



# WHITEHALL CHOIR

## Whitehall Choir Committee meeting - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008

### Attending

Samantha Foley, Ken Holmes, Malcolm Todd, Laurence Grace, Kate Goulden, Liz Walton, Martin Humphreys, Rose Chandler, Miranda Douce.

### Apologies

Paul Spicer, Rachel Salisbury, Katherine Howes, Jonathan Williams, Ruth Eastman, Colin Altman, Richard Grafen.

### Minutes of last meeting – no matters arising

#### 1. Finance update

Budgeted concert income for Monteverdi concert increased to take account of final ticket price and for additional grants to be received from Josephine Baker Trust; costs of orchestra have increased slightly (extra lute required), but overall we are predicting a relatively healthy concert financially (although audience size at this new venue is very difficult to predict).

No changes to Banqueting Hall budget; Jonathan to chase up final paperwork from them. **Action: Jonathan.**

General budget – no major changes; cost of proposed photograph has yet to be included

Sam suggested that the Gift Aid claim could be a stand alone task to reduce Ken's / treasurer's workload. A job description is needed. **Action: Ken /Sam**

### Publicity:

We are unable to advertise future concert dates in the Vivaldi concert programme or on the St Martin's website. Proposed to try and distribute flyers outside after the concert. **Action: Martin**

Martin reported on the various publicity efforts for the Monteverdi 'Vespers':

- Holy Trinity Church will send out 800 flyers
- Other advertising taken in a number of publications and national newspapers
- Ruth is in contact with Classic FM and BBC 'In Tune'
- Liz offered to take flyers to local hotels

**Action: Martin/Ruth/All**

## **Come & Sing**

Malcolm was thanked for his efforts in sending a questionnaire to attendees at the 2 Come & Sing events and producing a report on the responses.

Total number of responses was a bit disappointing but showed:

- Overall high level of satisfaction
- Venue and location acceptable – few adverse comments
- Pointers to future possible repertoire
- Respondents considered their own level of sight-reading (self assessed as “limited) was a strong influence in their decision to attend
- Word of mouth strong influence
- No adverse comments on cost, therefore £15 acceptable, Value for money

Committee agreed that, in principle, it should be a regular event. Points to consider:

- How to encourage attendees especially in regards to sight-reading ability
- Repertoire may depend on specific need to fund-raise or not
- Date clash with bonfire night etc but agreed first weekend in November is preferred

## **Rehearsal issues**

Time-keeping- it has deteriorated; tends often to be the same people.

**Action: Part Reps**

Talking in the ranks has increased somewhat this term and is very frustrating for Paul Spicer – Part reps will e-mail their own sections pointing out the problem – but stressing that there is a balance to be struck rather than a requirement for silence!

**Action: Part Reps**

Chairs – Michael Growcott, and others, put out all available chairs as a service to the Choir, for which the Committee expressed their continued thanks. Recent issues over Choir layout to be resolved by part reps as far as practical, given the layout at St Stephens.

Rehearsal formation will be as for concert for the next few weeks. Part Reps will devise a seating plan for next term according to known numbers

**Action: Part Reps**

## **Choir Photograph**

Committee discussed the suggestion that the Choir needs some professional photographs to enhance our publicity. Quality of the photographer and other

practicalities were considered. Martin has a contact who would only charge a fraction of his normal rate. Alos Ruth has made some initial enquiries.

Agreed to pursue the idea and arrangements will be made.

**Action:Martin/Ruth/Sam**

### **Future Repertoire**

Summer Concert; Rose reported that all choir members will have to hire the music because of the range of items. A message will be circulated shortly

**Action:Rose/Sam**

Recording: Paul has produced a list of possible items for the Nov/Dec 2008 concert and Jan 2009 recording Discussion followed about potential availability and hire charges. The list needs refining in the light of availability and charges. Malcolm will enquire about copyright. Sam wants to keep the choir informed to engage interest

**Action: Sam/Paul/ Librarians /Malcolm**

### **Birmingham Bach Choir**

There is a proposal to combine with the BBC to perform the 'Missa Solemnis' in the Birmingham Symphony Hall in autumn 2009.

Discussion followed around the date, Saturday 24 October, logistics, effect on our programme for that term.

Conclusion: there is support in principle and Sam will contact BBC chairman

**Action: Sam**

### **Winchester**

Sam reported that about 30 members had expressed interest but not everyone is willing to commit and there is likely to be a part imbalance. After discussion it was reluctantly decided to drop the idea.

### **Audit**

The financial records are with the new Independent Examiner. The report must be with the Charity Commission by 31 May. Therefore the SGM will be on 13 May

**Action: Ken/Sam**

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 8.15pm

Dates of next meetings:

Thursday 1 May 2008

Monday 9 June 2008

SGM Tuesday 13 May 2008

AGM Tuesday 15 July 2008