

Whitehall Choir Committee

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 11 November 2013 at St Stephen's 6.30pm

Present: Jonathan Williams (Chair), Paul Spicer (Music Director), Patrick Houghton (Treasurer), Joanna Tomlinson (Secretary), Ruth Eastman (Publicity), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Richard Grafen (Webmaster), Mark Graver (Librarian), Martin Humphreys (Publicity), Daniel Lambauer (Bass Rep), Alastair Tolley (Tenor Rep), Alison Williams (Alto Rep)

Apologies: Penny Prior

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Minutes of 16 September (1) 1 Whitehall Place (2) Concert Manager Role (3) Publicity	(1) 1 Whitehall Place Hotel did not want a musical evening this year but were still interested for the future. JW would offer a taster on Tuesday 17th November, if enough of the choir were interested: some carols at dinner, at no cost to them. (2) JW had sent summary of proposed role to Katherine Herzberg who did not feel it was right for her. (3) MH clarified that he always draws up a publicity plan but had stopped circulating to committee because of lack of feedback. He confirmed that the plan would always be available for the committee to look at should they so wish.	JW: ask for show of hands of those able to sing on 17th. JW/PH/JT: would check that all jobs covered elsewhere
Budget Update 2013/14	PH reported that the bank balance was healthy. Still no invoice from the Banqueting House. St Johns Smith Square a big expenditure coming up.	
Announcement of Competition Winner	JW: Martin Donnelly, the Permanent Secretary for the Dept. of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and President of the Choir had accepted invitation from David Rawlins to come to the Carol Concert and do a reading. He could also present the prize. It was agreed: to update all competitors; invite the winner to the Carol Concert (asking him to keep it to himself); send champagne to the 2 Runners Up; invite judges to concert; announce and present prize at end of concert. Thereafter Press Release (RE to write, info from PH) would go out on social media and to musical publications and possibly radio. Suggested radio: In Tune and Classic FM. Suggested publications: BBC Music Magazine and Classic FM Magazine (these 2 could cost up to £1000 between them), Classical Music Magazine, Choir & Organ Magazine (recommended by PS, with news items), and Oxford publications. Further suggestions welcomed.	PH: would email competitors - judging completed, announcement on Dec. 10. Invite winner to concert. Invite judges to concert; send champagne to 2 runners up. RE: write Press Release MH/RE: publicity re composition winner ALL: ideas for Press Release targets please

Jephtha last minute issues	Selling CDs: table had cost £50 in past. JT would explore current terms; fine tuned programme selling, choir line-up and set-up, flyers for next concert; organ delivery; CD sale;	JT: ask SJSS about use of table
Le Manoir Carol Concert 9 December	Saturday 7 Dec. rehearsal at St Stephen's 11-1 & 2-4. Schedule for 9th: Coach departs St Stephen's 1.30 - rehearse from 4 - have sandwiches & change at 6 - ready for 7.15 - concert 7.45 to 9 - drinks and canapes. 9.30 coach leaves for London. List of names needed for the coach.	
Christmas Concert, 10 December St Stephens	The flyer was agreed - thanks to RE. David Rawlins to print ready for Jephtha concert. Readers arranged: Martin Donnelly, Paul Spicer, Denise Yeldham (Assoc. Vicar), Ken Holmes. A volunteer from Sops or Altos needed. (Choose own reading - cross ref. with other readers). Prize: A line in programme announcing this Refreshments: to be organised	JW: ask for volunteer reader from Sops/altos
Passiontide to Ascension, 4 April 2014, St Alban the Martyr, Holborn	MG had sourced much of the music: quite a lot on hire from Herts; much from CPDL; Spicer and competition winner in a booklet (beware noisy binding because of recording). MG to collate it all and finalise how much to hire/how much to buy. Would not be expensive.	MG: finalise music
CD Recording Project, St Alban the Martyr 3/4th May 2014	PS requested book Anna Harvey for Vaughan Williams O Vos Omnes, ideally also for the concert. Agreed . Would offer her £250. Organ: Check that is tuned and ok. Engineer: PH only got quote as yet. Will firm up. Producer: PH check Martin Cotton is confirmed JW: need to aim to do more on Saturday than Sunday. Last time had to pack up on Saturday and reset it all on Sunday, so didn't restart until 11 am. PS: get people there for 10.30 on Saturday for 11.15 start. JW: will bring choir lighting and power cables RE: will try to get some free parking in Gray's Inn - about 6 spaces or so. CD Design & Booklet: RE and Ruth Siroko covered this last time. RE would ask Ruth again. Roving Photographer: Roger Eastman would (RE was sure) be happy to do this again. JW to ask Malcolm Todd to check all the copyright again JW would reinforce that recording not seen as optional. Full choir needed.	PS: invite Anna Harvey as soloist JT: organ PH: hire recording engineer PH: producer JW: bring choir lighting RE: parking Gray's Inn RE: invite Ruth Siroko to design CD again & Roger to take photos JW: enlist Malcolm Todd to check copyright
Holy Trinity Sloane Square, 4 July 2014 Music Hire	MG: had sourced almost all already. The Brahms would need to come from two different places	

<p>Future Concerts 2014/2015 Season</p>	<p>PS suggested programmes: November 2014: Magnificats: CPE Bach and JS Bach (SATB & London Baroque Sinfonia) Maundy Thursday 2015: Dyson Hierusalem; Tippett Corelli Fantasia for Strings; MacMillan Seven Last Words from the Cross. (Strings only from Brandenburg Sinfonia & Tenor solo) He thought this would be unusual and sensational. Summer 2015: Partsongs programme Stanford, Elgar, Britten, Moeran: of moderate difficulty only to avoid problems that had in 2013. PH: thought we could afford 2 bands for the season, second one strings only, but this could slow the rate at which we pay back the Jubilee Fund for the CD. Possible Venues: (1) November 2014 (date to be fixed) suggestions: Cadogan Hall: offered two fee structures, both very expensive at about £3,655. PS not keen on the sound there. St Peter's Eaton Square; St James Piccadilly; Holy Trinity Sloane Square for the Bach (be twice in succession) - good passing trade; St Paul's Knightsbridge - pricey; (2) Summer Concert 2015: Banqueting House for summer concert - mixed views: poor acoustic/fitting venue for choir/works with short concert and party after; LSO St Lukes off Old Street for summer JT would explore this; St Sepulchre - no, too small with poor organ; RE would explore use of Gray's Inn Hall - lovely hall with space for reception afterwards. (3) Maundy Thursday 2 April 2015: St John's Smith Square was pencilled in JW: possibility of performing recording programme with Bob Porter at St Clement Danes (he takes revenue, choir gets the venue) in Autumn 2014. PS: depending on date. Would need sufficient time to get it up to scratch. Would be new voices in the choir. Need absolute minimum of 2 rehearsals or one full day rehearsal. Choir unable to commit to this but JW mandated to discuss further about dates etc.</p>	<p>To decide date and venue</p> <p>JT: explore possibility RE: explore possibility JT: update SJSS on programme</p> <p>JW: talk further with Bob Porter</p>
<p>Update on Choir Tour ideas</p>	<p>DL thought there to be 4 options:(1) perform in European City with another local choir (2) organise tour ourselves (3) choose tour operator to organise for us (4) take part in a festival - large choice of these through Europe eg Verona Garda Festival in July, Vienna, Antwerp, Salzburg etc. MG: use of tour company no guarantee of venue or audience PS: thought festival involvement grim because of competitive nature. Tour should be part singing, part holiday, part camaraderie. Two choir option tricky to pull off. He thought using English tour company worked well (had recently done this with his Birmingham choir). RE preferred idea of our choir only.</p>	<p>JW: follow up on tour operators DL: find out more about festivals</p>

	Length of tour need to be 5 days and 4 nights to allow for travel.	
Any Other Business	<p>(1) Folders: MG proposed getting 100 new folders before the April concert - only just enough for the new members. KG requested string dividers, not plastic ones.</p> <p>(2) KG: choir struggling with poor lighting at St Stephen's. JW would bring the choir floodlights to try out. Could be stored in our cupboard in the church. Need volunteer to set up and dismantle each week.</p> <p>(3) The auditor David Tyrrall would be unable to review the accounts until the New Year. The Special Meeting on 26th November would be postponed.</p>	<p>MG/MH: arrange new folders</p> <p>JW: bring lights for rehearsal</p> <p>PH: announce postponement of Special Meeting</p>
Committee Dates 2014	20th January; 17th March; 12th May; 23rd June; AGM 8th July	

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Date of next committee meeting: Monday 20th January 2014, 6.30 pm, St Stephen's