



# WHITEHALL CHOIR

## Whitehall Committee Meeting - Thursday 10 January 2008

### Attending

Samantha Foley, Ken Holmes, Jonathan Williams, Ruth Eastman, Katherine Howes, Malcolm Todd, Laurence Grace, Colin Altman, Kate Goulden, Liz Walton, Miranda Douce

### Apologies

Paul Spicer, Rachel Salisbury, Martin Humphreys, Rose Chandler

### Minutes

No matters arising

### Finance

General budget: forecast income and forecast expenditure to date are broadly as per budget. While the Nov 07 Come & Sing event broke even only (the take up from choir members was a little disappointing – see below), the Christmas Carol concert was well supported. The General Fund is predicted to stand at comfortably above the agreed “safe” level of £4000 at the end of the Season. The Jubilee Fund will be asked to provide support to the forthcoming workshop.

### Come and Sing event

The Committee agreed that three drivers for holding the Come & Sing are fundraising, recruitment and choir enjoyment. Analysis of this event indicates that we had less success in fundraising this year; that recruitment was a success; and around 40 members of the Choir attended and enjoyed the event. However we had fewer singers overall comparing this year to last year, which may have been due to a combination of a less familiar piece and the proximity to 5 November celebrations. Malcolm has drafted a questionnaire to send out to punters to seek feedback on the Come & Sing and will send it to the committee for comment before circulation. –**action Malcolm**

### Future repertoire

Sam presented some ideas, and supporting concert pattern, for recording a CD of Christmas music next Season. The approximate budget for this would be £8,000 (compared with £14,000 for the Bruckner/Spicer recording). After much discussion which covered the programme for the CD, the impact on the rest of the season both musically and financially, the need for a request to members for more fundraising and the amount which would need to come from general funds, a decision was made to put the whole season picture, including a recording, to the choir members and gather further details on the likely costs of the concerts and venues proposed (Christmas-themed concert at [Holy Trinity Sloane Street?], normal Carol concert at St Stephens, Brahms Requiem with 4 hands piano accompaniment at Cadogan Hall, Purcell + others concert, small orchestra, possibly at St John’s Smith Square). The committee vote on this decision was 9 for, 1 against, 1 abstained. –**action Paul to propose recording music, Sam to put proposal to choir, Jonathan to research venue availability and costs.**

### Workshop

Current approximate commitment to this is Bases 13, Tenors 4, Altos 15, Sops 15 which is in line with the financial model based on 40+ [now increased to c55 attendees]. The programme will be Dixit Dominus, European Sacred Music and In the Mood. Supper will be taken in the St Mary le Bow Crypt restaurant.

### Auditor

We need a new Independent Examiner for our accounts who needs to meet the Charity Commission requirements but does not need to be a qualified accountant. Jonathan is following up some options - both Ken and Sam consider they should not be too closely involved in this process - but the committee



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are asked to suggest alternatives as time is running out for this year's accounts. –**action all, but particularly Jonathan and Miranda.**

## **Ticket arrangements for Monteverdi Concert**

Previously we charged £12 with £6 for full time students at a Church venue (St Paul's Knightsbridge) – but this was not an (expensive to put on) orchestral concert. Suggestion of £15 for this concert with a £5 reduction for students, subject to what the normal pricing at the church (may also include a glass of wine). – **action Sam/Miranda**

## **BERR representative**

Nicola Kirkup has stepped down from the choir; the committee recorded its thanks to Nicola for her work in this post. Nicola will hand over to Richard Grafen as the new BERR representative. Richard was nominated by Ken, seconded Kate, unanimously agreed and thus co-opted to the Committee. Richard is now one of only a tiny number of members of the Choir who work at BERR and are thus eligible to fulfil this role; Committee will review the possibility of a change to the constitution of the Choir in the future if securing a BERR rep becomes too difficult.

## **Choir numbers**

Current situation at the start of term is: Altos 18 plus 2 to be auditioned. Sopranos 23 plus 2, Tenors 10 plus 2, Bases 16 plus 2. On this basis, we will seek to take about 3 new members across the Choir, depending on the quality of potential new members.

## **Winchester 21/22 June 2008**

Liz Warren is going to re-establish contact with St Cross, otherwise we have a second option of going to a different church in Winchester. Action Liz and Sam.

**Meeting closed at 20:30**

## **Next meetings**

Monday 3 March 2008

Thursday 1 May 2008

Monday 9 June 2008

SGM Tuesday 4 March 2008 (NB – dependent on the appointment of new Independent Examiner)

AGM Tuesday 15 July 2008