



WHITEHALL CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 7th September 2006, 6.45pm

Attendees

Samantha Foley (Chairman)
Ken Holmes (Hon Treasurer)
Moira Purkiss (Alto rep)
Laurence Grace (Librarian)
Paul Spicer (Conductor)
Martin Humphreys (Publicity)
Kate Goulden (Sop rep)
Rachel Salisbury (Assistant Secretary)
Ruth Eastman (Publicity)
Miranda Douce (Business Manager)
Jonathan Williams (Hon Sec)
Catherine Bakhshi (DTI liaison)
Malcolm Todd (Bass rep)
Rose Chandler (Librarian)

Apologies

David Pite (Tenor rep/Business Manager)

1. Minutes

Minutes of last meeting adopted.

2. Come and sing

- A booking form for singers and audience needs to be produced – Action Rachel
- Rachel told the committee that Lambeth Council had confirmed that churches do not need a performance licence.
- The website has a link to the Come and Sing event with an email address for interested parties. Jonathan can pick up these emails, and send out the booking forms and/or receipts for payment received.
- Need to decide how to deal with admin of choir members who will be singing – Action Rachel, Catherine and Jonathan
- Decided that we need to use the Novello edition of the Mozart Requiem ed. Best. Librarians need to check to see if inter- Library loan can obtain this edition for us (150 copies needed) – Action Laurie
- Thanks were given to Laurie, Ruth and Martin for the flyers being produced so rapidly over the summer.
- Discussion on soloists – Paul may have found a soprano soloist and he will find the other soloists as the RCM once the new term starts. Action Paul.
- We will need to ask for volunteers to help on the day e.g. serving tea/coffee, moving furniture etc. We will also need to ask if there are any volunteers to be ushers at the concert. Action Sam/Philip P
- Paul will need a box and conductors stand – Action Ruth to check with the church.

- In order to publicise the event we need to send the flyers to other choirs, churches and part reps for distribution – Action Ruth
- We need to work out arrangements for refreshments – Action Sam

3. Future repertoire

- Discussed possibility of singing a bigger piece with the Birmingham Bach choir (*Missa Solemnis?*). It was decided that we would look into this as a possibility for the future, but probably not possible as soon as next season – Action Paul/Sam
- Discussed possible future venues (incl for large orchestra pieces). Possibilities include St James, Piccadilly, Blackheath Halls, Cadogan Hall, Fairfield Halls and Spitalfields Church. The South Bank was suggested also for a bigger concert – Action Jonathan to check.
- Discussed possible programme for next season. Suggested that we might want to consider secular English music for one concert. Also need to decide on a piece for an unaccompanied concert – Action Paul

4. Tour

- Discussed repertoire for tour. Original decision was to sing the Autumn term's music but given that some of the pieces split into a number of parts it was decided that this was no longer fully an option. We will probably use some music from the European of Sacred Music in exchange for one or more of the more complex pieces. We need to decide soon in order to let the tour company know for their 'pitch' to venues. Action Sam/Paul.
- Might need to swap some voices over this term in view of who is going on tour, but this will need further consideration. Action Paul
- Discussed what we should give the tour company in order to publicise the choir – suggestions were Choir "brochure", programmes, previous flyers, website biogs, photos, CD recordings (see item 7), photos etc. Action Ruth/Martin/Sam
- Moira told us that we have secured enough flights and the hotel is booked. The next payment is due soon. Action Moira.
- Extra rehearsals confirmed for April 2007 – Monica to be asked to request use of St Stephens. Action Sam.

5. November concert

- Miranda told us that we will be able to get 20% off our ticket printing for St Paul's. Knightsbridge this time. We will charge £12 for adults and the only concession will be to full-time students @ £6.
- Discussed the design of the flyer. Decision to be made on Tuesday 12th.
- Also discussed flyer for Christmas concert. Action Ruth.

6. Budget

- Ken presented budgets for concerts, come and sing, tour, general, for the Season ahead.

- General discussion as to general finances of Choir, incl availability of general funds to assist with funding of recording – see below.
- Projected budget agreed

7. AOB

- CD recording
 - Discussed options for raising money to pay for recording (costs estimated at £10k + [since rising to around £12k gross ie excluding receipts from any sale of CDs]). This included asking members to pay a set amount and to sell the CDs in order to get money back or holding a fundraising event. Some unease about asking members to pay, but acknowledged that this showed a commitment to the project.
 - Consideration of funding from 3 sources – Jubilee Fund (possibly including some form of loan); general Choir funds; fundraising/donations. Action Sam/Ken.
 - Discussed options for selling the CDs – either by choir members or commercially.
 - Discussed advantages of the recording – useful promotion tool, good experience for Members, for example.
 - Discussed timing. If we want to do The Decidious Cross we need to look at January 2007, but some were worried about adding to the burden of an already heavy term.
 - We would need to ask someone to help organise the project. Action Sam.
 - We took a vote on how to proceed – 3 AGAINST but would support if the choir agreed and 11 FOR. Decided to provide members with costings etc in order for them to decide and to ask them to help with the organisation. Sam to take the project forward, incl full budget (which is separate to “standard” budget already agreed for this Season) and possible venues. Action Sam.
 - Paul to pencil in recording dates in January (27/28th Jan) as tentative for time being. Action Paul.
- No other business. Conversation regarding the Friends Scheme postponed to later meeting.

Dates of next meetings:

- Monday Nov 13th 2006
- Thursday Jan 18th 2007
- Thursday 1st March 2007
- Tues 6th March – SGM
- Thursday 19th April 2007
- Monday 11th June 2007
- Tues 10th July – AGM

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.