for sales at the Christmas concert and also ideally for collecting subscriptions. Angela, Anu, Graham, Steve, Rachel Mallaband. This group was given delegated powers to make decisions without having to refer back to the full Committee, including expenditure on small items since Angela will be able to oversee this. Anu has researched reviewers typical requirements in terms of timing and CD packaging. She will lead on strands 3 and 4 of Rachel's suggested marketing plan.

Decided against accepting the World of Brass offer to sell for us, except as a temporary measure to get online sales under way, as it will cause conflict at the Christmas concert where we are intending to sell the CDs ourselves. If W of B sell at this concert then we will not benefit from any profit. It was felt that the more control we can exercise, such as selling via our own website, is better, though this will mean we shall have to find volunteers to deal with packing and posting the CDs.

5. Classical Sheffield Festival

Steve provided a useful update ahead of the meeting, the main news being that the Arts Council has now approved the funding. This means there is likely to be an additional performance in the cathedral on Sunday afternoon 25th October. Angela volunteered to take Steve's place on the steering group during September when he will be away.

6. Minutes of 12th March meeting were signed.

7. Matters Arising

- i) Julie has drawn Darius' attention to the request at the last meeting for a Messiah or a Bach Passion performance during the 2016/17 season. No response as yet.
- ii) The June 2016 concert with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra will be expensive, maybe £40K, and will require early marketing. Julie and Angela will project manage this concert and are currently working on the budget.
- iii) Donations will be requested from chorus members to pay for the cheese and wine event which will follow this season's final rehearsal on 12th May.
- iv) Jim Monach will be the named person to collect post from the Post Box system at Voluntary Action Sheffield. VAS's charge for this service is £60 pa.
- v) Roy Gunstone's bound score is ready but he has requested that it not be formally presented to him. Christopher Wren's and Rachel Copley's help to be sought in getting it to him.
- vi) Julie and Angela are working on modifying the constitution to include changes to our charitable position which will reduce the risk of individual members being financially liable for loss. It is hoped this will be ready to be voted in at the next AGM.
- vii) Dave Beautyman and Kirsty are working on improving the website.

8. AOB

- i) Darius has bought the new software required for enhanced chorus record keeping. Agreed that the cost, £239, be reimbursed.
- ii) Welcome to Yorkshire has stands of leaflets on various prominent sites. We can be part of the system for an outlay of £25 per week per site. Agreed to join the scheme. Anu and Graham to make decisions about sites and number of weeks.
- iii) Helen has a contact for classes using Alexander Technique to aid singing. It was suggested we might offer such classes to Chorus members next season.
- iv) Angela reported that 4 members have still not paid their subscriptions. They are on the singing list for Saturday and will be told they cannot sing until they have paid.
- v) Darius was giving consideration to the idea of using part of an autumn rehearsal for "musicianship" work for the whole chorus possibly involving Chris Wiltshire as an additional leader.

9. Date of next Meeting Monday 8th June 2015

