

Whitehall Choir Committee

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 20 January 2014 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), Penny Prior (Business Manager), Alastair Tolley (Tenor Rep), Alison Williams (Alto Rep)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Budget Update 2013/2014	PH reported finances in good health. (1) Carol Concert made £400 if write off cost of the music. Can claim Gift Aid on this. Suggested £250 donation to St Stephen's. AGREED. (2) St Albans CD would not need full amount from Jubilee Fund - probably half the amount (ie £6,000). Would like to make surplus on St Albans concert and aim for audience of 300. (3) If use 2 orchestras next year need to beware of going into the season with too small a reserve. (4) Need to raise ticket prices for next season. Subscriptions already high - does not wish to raise them. The Auditor had nearly completed his work. Suggested SGM on 25 February.	
Review: Jephtha 15 November 2013	Audience better than expected at 282. 50/50 Choir and Box Office sales. Greatly enjoyed by performers and audience. Excellent soloists and band. All on very little rehearsal time. Access for choir from back stage much better.	
Review: Carol Concert at Le Manoir 9 December 2013	This had gone very well. A magical evening. Well looked after by Le Manoir. Choir enjoyed singing in a smaller group. Only about 4 choir members who wanted to go could not be taken. The fee offered for the concert just covered our costs. Not known if we will be invited again.	
Review Christmas Concert St Stephen's 10 December 2013	This had been a success. Audience of 132. The Choir was well prepared from more rehearsals than usual. The announcement of the competition winner, Samuel Parsons, also went well. Next year need to plan the Christmas music further ahead.	
New members this term	There would be 8 auditions: 2 sops, 4-5 altos, 1 tenor. Choir numbers would allow PS to take 5 sops; 2 altos;	

	tenors and basses.	
<p>Passiontide to Ascension, St Alban the Martyr, 4 April 2014 "Ascendit"</p>	<p>General Points: The concert and CD would be entitled "Ascendit" MH to follow up with Malcolm Todd. He would need to start with published music and work backwards to CPDL music. Parsons was yet to complete a deal on using the words for his piece. Publicity for Competition Winner: RE would edit PH's text for a Press Release. MH to put details on Radio 3's amateur choir slot (PH mentioned Classic FM and David Mellor do similar), and a list of publications that he'd collated. Paid publicity not worth it. Better targeted publicity was worth it. To be done within a couple of weeks. Publicity for Concert/CD: It was decided that the image for the flier and CD cover did not necessarily have to be the same. No consensus reached on some images provided by Monica Darnbrough. Image should match the adventurous nature of the programme and should not be "retro". The flier would be needed very shortly and could perhaps be the Chagall Spinning Wheel image (if can clear copyright). Ruth Siroko and Jane Mackay would be approached regarding the CD design. Fthr Christopher confirmed that a banner could be put up outside the church A map showing location of venue would be included on the flier. Publicity at the Inns of Court important: Samuel Parsons a pupil at Gray's Inn Interval refreshments could be in Main Room of Conference Centre if the audience too large for use of the corridor. PP already ordered tickets</p>	<p>MH: follow up with M. Todd re copyright.</p> <p>RE/MH</p> <p>RE/MH</p> <p>JW speak to Jane Mackay. RE/PH approach Ruth Siroko</p> <p>RE/MH</p>
<p>Rehearsals and attendance policy for St Albans Concert</p>	<p>It was AGREED that this term absences should be kept to 2; discretionary 3 with PS's approval. This would include the extra Monday rehearsal. Some concern at loss of tenors as a result. There would be a rehearsal on 8 April (ie Tuesday <u>after</u> the concert), then a 2 week break, recommencing on 29 April.</p>	
<p>Update on CD Recording Project May 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anna Harvey had been booked ● A Producer had yet to be booked ● Plenty of car parking available at Gray's Inn ● 3 car parking spaces at St Albans itself ● Access to the Walks in Gray's Inn for picnic ● Possibility of either sandwich lunch (£8.50) or hot lunch (£10.50) at St Albans Conference Centre. 	<p>PS</p>

	<p>good economic number. In time for the next concert. It was agreed not to take a deposit.</p> <p>Bob Porter Autumn Concert: It was AGREED to abandon this idea as it would be a busy term.</p> <p>Library Costs: MG's costs (eg. parking costs/plastic wallets) for this term had not been covered by hire charge to choir. AGREED to write off the loss for this term. In future hire costs would be cost of hire plus MG's costs.</p> <p>Sponsors: MG suggested finding possible sponsors for mention in flier and programme. JW would ask for ideas from the choir - any contacts?</p>	<p>JW</p>
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The meeting closed at 8.40pm

**Date of next committee meeting: Monday 17th March 2014
6.30 pm, St Stephen's**