

Whitehall Choir
Minutes of the meeting held on
10 April 2017 at 1830 hours
St Peter's Eaton Square

Present: Jonathan Williams (Chair), Patrick Haighton (Treasurer), Richard Grafen (Webmaster), Mark Graver (Librarian), Martin Humphreys (Publicity Manager), Philip Pratley (pro tem Tenor Rep), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Penny Prior (Business Manager), Daniel Lambauer (Bass Rep), Jacky Erwteman (pro tem minutes Secretary).

Apologies: Paul Spicer (Music Director), Julie Dyg (Alto Rep)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Minutes of last meeting: matters arising not on Agenda	<p>i) PH had not yet spoken to Deb Dowdall about progress she was making with the application to the Lottery Fund.</p> <p>ii) PH would regularly circulate everyone on the database and all choir members with details of forthcoming concerts.</p> <p>iii) Ruth Eastman had been active with the facebook and twitter accounts.</p> <p>iv) Jo Tomlinson (JT) was considering which edition of "Joshua" to use. JW would speak to JT about what to write in the concert flyer and programme about choir recruitment; and also about having an open day.</p> <p>v) Cantus Novus: They have decided not to come this year but instead to come for Christmas 2018. JE to cancel the bookings with the Church for 8 & 9 December 2017 (done 12 April 2017).</p> <p>vi) Recruitment of new MD: JW recorded his thanks to the Committee for their helpful and well balanced discussion at the last Committee meeting which had proved enormously helpful. PH had carried out all the contract negotiations. Currently JT is the assistant Music Director for six months. The challenge now was to fill the vacant committee positions: Librarian Business Manager Alto Rep Secretary Ruth Eastman (RE) has volunteered to take on the role of Secretary. It was agreed that JW would speak to RE further about this and if she is willing, she could take over with immediate effect and her appointment would be ratified at the AGM. She is also currently managing the Social Media for the choir. Everyone should be encouraged to feed suitable material to RE for her to post on Facebook and Twitter. It was remarked that she is proactive with this and has good editorial skills. JW will ask her if she has the time to take on both roles as it makes a lot of sense if they are combined. KG, DL, and PPr agreed to remain as Soprano, Bass and Tenor reps, respectively to provide continuity for the new year under a new Music Director. Other Committee roles where the present incumbents were prepared to continue were: RG: Website MH: Publicity PH: Treasurer JW: Chair</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>JW</p> <p>JE</p> <p>JW</p>
Finances:	<p>PH referred to three previously circulated documents:</p> <p>The current management income and expense statement showed a current loss with low probability of recovery by the</p>	

	<p>year end.</p> <p>The cash flow graph showed how close the funds were to requiring an injection from the Jubilee fund, and projected that we would be entering the next year with a much lower level of funds than previous years.</p> <p>The events accounts showed how much the year's operations were affected by the SJSS concert in November 2016, but conversely, that he anticipated a surplus of £500 for the St Margaret's concert last week – the first surplus this year. The choir had sold 73 tickets, 48 had been sold on line and 39 on the door.</p> <p>The St Martin in the Fields concert had cost the choir £1600 in extra rehearsals, fee for a supplementary tenor, music provision, plus the allocation of two normal rehearsals from the April schedule.</p> <p>PH believed that subscriptions should not be raised as they were already comparatively high, therefore it was imperative to increase membership.</p> <p>PH would be speaking to Richard Heason at St John Smith Square to discuss the deadline for deciding ticket prices for the concert at St John Smith Square in November. JT had decided to use young professional soloists rather than students. This would be more expensive and there would be no trust financial support, but there would be more known names in the programme, giving a bigger profile on twitter and facebook. The total extra cost would be about £800, but the added prominence of the soloists should sell more tickets</p>	PH
Spring concert Thursday 6 April 2017 Venue	<p>A good concert and great venue. Mezzo was underpowered; baritone was superb.</p> <p>Possibility of another concert at St Margaret's, Westminster.</p>	
Summer concert Thursday 6 July 2017 St Peter's Eaton Square	<p>Term to start 25/4 with Helen Smee taking first rehearsal. Programme had been circulated to part reps. 1900 start. JW to remind PS to provide programme text for the flyer.</p> <p>The meeting discussed a present for Paul Spicer. The following options were discussed: Collage of Whitehall Choir programmes under Paul. Poster of our concert at Banqueting House with Choir members' signatures A present if could be sure it would be appreciated There was strong preference for one of the first two options.</p> <p>Food: M&S Party food Personalised Champagne – one bottle to be gifted to PS</p> <p>RG asked for directions as to what should be put on website about the party and Paul leaving – at present the website mentioned the concert only.</p> <p>The meeting agreed PPr's suggestion that the choir should be asked for only one contribution to PS's present and party food: voluntary for the present and a set amount for those staying for the party post concert.</p>	JW/PH JW
St John's Smith Sq	<p>"Joshua". Soloists booked. JT preparing words for programme. Music is in progress and ticket prices being sorted. MH</p>	

Friday 17 November 2017	suggesting finding out the date by which material had to be provided to St John Smith Square for mailing to friends of St John SS – not cheap but might be worth investigating. .	PH
Open Rehearsal	JT had it in mind to hold an open event where current members invited friends to come and join a Tuesday rehearsal at the start of term in September. The rehearsal to take place in the Church and would be followed by a social event. This was agreed in principle.	
Carol Concert	At present the Carol Concert was provisionally booked for 12 December (Secretary's note – it was not!). JT would like to hold on to it and to book provisionally 19 December to allow for extra rehearsal time. JE to check Church availability. (On 12 April, provisional bookings made for 12 and 19 December 2017.)	JE
Spring 2018 Concert	Brahms Requiem agreed as the headline piece at St James Piccadilly.	
Summer Concert 2018	American Programme: to include Bernstein Chichester Psalms at St Peter's Eaton Sq followed by a party. Agreed.	
Website Development	JT was keen on website development and believed our name was a barrier to recruitment. JT would like a new look, new branding. The AGM would be a good place to present new ideas. JW said the Committee should meet JT before the AGM where, MH said, the Committee could present to her a summary of all the good work that has been done already in the strategy workshops.	
Re-auditions	JT would like to hear the whole choir weekend 23/24 September.	
AGM	11 July 2017	
AOB	<p>MG: Has a lot of music in his loft ready listed. Committee agreed that this should be sold.</p> <p>KG i) Kate Hand wanted the choir to use cups rather than paper cups. The cups could be washed in the commercial dish washer. Permission required from the Church.</p> <p>ii) A soprano had complained about the 'whiffy' smell and had suggested that the carpet should be shampoo'd</p> <p>iii) There had been complaints about late arrivals to rehearsals. JW will again mention this at next rehearsal.</p>	JW
Date of Next Meeting	June TBA, 18 September, 6 November.	

The meeting ended at 2045 hours.