

Whitehall Choir Committee
 MINUTES of the
 meeting held on 12 January 2015 at St Stephen's
 6.30pm

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

Apologies: Martin Humphreys, Penny Prior, Daniel Lambauer

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Minutes 10/11/14	Ken Holmes had not come back about the Friends Scheme	
Draft Annual Report 2013/14 Season	Following questions the Committee gave their approval to PH to circulate the Draft Annual Report to the choir prior to a Special General Meeting on 3 February to approve its submission to the Charity Commission. PH would add that the choir has a website. JW thanked PH for the huge amount of work he does for the choir.	PH
Finances 2014/15	<p>PH tabled two further papers: (1) Income & Expenditure position: PH anticipated just about breaking even for 2014/15.</p> <p>(2) Current Concert & Events account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a band costs about £5,000. All events without a band should break even. Come & Sings/Workshops must be paid for on the day and break even - the last one made a loss. Ticket prices needed to be considered <i>carefully</i> in advance and with more precision ● Projected numbers for April concert are conservative but a good audience makes a huge difference to the surplus. Must market it well. Should aim for 300 audience. ● Summer concerts not bringing in enough people. Must do better to break even. ● If we were to do badly in April and July we would be "scraping the barrel". ● PH not thinking of repaying Jubilee fund until we know how April 2 goes: have three years to repay. 	
Review: St John's Smith Square 24 November 2014	An asbestos scare in concert hall led to loss of rehearsal time (used St Stephen's) and the CPE Bach Magnificat had to be dropped from the programme. SJSS had offered the audience half of their money back at no loss of income to the choir. The choir was to receive £1,750 back spread over two concerts. The amended concert was extremely well received by the audience despite the uncertainty. PS doubted that the CPE Bach could be performed at a later date.	
Review: St Stephen's Christmas Concert 16 December 2014	Lovely but COLD as the church had had major problems with the heating. Some interesting pieces for the choir. Numbers were down a bit (the English Baroque Choir had had a similar concert there the previous night). We needed microphones - forgot to ask.	

Choir Workshop 24 January 2015 Mozart/Schubert	RG would send flyer to all contacts; PS would talk to Ben about the day; PH bring float; refreshments; JT ensure heating on; set up 9.30, open doors 10 for 10.30; any wishing to audition for choir to go to KG	RG/PS PH/JT
St John's Smith Square 2 April 2015	PS to chase Royal Academy for soloists; PH source orchestral scores; RE/MH proceed with publicity once have soloists names; PH has midi files for each piece; JT would ask for 8 pairs of comps; JT to get idea of when lunchtime concert should finish. RE thought it would be nice to have more mature soloists sometimes. PS agreed. PH would need to budget for it in advance - should attract larger audiences.	PS/PH RE/M H JT/PP JT
St Peter's Eaton Square 9 July 2015	MG had ordered most of music though PS had come up with a new programme including 5 Mystical Songs with baritone soloist. PS would finalise the programme - possibly all Vaughan Williams. JT request that it not be entitled "Summer Concert" this year.	PS/M G
Forward Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJSS was pencilled in for Tuesday 17 November. PS proposed Handel's Theodora, which contained 10/11 choruses. JT to confirm this with SJSS. PH would contact Peter McCarthy (London Baroque Sinfonia) • PS/JW to consider planning an extra rehearsal that term which would only be 10 weeks. • PS tabled a list of proposed material for future concerts and the tour. • JW put forward idea of joining with another choir for one concert to cover different repertoire. • PS proposed Banqueting House for Summer 2016. 	JT/PH PS/JW JT
Choir Tour to Vienna May 2016	One concert alone, one joint with a local choir: either sharing music or singing separately. PS waiting to hear what programme the Viennese choir is considering. Programme would be strongly based on the April 2016 concert. 35 likely to be top number going; at present 30. Needed to decide if tour goes ahead very soon. Deposits to be collected this month.	PS
Rehearsal Venue	It was agreed that we needed to change venues if possible because of problems with the heating, lighting and service times. PH said that St Stephen's is flexible, not too expensive, available on Saturdays. A new venue could be a great deal more expensive necessitating a large increase in subs. The new venue would need to be near a good tube line to mainline stations or to a mainline station. JT would search	JT
Strategy Meeting	JW was working to find a suitable date	JW

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Date of future meetings: Monday 11 May
Monday 22 June
Tuesday 14 July (AGM)

