

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus Minutes of Meeting 9th July 2014

Present Janet Bower; Els Pierce; Steve Terry; John Spence; Angela Argenzio; Sue Pennington; Paul Maddox; Anne Adams; Nigel Wright; Joanne Briddock; Richard Salt.

The meeting was chaired by Steve Terry

1 Apologies Julie Smethurst; Sally Turnbull, Helen Kirk.

2 Chorus Admin

AGM Date 11th November 2014

Officers' inputs for the annual report to be submitted by 30th September

Start date for next season Tuesday 2nd September

3 Minutes of 31st March 2014 were signed

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Beethoven 9th Sunday 17th May

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus to be invited to join us for this concert. There should be space enough to invite the whole choir. They will be asked to fund their own transport costs and provide their own music.

b) 18th April 2015 Concert Repertoire & Budget

As a spin off from this discussion Nigel agreed to lead on forming a small group to consider repertoire for the concerts we promote ourselves and to liaise with Darius.

Ideally we would like to work 2 years ahead on repertoire planning and include less well known works alongside more well established pieces.

Having researched programmes being offered by other local choirs next year we have a short list of suggestions for Darius' consideration.

Bach St John's Passion. The date fits well for this and we have not done it since 2008. Would be a popular choice.

Carmina Burana Orff. Maybe the version for pianos and percussion.

Ethel Smythe Mass in D. We have never done anything by a woman composer. This work comes recommended.

Schubert Mass in Eb (number 6) We have not done anything by Schubert.

Britten Spring Symphony which would give the opportunity to invite a children's choir.

Steve to send these suggestions directly to Darius.

c) Recruitment, Workshops and Auditions

The recent run of men's workshops has resulted in 3 new tenors and one new bass auditioning successfully. There are 2 others still in the pipeline.

Participants for the sight reading workshops for existing members were identified from a list provided by Darius with the additional criteria that they have been in the chorus for less than 5 years. These sessions were for voice parts reading from the treble clef. 7 people completed the course and they gave positive feedback. Next season there will be a similar series for basses.

Paul was formally thanked for his work in organising these opportunities.

All the sessions were run by Chris Wilshire who has refused payment. He will be made a Friend of the chorus. Jo to write to him.

d) Debrief from 7th June concert

There were too few people for the many jobs. A concert manager is required for our self-promoted concerts and this should be a non-singer. Maybe a university student on an events management course or a Friend. Richard to check the Making Music website for a concert checklist. Els, Angela, John, Julie & Janet will each write notes itemising what has been learned.

The recording has not yet been reviewed. 15 copies are now available for review. An MP3 version is available at extra cost. There are copyright issues attached to several of the programme items which will prevent them being used for promotional purposes. Darius will make some choices.

Income from ticket sales was only around half the budgeted amount.

e) Social events

Helen was thanked for organising the post-concert party in June.

f) Debrief from York concert 28th June

approx 70 members took part in this day. Paul was thanked for organising transport.

g) Changes to the Constitution

We were reminded that our constitution requires us to have a broad approach to repertoire. We would like to include a specific mention of working with young people where possible. This addition to the wording could be included in our up-coming review of the constitution made necessary by our desire to move towards a limited liability model whilst retaining charitable status.

h) Debrief from the Multi-story Event at the Graves Gallery

This was effective and appreciated. Thanks are here recorded to Rachel Copley for conducting at this event.

i) Funeral pool

Arrangements are ongoing

j) Christmas Recording

A reminder that suggestions are still being sought for items to include on the CD which will be made with the Black Dyke band.

k) Stairclimber

Arrangements are ongoing

l) Classical Sheffield Festival

Steve circulated a paper detailing plans for a festival to run from 23rd to 25th October 2015 and invited comments. Various suggestions were made which Steve noted and other responses are requested via email to Steve.

m) Friends Scheme

This needs overhauling and Julie will call a meeting when she is available.

n) Volunteer project

Rachel Mallaband has identified a volunteering opportunity at St Luke's hospice.

5. Honorary membership to be offered to Susan Banton

6. AOB

a) Paul will be resigning from his role at the AGM. He will include a short role specification in his part of the Annual Report and other officers who are resigning will do the same. To aid this process Richard will download suggestions from the Making Music website and circulate the information.

b) The music edition to be used for the November Mozart concert has now been decided so, (via John,) Els will seek requests from members for their purchasing / hiring requirements.

c) Angela reminded people to get expenses claims to her asap.

d) Angela's plan for payments owing to Nigel Gyte was approved.

7. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 2nd October 2014