

Whitehall Choir Committee
MINUTES of the
Meeting held on 17 March 2014 at St Stephen's
6.30pm

Present: Jonathan Williams (Chair), 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), Penny Prior (Business Manager), Alastair Tolley (Tenor Rep), Alison Williams (Alto Rep)

Apologies: Paul Spicer

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action |
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| Minutes 20/1/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance Policy to be reviewed after next concert. Need to review the challenge of this term and how it affects future programming. ● Choir agreed to increase ticket prices rather than try to sell more. ● A new stock of folders for new members. Thanks to Laurie. ● Sponsors: no ideas forthcoming yet. Part reps to send chaser email ● 5-6 new choir members taken. | KS/DL/ AT/AW |
| Finances (PH) | <p>Income statement and balance sheet as expected. Need to hire organ for one day of recording. Would like inventory of Christmas music to have it as stock and list of all the old music stock which has been written off. Folders need to be put into stock. Noted the cost implications of multiple items in programmes. Need a Come & Sing in the Autumn. PH accepted budget for orchestra for Autumn 2014: £5,600.</p> <p>Fund raising/sponsorship: other halves and employers; could have a small working group to brainstorm; fund raiser soprano will be approached.</p> | MG KG |
| <p>4 April 2014: "Ascendit": Publicity etc.</p> <p>Pre-booking CD</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publicity in hand. No interest via Press Release yet: it would be sent out again with additional piece by PS on why the Parsons was chosen and offer of comp. ticket for a reviewer ● On-day arrangements: check availability of car parking spaces (RE: Gray's Inn if need). Need to put out chairs/lighting? ● MG to bring PS's box and music stand ● Ladies' Dress Code: KG compose email as choir not looking smart/uniform enough ● A loose slip to be inserted in programmes to pre-book CD: £10 incl. & p. and stack on desk; also mention in programme. ● PH talk to Tony Wass to ascertain likely date of release. ● Front of house in hand: needs help with bar ● Complimentary tickets for Paul/Ian/Anna/ Vicar/President/ Saxon/Weir/Soroko | MH JT/PH MG KG MH PH PH |
| Recording Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JW to remind choir of £50 for 5 CDs commitment. To be paid at start of next term. ● Booklet: RE tabled Ruth Soroko's first draft based on Jane Mackay's | JW |
| | <p>painting. Very well received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MH to double check copyright with Malcolm Todd esp. text. ● Roger Eastman to take photos of recording in progress | MH RE |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Richard Grafen's daughter to take photo of choir ● JW to ask if anyone in choir could take video of Paul for YouTube ● To ask for tea/coffee but no other refreshments | RG JW JT |
| 4 July 2014: Holy Trinity Sloane Square | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JT liaising with Cadogan Hall about ticketing and website entry ● A banner can be hung on the railings outside church ● Music is organised | |
| Choir Tour: May 2016 Quotes: Observations: What next: | <p>DL: Quotes from 3 tour operators: Rayburn/Burleigh/Travelbound for 4 nights/5 day tours to Vienna/Prague/Paris. Need for either a really good organiser or no organiser. DL only had confidence in Rayburn. For flight, accommodation, 2-3 venues: apprx. £600 pp. (PS and IT at no cost to them). Through Viennese contact DL suggests shared concert in St Stephen's Cathedral: one half each. More chance of large audience. DL can access rehearsal rooms and check things out in Vienna.</p> <p>What can we charge? how to fit into our schedule? care in choosing pieces. Could come out of Easter 2016 programme. Use some of Ascendit and sell CD? Need idea of how many of choir might come (in past, about half). Get better response first May Bank Holiday.</p> <p>Raise the idea with choir after the recording is done. Look at PS's diary. Find out what else going on in Vienna at that time. Thanks to DL for all his work on this.</p> | |
| 24 November 2014: St John's SS | Waiting for contract to be drawn up. Deadline for SJSS publicity mid-May. | |
| Maundy Thursday 2015 | PS concern that proposed programme might be too much. Dyson needs organ and harp. Discussed possibility of replacing Dyson with something more mainstream: a Mozart Mass? Committee to listen to the pieces and consider further. | ALL |
| Summer 2015 Programme/Venue | Mulled over Banqueting House and St Peter's Eaton Square. Foreign Office ruled out. Proposed programme very similar to this year's summer concert. Reconsider? | |

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| Christmas Concert 2014: Date | JW to suggest Tuesday 16th December to PS: gives three rehearsals after the SJSS concert. | JW |
| AOB: Come & Sing Event October 2014 Choir Auditions: Come & Sing Messiah: Spicer "Unfinished Remembering": | <p>Michael Nebe happy for PS to do whole event. Try to book PS and orchestra for early October. What piece: Look at suggestions from past participants. Venue: same again (St Sepulchre-without-Newgate)? poor experience for the choir though</p> <p>July/September 2014 At St John's Smith Square 17 April conducted by Richard Heason. PH suggests any choir member participating should do so as the Whitehall Choir.</p> <p>AW suggests sending supporting contingent to this premier. Birmingham Bach Choir, Symphony Hall, 13 September 2014. Tickets now on sale.</p> | RE |

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Date of next committee meeting: Monday 12 May 2014 6.30pm, St Stephen's

