

## Whitehall Choir Committee Meeting: Sunday 19th April 2020

### Covid-19 response conference call #3 - agenda as per email of 15/04/2020

Attendees: Philip Pratley (PP) - Chair; Joanna Tomlinson (JT) - Music Director; Kate Goulden (KG) - Soprano Rep; Anne Courtney (AC) - Alto Rep; Ian Williamson (IW) - Bass Rep; Laura Lowenthal (LL) - Business Manager; Martin Humphreys (MH) - Publicity Manager; Sarah Rollinson (SR) - Treasurer; Richard Grafen (RG) - Webmaster; Alison Williams (AW) - Librarian; Aileen Stanton (AS) - Event Manager; Joanna Dacombe (JD) - Secretary.

Apologies: Simon Hunter (SH) - Tenor Rep; Antonia Romeo (AR) - President.

### Meeting Summary

#### Item 1. Chair: Overview

PP welcomed the committee, advising that this session would aim to confirm our plans up until the end of May. He confirmed that while the intention is still to hold an event of some kind in June, trying to plan at this stage is difficult. PP shared that the committee meeting on 30th April would be used to plan our Autumn schedule, discuss options for 2020/21 as a whole and look at our financial forecasting to avoid being over-exposed for the coming season.

#### Item 2. Upcoming online sessions

PP asked JT to take the committee through the schedule she had kindly put together for the coming half term's online rehearsals.

JT confirmed that she put together a mixed schedule covering a variety of topics across the next few weeks. This week's session would be around extending our musicianship, incorporating some advice on score annotation following a suggestion from one of the basses. Although we will not now be performing the Baltic programme this summer, JT advised she would like to start introducing the material as we will perform it at some stage. There will be an introduction to the overall programme, along with resources to help members get started on the two pieces we will do for now. JT confirmed that, in line with feedback from our last call, the majority of sessions would be all together as a full choir. There will be 2 sectional sessions in order to efficiently use the time and get the notes learnt. Ian Tindale has confirmed he will be able to be involved for these sessions. The part reps confirmed that they would be happy to hold a social session for their parts on the week they are not scheduled (**Action 1**). JT advised that the final session before half term would be on semi occluded vocal tract technical exercises, which can be difficult to do in our usual rehearsal format.

JT shared some further ideas she had put together in case we are not able to rehearse as normal by June. PP thanked JT and asked if there were any questions.

IW asked if there was any preparation required for Tuesday's session. JT advised that an email would be coming round but that no prep was required, other than revising the solfege hand signs if members have time and watching the recording of the last session for those who were unable to attend **(Action 2)**.

PP invited JT to share more information on the recent Sonoro fundraising videos for Holy Week, and asked that these and the Tenebrae BBC 4 performance be shared online. JT asked the committee if they thought there would be any appetite from members for a general update on things we know are going on online once every couple of weeks, or whether we continue to just do it via social media. AC advised that she and some of the Altos had started doing this already and had been sharing some resources. MH said that it was important to encourage people to visit our website and Facebook page, but that a social page for members would be useful. KG confirmed that she would be in favour of a central page updated regularly with content for members. A private members section of the choir's Facebook group was raised as an option, but it was thought that the website may be a better place to host this as not all members will be on Facebook. RG confirmed that he would be happy to keep a page on the website updated if we proceed with this option **(Action 3)**.

### **Item 3. AOB**

RG asked if we would continue to have fortnightly meetings. PP advised that they should not need to be as frequent going forward, but that we would be meeting for our longer committee meeting on 30th April as originally scheduled. RG asked if the minutes of the ad hoc committee meetings should be published on the website as well as the standard meeting minutes and PP confirmed **(Action 4)**.

MH confirmed that he was aiming to keep a regular flow of activity on social media as much as possible and had some further thoughts for upcoming content. MH advised that during the Bass session it was asked if there was any update on the tour. PP shared that it was looking unlikely we would be able to proceed as planned and we may need to delay it by a year, but that we would discuss further at our next committee meeting.

IW asked if part reps should share the full schedule for this half term or share it week by week, and it was confirmed that the full schedule would be sent out.

AW reminded the committee that if they were aware of any leavers, we need to check if they have hired Rachmaninov copies to return. AW advised she would send a list of all those with a copy to part reps for ease of reference **(Action 5)**. IW asked if there was any update on the extension request. AW shared that she sent the extension request immediately following the last meeting but unfortunately did not receive a response before all the libraries closed. Our loan was therefore extended without additional charge until the libraries re-open, when we should get a response regarding the extension request for the remainder of 2020. AW confirmed she thought it unlikely that we would not be able to borrow enough copies for those who need them, but hoped that we would be able to keep the existing ones to retain our markings.

JD advised that St Peter's had confirmed receipt of the cancellations and that she would send out the part rep email immediately following the call.

PP thanked JT again for her work on the schedule. He confirmed we would meet again on 30th and hopefully have further government guidance to be able to look beyond the May half-term sessions.

### **Actions Summary**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>
1	Hold an informal social meet up for members within each part on the week they are not scheduled for a sectional (5th May for T/B, 12th May for S/A)	Part reps
2	Send an email for part reps to cascade including the upcoming schedule with login details and the Baltic repertoire pdfs	JD
3	Look at the options and set up a central members' page to share resources and other performances and initiatives that may be of interest	MH
4	Publish meeting minutes on our website	RG
5	Send part reps a list of all members with hired Rachmaninov scores	AW