

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus Minutes of Meeting 3rd October 2014

Present

Anne Adams (minutes); Angela Argenzio; Janet Bower; Paul D; Helen Kirk; Paul Maddox; Jo Payne; Richard Salt; Julie Smethurst; (chair); John Spence; Steve Terry.

On the Committee's behalf, Julie thanked Steve for chairing the previous meeting in her absence, and Angela for hosting the meetings. Jo was thanked for her contribution as a member of the committee at this her final meeting. Paul was thanked for his efforts organising the workshops, which were acknowledged to have been successful.

1 Apologies

Joanne Briddock; Sue Pennington; Els Pierce; Sally Turnbull, Nigel Wright.

2 Chorus Admin

2.1 Compilation of the Annual Report including 2014-15 budget.

The committee agreed the following actions:

- Budget to be sent by email rather than included in the Annual Report; the accounts will be included
- A 2% raise for Darius and Nigel
- An annual retainer of £300 to be offered to Nigel in recognition of the extra work he does; Angela to inform him in writing
- To pay Darius on the 1st of each month
- To budget for coach travel this year, in case it is needed
- To budget £6000 for contributions to concerts in the coming season
- To budget £9200 for marketing, to cover the costs of recording and production of the Christmas Carols CD
- To budget £500 to cover the costs of Friends events
- To estimate £4500 income from concert ticket sales
- Angela to move funds into the chorus account with the highest interest rate

The Committee thanked Angela for her fine work on the accounts

2.2 SPC Recording January 2015

This will take place on the evenings of Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th January. The committee agreed:

- To order 1000 CDs as this is more cost effective than 500
- Pre-orders to be charged at £10 plus P&P, normal cost to be £12.99 plus P&P
- Peter Miles to be asked to compile the CD booklet
- Kirsty to be asked to investigate the feasibility of setting up a Paypal facility on the website so members of the public can pay for pre-ordered CDs
- Steve to find out whether we can order more than 100 CDs should this become necessary

It was further agreed, in principle, to create a You Tube upload, perhaps using stills over a recording of a few of the carols or parts of carols

3 Minutes of 9th July 2014

Agreed to be accurate and signed.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 9th July 2014

4.1 18th April 2015 Concert Repertoire & Budget

The venue for this concert is unlikely to be the City Hall. The Cathedral was discussed as a possible alternative. Darius suggests that the programme include Bruckner's Mass in E Minor together with a range of shorter pieces for the first half, eg from the list suggested by Nigel Wright.

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The committee agreed:

- Julie and Janet to pursue a possible venue as soon as possible
- To budget £6000 for this concert
- To charge £12 Early Bird rate and £15 within 6 weeks of the concert
- To begin selling tickets at the first rehearsal in January 2015
- To estimate the income at £3500

4.2 Recruitment, Workshops and Auditions

The committee agreed that Chris Wilshire, who has refused payment thus far, should be paid to lead the workshops from now on, £25 for five sessions. Chris is already a Friend of SPC.

4.3 Voice Exchange

This has not generated as many tenors and basses as hoped for the Mozart concert. The committee therefore agreed that Darius may pay for extra men if he deems it necessary to ensure the male voice parts are not underpowered. The committee hopes that any extras hired will ensure they rehearse the piece before the concert.

4.4 Debrief from 7th June concert

The recording is likely to yield some sections that would form short audio clips to upload to the website and/or YouTube. The committee agreed:

- Steve to approach the University of Sheffield regarding a possible Concert Manager for self-promoted concerts
- A list of duties to be compiled; Darius to be asked to contribute to this (in addition to the notes made by Els, Angela, John, Julie and Janet following the 7th June concert)

4.5 Social events

Following a discussion the committee agreed:

- Helen to organise a cheese and wine event immediately following the AGM on 11th November 2014
- Costs to be covered by member donations together with unspent funds from last year's budget
- Name labels to be used, to help members get to know each other's names
- Helen to organise a sherry and mince pie event for Friends who attend the evening Carol Concert, as last year

4.6 Changes to the Constitution

Julie to talk to Angela about:

- the change required for SPC to move towards a limited liability model whilst retaining charitable status.
- the additional wording regarding working with young people where possible.

4.7 Funeral pool

- Julie to ask whoever takes on the marketing role to pursue this

4.8 Christmas Recording

Following a discussion the committee agreed:

- The recording should focus on local carols together with O Holy Night
- Steve to email Darius to confirm this

4.9 Stairclimber

Julie and Janet to pursue arrangements as planned

4.10 Classical Sheffield Festival

The Festival is scheduled for 23-25 October 2015 at a range of venues across Sheffield. Contributions would be tasters of the sort of music each participating organisation is normally

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involved in. Organisations that wish to participate must submit a form saying how they wish to contribute. The Committee agreed that the Festival is an excellent idea and agreed:

- Julie to suggest to the Halle that they try to schedule a concert during the Festival, and open up the afternoon rehearsal to the public.
- Julie Janet and Steve to work on the SPC submission to Classical Sheffield

4.11 Friends Scheme

Deferred to a later meeting.

4.12 Volunteer project

Committee agreed that due to pressure of commitments, the St Luke's volunteering project suggested by Rachel Mallaband to be put on hold.

5. Honorary membership

No record

6. AOB

Following discussion of items tabled by various members, the committee agreed:

- To take on both of the chorus members offering to take on the marketing and publicity role, the tasks to be shared between them, eg, one to focus on concerts the other on more general issues; Julie to speak to the two people concerned
- To continue to communicate with chorus members in as many ways as possible, eg via email, website and verbal announcements at rehearsals
- To consider the use of a weekly email with hyperlinks to relevant sections of the website to encourage people to use it
- From now on, committee minutes to be copied to Kirsty for upload to the members section of the website
- John to write to accept Pam Osborne's resignation after 52 years as a member
- Helen to send Pam flowers and a card
- Janet to ask Els to arrange the production of a bound copy of the Mozart Mass in C Minor, to be presented to Pam in recognition of her long service to the Chorus
- John Spence's Annual Report to take the form of an apology for late submission due to computer failure; the report to follow after the AGM
- A new rule for chorus members who arrive late for Maggie's voice training sessions at the beginning of rehearsals, ie, that latecomers must stay outside the rehearsal room until the session is over so as not to disturb the rest of the chorus during the session
- Chorus to be informed about the new rule via the following methods:
 - John to inform the Chorus by email
 - Janet to announce it at the following rehearsal
 - Kirsty to upload a notice (John's email?) on the member's section of the website
- Julie to give Rachel the go ahead with the Chorus Dryathlon idea

The meeting closed at 10/15pm

7. Date of Next Meeting to be arranged by email