



WHITEHALL CHOIR

MINUTES

Whitehall Choir committee meeting

25th May 2006, 6.45pm, C.O.I. (Hercules Road, London SE1)

Members attending:

Samantha Foley (Chairman)
Ken Holmes (Hon Treasurer)
Moira Purkiss (Alto rep)
David Pite (Tenor rep)
Laurence Grace (Librarian)
Paul Spicer (Conductor)
Martin Humphreys (Publicity)
Kate Goulden (sop rep)

Apologies received from:

Ruth Eastman (Publicity)
Andrew Hyde (Bass rep)
Miranda Douce (Business Manager)
Jen Brzozowska (DTI liaison)
Jonathan Williams (Hon Sec)

In attendance:

Rachel Salisbury (to be co-opted at the meeting)

Minutes from last meeting

- Subject to Ken Holmes being added to the attendee list, the minutes were agreed (action Sam)

Co-opt Rachel Salisbury as to the committee Assistant Secretary

- Committee agreed to co-opt Rachel Salisbury to be temporary Assistant Secretary until the elections next term.
- Agreed that the role would involve programme co-ordination, web-master liaison and helping arrange the summer/other fund-raisers.
- Rachel will need to liase with Tamsin and Phillip re the 'Stop Press' function and e-updates/alerts on the new Whitehall Choir website.

Kate Goulden

- Welcomed Kate Goulden as the newly elected soprano rep.

Songs of Praise

- We have been asked to do Songs of Praise in October at St Bartholomew the Great. We would need to have about 25-30 singers with a good mix of men and women and the same singers would need to be at the church on both the Tuesday and the Thursday from 7pm until 10.30pm (if not later). The BBC would pay the choir a "donation" to funds.
- It was pointed out that we would have to miss a rehearsal (or have a rehearsal with reduced numbers) if we agreed to this, but Paul thought we could manage this.
- It was also thought that people would have difficulty if they had to catch trains in order to get home.
- We were reminded that Autumn/Winter term would be particularly busy anyway since we had the concert, the come and sing, the carol concert and the Ritz already booked.
- It was decided to ask the choir on Tuesday 30th for a vote but that a decision had to be made that night.

Action Sam.

Finances

- Ken Holmes ran through the financial accounts for 2005/06.
- The last concert at St John's Smith Square had resulted in a larger deficit than anticipated. We had budgeted for a 25% loss but had taken a 33% hit instead. However, it was noted that there were a variety of reasons for that and that the summer concert was not expected to take such a big hit.
- The deficit for the year was large because of the postponement of the Dvorak concert. However, we had anticipated this last year when the accounts should we had broken even (since the insurance company had covered our loss).
- The new website had cost £2700 (£300 less than budgeted), paid for as agreed by the Jubilee Fund.

Publicity for Haydn/Handel

- Committee considered whether we should pay £250-300 to use St. John's 'target mailing' facility. However, we felt this was not good value and that a better option would be to make a big effort within the choir to sell tickets.
- The flyer for the concert will be two colours. Action Ruth/Martin/Laurie
- Decided that it's better to have 3000 flyers rather than 6000-7000 and make use of email as a method of publicising the concert. 2500 will be for the choir and 500 for St John's.
- The cost of publicising with St John's included inclusion into the broadsheets, but Martin will find out how much it would cost to advertise in the Evening Standard and/or Metro. Action Martin.
- David thought we should obtain more mid-range tickets to sell to the choir from St John's. We agreed that David and Miranda should decide what tickets to ask for initially and that they should contact St John's for more (or to return tickets) if necessary. Action David/Miranda

Tour

- We have decided to go with the tour operator Specialised Travel as the most experienced in this area.
- The cost will be about £520 pp in a twin and £580+ pp single occupancy based on 40 people. The price will be reduced should more people go.
- This covers BA flights from Gatwick, 2 concerts, 2 dinners, ½ day walking excursion in Toulouse and professional fees.
- Martin will find out about the location of the hotel, the cost for children and how much deposit the company require. He will also email the itinerary to part reps to circulate and ask Tamsin to put it on the Members' page of the website. Action Martin
- We agree in principle to subsidising singers who may not be able to cover the whole cost of the trip. Possibility that the Jubilee Fund might help cover this, of subsidize the Tour in another way. Action Ken to consult the JF Trustees.
- We will be singing the Autumn/Winter programme.
- All details to be pulled together on an info sheet to go out to the Choir. Action Martin.

Come and Sing

- Discussed a number of proposed venues, none of which are "perfect".
- Jonathan is still looking into St Paul's Covent Garden. Action Jonathan.
- Kate will look into St Mary Abbots in High Street Kensington. Action Kate
- We thought that we should look for a centrally located church where we were likely to get a good passing trade. It is hoped that the event will raise funds and encourage new members to join us.
- Ruth's option of a church in Clapham was attractive on a number of fronts, and remains an option.
- We agreed Mozart Requiem to be a good choice of programme.
- Further thought needed on venues, once more info available. Sam to take forward.

Website

- We discussed the committee pages of the website and how to populate. Rachel to progress with Tamsin.
- Agreed to provide Sam with contact details for member's use. Action all.

Venue Summer Concert 2007

- Looking into Cadogan Hall (*update – now not a viable option. SJSS to be contacted next*)
- Would like a weekend concert – Paul can do 1st, 7th or 8th of July.
- Jonathan to check dates with hall and also to find out about the risers. Action Jonathan.
- Discussed possible alternative venues.

St. Stephen's

- Decided to continue to use the side door entrance arrangements. While the doorbell is extremely intrusive to rehearsals, the security of the Church is more protected through not using the Main Door. Part reps to try and explore any options with members who are likely to be late. Action Part reps.
- Choir members are encouraged to try to make rehearsal on time.

AOB

- Agreed to send card and complimentary tickets to Robert on his retirement as Warden of St Stephen's. Action Jonathan/Rachel.
- **Date of next meeting is 15 June 2006.** Normal time and place.

RS/SF