



WHITEHALL CHOIR

Whitehall Choir Committee Meeting: 3 September 2007, 6.15pm at COI.

MINUTES

Present

Samantha Foley (Chair), Jonathan Williams (Minutes), Ken Holmes, Malcolm Todd, Colin Altman, Kate Goulden, Rachel Salisbury, Martin Humphreys, Katherine Howes, Ruth Eastman, Rose Chandler, Paul Spicer, Laurence Grace, Miranda Douce, Liz Walton.. Apologies: Nicola Kirkup.

Minutes and matters arising

Banqueting House concert: rehearsal 4-6pm (earliest start possible); concert at 7.00pm; programme will last 75 minutes and there will be no interval. Supper would therefore be served after the concert at about 8.15pm. This was felt to be the most practical option for this new venue. Action – Jonathan to confirm contract.

Weekend in Winchester: the master of St Cross, Winchester is retiring so they are not prepared to take a firm booking at this stage. We are looking at other options for a weekend away over 21/22 June 2008, but this is still “firm” date for the diary. Action Sam and Lis Warren.

Horizon scanning

Sam presented an outline plan (attached to the end of the minutes) covering the next few years. It contains an initial idea for another CD recording in December 2008, and then a Tour on the 3 year cycle that we have been following; plus a collaboration with another Choir (see below) to sing a bigger work (ie that will require more than our 60-70 singers). There was extensive discussion, resulting in general agreement to the principle of these plans, balanced with ensuing interest/commitment from members and financial commitments (eg contributions to the cost of a further CD) being appropriately phased.

The proposal for a joint concert with Cardiff Polyphonic and Neil Ferris would consist of two concerts, one in Wales and one in London. Cardiff are available for Spring 2009, Autumn 2009 and Spring 2010. Spring 2009 is preferred by us at the moment. After discussion of the whole plan, it was decided to firm up the arrangements with Cardiff first and then see how everything else (CD, Tour et al) fits in. Action Sam.

Budgets

Ken presented the overall budget which predicts a deficit of £2,200 for the next season (a relatively prudent approach). The budget was approved by the committee and Ken was thanked for his work on this.

November 2007 concert

The flyers for this concert on 16 November need to be at SJSS by 10 October to be in time for their mailing – Action Martin/Laurie. The soloists still need to be chosen -

action Paul. Rachel will progress the programme as usual, with William Longland's assistance on the Libretto et al.

Come & Sing 3 November 2007

We will use the Novello edition of the Beethoven Mass in C. Publicity is already available for this event. Further local advertising will be required, plus posters etc, and the flyer to be circulated to other Choirs – Action Ruth.

Choir numbers

Our ideal membership numbers for the Season were agreed: SATB 26:22:12:18 totalling 78. These numbers are heavily influenced by the limit on singers for concerts at SJSS where the max is 100 performers on stage. For Saul in November, other performers are 35 leaving only 65 "spaces" for the choir (which even so will make the stage very cramped).

Current membership levels (ie those expected to return for the new Season) are SATB 20, 22, 10, 17 = 69. It was decided that we would plan to take 1-2 new sopranos this term, plus 1 bass and 2-3 tenors. This position would still leave us needing to anticipate a "drop out" rate of around 10% for the concert (from illness, non-attendance at rehearsals etc) which the Committee agreed was a reasonable estimate, although very difficult to predict accurately. As ever, part reps would need to manage attendance carefully within their members.

Around 10-12 potential new members across the 4 parts have been invited to audition; auditions to take place in weeks 2 and 3 of term only. Action Sam and part reps.

AOB

We continue to negotiate a firm booking with Church of the Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, for the Monteverdi Vespers. Action Sam.

As Paul is on a sabbatical this term, he will miss four rehearsals (staggered throughout the term) and Peter Asprey will deputise for all of these. Also Paul Plummer will dep for James Longford for the final 4 rehearsals of term.

Future meeting dates

Monday 29 October 2007

Thursday 10 January 2008

Monday 3 March 2008

Thursday 1 May 2008

Monday 9 June 2008

SGM Tuesday 6 March 2008

AGM Tuesday 15 July 2008

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2007	St M Le B											
Main concerts			SJSS Bach			SJSS Mozart				SJSS Saul		Carols
Other events	Recording			Tour		Theatre				Come and Sing		Ritz
2008		New venue										
Main concerts			Sloane St Vespers			Banq Ho Secular						SJSS???
Other events		Workshop	Southbank?		Mini tour		Theatre			Come and Sing		Christmas Music (plus Carols concert too) Ritz
2009												
Main concerts			Join Cardiff? Cardiff			Banq or Cadogan Hall?			Join Cardiff? (Link to Paul's book - incl some Dyson?)			Carols
Other events	Recording?									Come and Sing		Ritz
2010												
Main concerts			Join Cardiff?									Carols
Other events				Tour						Come and Sing		Ritz
2011												
Main concerts												Carols
Other events										Come and Sing		Ritz

NOTES

Recording - suggestion of a Christmas music selection - cheaper/no orchestration - not just standard carols. OR similar proj of Easter music? Would be linked to a concert too.

Join Cardiff = Cardiff Polyphonic Choir, cond Neil Ferris. Interested in staging 2 joint concerts, one in Cardiff, one in London. Assume "big" prog, and £££, so needs to be crowd pleaser (3 potential dates indicated).
Generally - Theatre trip was a success; do we want to make this regular event?

Venues - need to keep a good spread.

Sothbank - possibility of joining choral celebration week.