

## **Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus      Minutes of Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

### Present

Julie Smethurst; Els Pearse; Steve Terry; John Spence; Angela Argenzio; Helen Kirk; Sally Turnbull; Sue Pennington; Nigel Wright; Joanne Briddock; Richard Salt; Paul Duffield; Paul Bedwell; Anu Adebajo.

Angela was thanked for hosting the meeting.

### 1 Apologies

Janet Bower; Anne Adams; Victor Brooks; Graham Dawson.

### 2. CD Update from Steve

Choices have been made regarding which takes will be used. The booklet is ready in draft form for the running order to be decided. Currently there are only 40 minutes or so of singing so additional material from Black Dyke will be added.

470 copies have been pre-ordered to date.

Rachel Mallaband has produced a report outlining a marketing strategy. Matthew Morgan has researched the itunes option for downloadable tracks.

The CD should be available for sale at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> concert.

Friends to be able to buy the CD at the discounted price and Friends for Life to be given one free copy in addition to being eligible for the discounted rate.

### 3 Finances

Angela reported that finances are healthy both in the reserve account and the current account.

11 people have still not paid subscriptions.

A £510 + VAT bill for organ tuning for the CD recordings is to be queried.

### 4 Classical Sheffield Festival

22 organisations, including SPC are supporting this venture. We have contributed £100 towards a fund of seed money which will be repaid from global box-office receipts.

Jonathon Best has been recruited as festival producer but his continuing involvement will only be assured if a re-submitted application for Arts Council Funding is successful.

There will be no charge for use of the City Hall Ballroom for our 24<sup>th</sup> October concert which will include the non-Bruckner pieces from our May concert.

### 5. Concert 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Jim Monach is managing this concert.

He and Julie, and possibly John, will make a site visit to the cathedral tomorrow.

Potential difficulties regarding seating for the chorus need to be addressed.

A pre-concert cheese and wine reception for Friends and other guests is planned.

Jo is collecting a list of volunteer stewards who will also be invited to the reception.

Friends for Life have been offered 2 complimentary tickets each and a total of 12 of these tickets have been accepted so far. Friends have been offered 1 free ticket each plus the opportunity to buy additional tickets at the discounted rate. All Friends, together with supporters, will be invited to the tea-time event and the afternoon rehearsal, (subject to Darius' approval,) and will be given a free programme. This pattern of ticket allocation will result in 30 - 40 tickets being given away from a total of 420 available audience seats. It is envisaged that this pattern will be repeated for all our self-promoted concerts, subject to review.

#### 6. Next Season

Details of concert dates were circulated by Julie ahead of the meeting. There was some disappointment at the prospect of only one big City Hall concert next season. Participation in these concerts with professional orchestras is what sets us apart from other local choirs. Julie agreed to discuss with Darius the possibility of us being more pro-active and request a commitment from SIV for a Messiah at Christmas 2016 or a Passion at Easter 2017. There was a feeling that we would prefer to contribute financially to bigger concerts rather than needing to promote smaller ones of our own.

Julie outlined some of her plans for the June concert which she will co-promote.

#### 7. Membership Issues

a) The weekly e-mail news updates have been welcomed and will continue.

In a future e-mail Julie will highlight the need to take good care of membership cards since it is time consuming and expensive to replace them.

b) Susan Eaton has accepted honorary membership.

c) Roy Gunstone will be presented with a bound score since he recently retired after more than 50 years of membership. Els to arrange. The presentation to be made at the end of the rehearsal for the May concert if Roy is there. He will be offered a ticket for the concert.

#### 8. Chorus Social

Decided to have a cheese and wine social after rehearsal on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

#### 9. Minutes of 15th December

There were 2 amendments.

a) details of workshop clientèle amended

b) Nigel expressed concern at a lack of opportunity for long term planning. Subject to these amendments the minutes were signed.

#### 10 Matters Arising

a) Sue reported on the current series of workshops.

Next season's rehearsals will start on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. There will be workshops for potential new members starting on the third week of the new season ie 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

There was discussion about the possibility of running music skills up-grading sessions for the whole chorus during the last part of a Tuesday rehearsal, possibly during the autumn. Chris Wiltshire, Darius and possibly Maggie to lead them. Sue to open discussions with these people.

b) Frazer Jarvis has indicated that, if required, he will continue to assist on website development even though he has resigned from the chorus. Dave Beautyman has agreed to help Kirsty but mentioned that he is not always in attendance.

c) Janet, Julie and Angela who are all resigning from the committee shortly have been asked to write their job descriptions in order to aid recruitment of their replacements.

d) Members commented that, generally, there were parts of the Victoria Hall concert recording that were of a high enough standard for Youtube and other promotional purposes, but not whole pieces. Peter Miles has offered to find images to go with the clips when we have decided which these should be. Julie to discuss further with Darius.

e) Julie and Angela will be meeting during the Easter holiday to work on the constitution amendments.

f) The funeral pool and the stair climber issues are on-going.

## 11. AOB

a) A protocol for Friends to be able to re-join needs to be developed and is on-going.

b) Angela indicated she may be willing to take on responsibility for Friends and honorary members after she has resigned as Finance Officer and left the committee.

c) Angela reported that the accounts have been audited.

She is concerned that details of her address and phone number are now in the public domain as they are on the charity commission papers. Paul Bedwell to investigate the possibility of using The Circle, home of Voluntary Action Sheffield, as a post restant for Chorus official mail, as this is a service they offer for a small annual fee. The Sheffield Civic Trust has this arrangement and as a number of SPC members are also members of SCT it should be straightforward to operate this.

d) John gave advance warning that he may need to request a contribution to the cost of upgrading his computer software in order to run the latest chorus membership programme being developed by Darius. This could be £400 to £500. Angela will include it in the budget.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 2<sup>9th</sup> April 2015