



Whitehall Choir Committee Action Points



Meeting held on 21 January 2013 at St Stephens at 6.15pm

Present: Jonathan Williams (Chair), Patrick Houghton (Treasurer), Liz Walton (Secretary), Paul Spicer (Music Director) Ruth Eastman (publicity), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Mark Graver (Librarian), Martin Humphreys (Publicity), Katherine Herzberg (Ticket Management), Penny Prior (Ticket Management), Alistair Tolley (Tenor rep)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1 Apologies	Richard Grafen (web), Daniel Lambauer (Bass rep), Ben Nicolls (Competition)	
2 Last meeting action points and matters arising	Item 2: Brandenburg Festival: JW had not yet spoken to Bob Porter re a date for participation in the 2013 season. PS urged him to do so as he felt that the choir benefited from participating in the festival and we should ask to take part and if necessary suggest items we could perform. Item 11: JW was still to respond to Ken re questionnaire	JW to liaise with PS on possible programme items and then speak to Bob Porter JW
3 Auditions and choir numbers	KG reported that 5 sops, 2 altos and 1 each tenor and bass were likely to audition. The agreed balance for a full choir was 26 sops, 22 altos, 12 tenors and 18 basses. Possibly further new members might come on 22 nd . Current membership stood at 21 sops, 20 altos, 13 tenors and 13 basses so theoretically all the new people could be accepted if up to standard except possibly the tenor. Auditions were planned for 22 and 29 January.	
4 Update on budget for 2012-13 season	PH had produced update figures for spend to date against budget and projected spend for rest of the year. He had added in estimate for the concert at Le Manoir. Receipts from the St Margaret's concert were higher than expected which resulted in current projected deficit at end of the year being £2480 rather than the original budget projection of £5944	
5 Review of St Margaret's concert 23 November	In spite of a difficult acoustic during the afternoon rehearsal the concert went well once the audience was in and the receipts were good. It was unclear why so few programmes had been sold. Members are able to buy them at a discount and this should be highlighted to new members who might not be aware of the arrangement. The church staff were very welcoming. There was still a slight problem re lack of toilets but overall it was a venue worth considering for concerts in future years. On a general point it was agreed that Patrick's wife needed more support selling tickets and that a corps of volunteers should be established to help at concerts, although few would be needed for the next concert at SJSS	JW and PH to note re volunteers and raise again for summer concert
6 Christmas Concert 11 December	This was very successful with people staying on well after the end of the end of the concert. James Longford was grateful for his parting gift of a book of the piano collection at Finchcocks.	
7 Bach B Minor Mass SJSS 28 March 2013	RE had circulated a revised flyer with black behind some of the white wording. It was agreed this made more impact and an attractive flyer. MH reported that other publicity through the national press and other channels was in hand. He would pursue A boards and a banner with SJSS. PP reported that tickets would be available from the end of January for the choir and we should encourage people to buy through the choir as there was no booking fee. LW would ask whether an A3 poster could be displayed outside St Stephens	MH LW

<p>8 Banqueting House 70 Anniversary concert 1 July 2013</p>	<p>It was decided that the concert should be titled 'Gloriana' and cover a programme of music performed to celebrate the coronation in 1953. PS suggested Britten's Dances from Gloriana and the pieces in a Garland for the Queen which were performed at the opening of the RFH. PH would produce some costings for the party afterwards and LW explore whether glasses etc were available at the banqueting Hall.</p>	<p>MG to explore whether copies were available to hire</p>
<p>9 Come and Sing 18 May 2013</p>	<p>It was concluded that ideally this year PS should conduct all day as he only took the choir rehearsal in 2012. JW, PH and LW were to meet David Rawlins urgently to agree arrangements. PP agreed to manage on-line bookings. It was agreed that all those who have attended previous Come and Sing events should be circulated with details and a flyer produced as soon as details confirmed. It was agreed that the choir should be asked to pay £20 up front before the end of February in the same way as for the last event. PH would draw up a list and the choir asked to pay him direct.</p>	<p>JW to arrange meeting with DR asap</p> <p>JW to inform choir on 22./1 and PH to collect ticket money</p>
<p>10 Composition competition and recording</p>	<p>a) Competition: BN had drafted a brief for the Competition. The competition would be launched on 1 April and the winner would be announced at the beginning of December. Subject to minor amendments which PH would pass to BN the outline was agreed. PH had also produced a draft budget request to the Jubilee Fund to underwrite both competition and recording. The committee felt the figures could be an underestimate both for the Judges costs and the recording. PH would review them and then submit the request to the Trustees. It was agreed that overall PH should be the Committee lead on the competition, working with BN. PS agreed to consider and approach judges.</p> <p>b) Recording and St Albans concert: PS had passed a suggested programme to JW to consider. PH would liaise with recording manager and company and LW with St Albans re costs. Subject to final budget estimates It was agreed that members should be asked to contribute £50 each to the costs of the recording which would include a number of free discs. PS emphasised that it was vital that members should be asked to formally commit to participation in the recording as it was not feasible to go ahead and then have singers drop out at the last minute.</p> <p>It was agreed that the competition and recording should from now on be treated as a single project and planned as such.</p>	<p>PH to take forward with BN and Jubilee Fund Trustees</p> <p>PS to consider potential judges and liaise with JW</p> <p>PH, LW to pursue</p>
<p>11 Carol concerts at Le Manoir and St Stephens 2013</p>	<p>JW had confirmed with Le Manoir that the choir would sing on Monday 9 December. A sizeable fee had also been agreed. The choir would travel down mid afternoon and it had to be made clear that only about 30 singers would be needed. An extra rehearsal was needed on Saturday 7 December. LW would try to book St Stephens. It was also agreed that the St Stephens Carol concert should go ahead as planned on Tuesday 10 December, with essentially the same programme as that for Le Manoir.</p>	<p>JW to announce details to choir and finalise contract</p> <p>LW to pursue rehearsal venue.</p>
<p>12 Committee dates</p>	<p>Dates of future Committee meetings this season are: 11 March 2013 (<i>subsequently changed to 22 March</i>) 29 April 2013 17 June 2013</p>	
<p>13 AOB</p>	<p>LW raised concern about the length of Jephtha and asked whether the concert at SJSS on 15 November should begin earlier than 7.30. PS said he would look at the length and possible cuts and a suitable start time. SJHSS require the concert itself to finish by 10pm. PS was also investigating soloists for the performance.</p>	<p>PS to advise</p>