



Whitehall Choir Committee Action Points

Meeting held on 5 December 2011 at COI at 6.30 pm

Present: Jonathan Williams (Chair), Patrick Haighton (Treasurer), Liz Walton (Secretary), Rose Chandler (Librarian), Ruth Eastman (Publicity), Laurie Grace (Librarian), Richard Grafen (Webmaster), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Katherine Herzberg (Ticket Management) Martin Humphreys (Publicity), Penny Prior (Ticket Management), Malcolm Todd (Bass Rep), Alison Williams (Alto Rep), Ben Nichols (Tenor Rep)

Apologies: Rachel Nixon (Publicity and programmes)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Minutes of last meeting	Agreed	
Matters arising	It was noted that since the last Committee Ken Holmes had kindly agreed to take over running of the Friends programme.	
Review of Come and Sing October 2011	69 people sang on the day of which 24 were choir members. The day as a whole was very successful, in particular the use of soloists from the choir. The feedback helpfully compiled by RE showed that the visitors thoroughly enjoyed the day. In spite of criticism from some members of the choir, it was agreed that the church and surrounding facilities made it a good venue. The day came in just above budget.	
Review of St Albans Concert	In spite of a challenging programme the concert had been very successful with a good audience, 40 of whom came on the door. The Committee thanked PH for organising a banner outside the church which it was felt was value for money and should be repeated wherever possible at concert venues. St Albans had said they would be very pleased for us to go back for future concerts and it was felt that generally now people knew the church it was an excellent venue. The concert just about broke even against budget, partly due to selling refreshments. PH and his wife were thanked for arranging these.	
Carol Concert 13 December	Readings and readers needed finalising, plus programme sellers and arranging use of CAPITA toilets by choir. It was agreed that our front of house volunteers were undervalued and in future they should receive free tickets to concerts.	KG, LW and RN to do readings JW/LW to sort other matters asap
Update on budget	PH presented an update of the budget prepared originally by Ken Holmes. The year out-turn of around £2k surplus was still projected, in line with the budget, although it was dependent on a good house at St Johns in March.	
Auditions	Officers had discussed with Paul Spicer the possibility of postponing auditions until the end of the season but he saw the exercise essentially as a review of the choir, so that he could gauge balance and also identify potential soloists amongst choir members. For this reason he was anxious to stick with the arrangements. Auditions would therefore go ahead on 7 January in St Stephens and on the following Tuesday evening. A venue for the Tuesday evening needed to be finalised. KG was well advanced in organising people to sign up to specific slots. PH as treasurer was happy to speak to any member who Paul felt should consider leaving the choir.	Venue for second tranche of auditions to be finalised.
Concert programme 2012 -13	LW circulated a list of confirmed venues up to July 2013 plus revised programmes from Paul Spicer for autumn 2012 and summer 2013 concerts. The revised repertoire was seen as providing very interesting singing. It was agreed once it was finalised part reps should circulate the list asap, to inform all members and ensure dates were in diaries.	LW to finalise

<p>Choir Workshop event May 2012</p>	<p>JW had prepared a note outlining a proposal to use the planned workshop day in May 2012 for a Come and Sing event with Whitehall Orchestra to perform Brahms Requiem. This involved a choral workshop in the morning, a run through with the orchestra in the afternoon and a performance in the evening. The event would take place either at St Gabriel's Pimlico or St Sepulchre without Newgate. The aim was to also raise some money from the event and PH had prepared a draft budget based on 100 singers and 100 audience. The idea was approved but it was felt that a workshop in the morning should be replaced by a choral run through of the piece. It was agreed that JW should go ahead with planning the event with David Rawlins chair of Whitehall orchestra and a tenor in the choir.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Choral Technique Workshop originally planned for May should take place on Tuesday 3 July between the summer concert and AGM.</p>	<p>JW to liaise with David Rawlins and finalise arrangements and venue details.</p> <p>LW to contact Ghislayne Morgan to see if she would lead workshop</p>
<p>Choir commitment and motivation</p>	<p>Paul Spicer at the previous week's rehearsal, while praising the quality of singing at the St Albans concert, said that the run up to it had been very unsettling for him because of the inconsistency of attendance through the term, lack of 'homework' on the music between rehearsals, disturbance by late arrivals ringing the bell, and apparent lack of response to his direction. Choir members had been surprised at these tough comments but the committee recognised the issues underlying Paul's concerns and the need to raise commitment and motivation. It was agreed that JW would draft a note to the choir highlighting that if they joined Whitehall Choir it implied a commitment to regular and timely attendance and some work on pieces between rehearsals.</p>	<p>JW to draft note</p>
<p>Committee Dates</p>	<p>Dates for future committee meetings were set as follows (subject to confirmation that Paul Spicer can attend January and April meetings): 23 January, 19 March, 30 April, 18 June. MH said that although the January meeting could probably be held at COI, a new venue would need to be found for subsequent dates.</p>	<p>LW to circulate dates and seek alternative venue</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>RC announced that she had decided that she could no longer continue as librarian after the end of this season - although she would order music for the autumn term. The committee thanked her for her hard work over the years.</p>	