

Whitehall Choir Committee
 MINUTES of the
 Meeting held on 10 November 2014 at St Stephen's
 6.30pm

Present: Jonathan Williams (Chair), Joanna Tomlinson (Secretary), Ruth Eastman (Publicity), Mark Graver (Librarian), Martin Humphreys (Publicity), Richard Grafen (Webmaster), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Alison Williams (Alto Rep), Daniel Lambauer (Bass Rep), Penny Prior (Business Manager), Alastair Tolley (Tenor Rep)

Apologies: Patrick Houghton, Paul Spicer

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action |
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| Minutes 22/09/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copyright re CD had been straightforward. • The Workshop had been a success and also quite a good recruiting tool. Ben Goodson was booked to lead another on 24 January 2015. £10 for outsiders with returnable £10 deposit; £5 for choir. | |
| Finances (report by PH) | <p>The headline deficit was £7,000. The current account stood at £12,000 with a few subscriptions and one CD payment to come. Future performance depended on audience numbers for November 2014 and March 2015.</p> <p>No decision about transferring money back into the Jubilee Fund would be made until Easter.</p> | |
| St John's: 24/11/14 Bach Magnificats, Cantata 50, Violin Concerto | Ticket sales were looking quite good. | |
| Carol Concert:16/12/14 | The programme would be slightly shorter this year. Two sheet music items needed to be purchased. William Longland could not do the programme this time - MH thought Laurie might help. | MH |
| St John's: 2/4/15 Mozart Mass in C Minor/Schubert Stabat Mater | JW would ask PS for soloists; MH would try to get into the SJSS mailing again; MG had ordered all the music. SJSS had warned JT that there is to be a lunchtime concert that day. | PS MH |
| St Peter's Eaton Square: 9/7/15 Vaughan Williams/Holst/Parry/ Howells | Discussion over suitability of the music for 11 week term. There could be a Whitehall Choir-only workshop on 9th or 16th May or an extra rehearsal booked in at the outset. | JW and others |
| Choir Tour to Vienna May 2016: Choir size | Feedback to the part reps indicated that at present there could be a fairly balanced choir of just under 30 strong, although only 22 were committed at present. Would PS be happy to go ahead with 30? Some could not commit so far ahead; others wanted to bring partners. It was hoped that others would commit later. DL would probably need names in about May 2015. We were not yet tied in to the tour company: this would be about a year hence. RE | |

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| Quality | wondered about casting the net out to another friendly choir. This could present rehearsal difficulties however. The quality must be good. | |
| Concerts | At present one concert would be in the Cathedral and one would be a charity concert outside town: one would be shared with another choir and one would be just the Whitehall Choir. PS would need to say what programme he wanted: choice of music both before and after the tour was critical also. The music could not be too sensitive to balance. | |
| Programme | | |
| Costs & organisation | Cost had not been an overriding factor for those not committing to the tour. DL/JW felt value for money was good. Organising a tour without a tour company was a lot of work and if individuals were to do it for themselves, things could go wrong and they might pull out late in the day. DL explained that a bus was valuable for transporting the choir to rehearsals and venues. It was also more fun to keep the group together. | |
| Auditions | Clarification was needed regarding fall-out from choir auditions due before the tour. | DL/PS |
| Other | DL was compiling material for the website. If PS were to come up with some programme ideas more interest could be created and numbers raised. | |
| Deposits | Deposits for the tour would be asked for in January 2015. | PH DL |
| Conclusions | DL would ask the tour company when flights would need to be paid for and when names were needed. | |
| Special note! | More information would be sent out; deposits would come in January; clarification needed re audition implications; get some idea of programme; website details to stir interest. DL, with his knowledge of Vienna could help the tour to be “a bit special” and not the “normal” Vienna choir tour. JW thanked DL for all his work on the tour. | |
| Any Other Business: Vision and strategy for future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JW asked committee to consider what it thought the choir’s vision for its future might be. He suggested meeting one afternoon in Feb or March to discuss this and make a strategy for the next 5 terms. | JW |
| Auditions St John’s | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested audition dates: Saturday 18th or 25th April SJSS were in negotiations with the South Bank concert halls, who would be closing for up to three years for redevelopment. This could make booking SJSS very difficult. Alternative venues might be: St James’ Piccadilly; St Margaret’s; St George’s Hanover Square; St Alban the Martyr; St John’s Waterloo; Southwark Cathedral. | JT/PS |
| Concert with another choir | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JW suggested working with another choir to do a larger work eg. Paul Spicer’s Birmingham choir or Neil Ferris’ Wimbledon choir. Would need to plan a year ahead. Suggested works: PS’s Unfinished Remembering; Britten’s War Requiem. Should be rehearsable in a term. Decide on venue. Suggestion was well received. | |
| Scheme for online purchasing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MH had identified a scheme used by Bart’s choir to get commissions from online purchasing with shopping sites other than Amazon. | |
| Banner discount | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A £30 discount on future banners was available were there to be an acknowledgement on our website. | |
| Friends (paper from | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was decided to leave current scheme in place with raised | JW to |

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| <p>Ken Holmes)</p> <p>Charity concerts</p> | <p>sub (£50 to £55). Scheme broke even and brought in friends of Friends; decided against a database, most members much preferring to promote concerts by email; choir member had offered to explore possibility of “enhanced Patrons”. RE suggested doing concerts for designated charity.</p> | <p>inform Ken</p> |
| <p>Dates for the Diary 2015:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First rehearsal of 2015: Tuesday 6th January ● Next Committee Meeting: Monday 12th January (changed from 19th) ● Mozart/Schubert Workshop : Saturday 24th January St Stephen's ● Concert: Thursday 2nd April SJSS ● Choir Auditions: Saturday 18th April (confirmed since meeting) ● First rehearsal summer term: Tuesday 21st April ● Summer Concert: Thursday 9th July St Peter's ● AGM: Tuesday 14th July <p><i>Next Committee Meeting: Monday 12th January 2015</i></p> | |

The meeting closed at 8.40pm