



Whitehall Choir Committee

Action Points from Meeting held on 18 June 2012 at 100 Parliament Street at 6.30 pm

Present: Jonathan Williams (Chair), Patrick Haighton (Treasurer), Liz Walton (Secretary), Ruth Eastman (Publicity), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Richard Grafen (Webmaster), Katherine Herzberg (Ticket Management), Martin Humphreys (Publicity), Ben Nicholls (Tenor Rep), Rachel Nixon (Publicity and programmes), Penny Prior (Ticket Management), Malcolm Todd (Bass Rep), Alison Williams (Alto Rep), Paul Spicer.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Apologies	Rose Chandler, Katherine Herzberg	
2. Minutes of last meeting	<p>Item 9: AGM and Committee elections: MT said that at the last meeting he had not suggested that a replacement for him as bass rep had been identified</p> <p>Item 11: PP pointed out that the meeting had agreed that the officers should <u>ask</u> the Jubilee Fund trustees whether the fund would offer support for the workshop. PH in response said that he felt the costs of the workshop should be met from general funds as the workshop met one of the charitable objectives of the choir to provide instruction and promote choral singing. This was agreed and no call would be made on the Jubilee Fund.</p>	
3. Rossini Concert St Peters Eaton Square 26 June	<p>1. Arrangements: PS asked that the choir should be ready to rehearse from 3.30. PH had arrangements for interval refreshments in hand and his wife had kindly agreed to organise ticket selling and assist with refreshments. Men would wear black shirts no jackets, women long sleeve black</p> <p>2. Publicity and Tickets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Banners were up at the church (b) PP reported that ticket sales were extremely poor to date. JW and PS agreed to encourage members at the last rehearsal to buy tickets (c) RE had prepared an updated recruitment flyer and it was agreed this should be available at the back of St Peters and for members to distribute over the summer break. The committee thanked RE for her foresight on this. <p>3 Programme Thanks were recorded to William Longford for the work he had put in on preparing the programme.</p>	JW to advise choir on 19 June
4 Brahms Requiem 12 May	<p>RE had compiled a helpful summary of feedback comments..These were mainly very positive and enthusiastic about the day but also included some constructive criticism in particular about the split of the day between the two conductors and about the venue and layout for the choir within the church.</p> <p>PH reported that the receipts once divided between the choir and orchestra meant that we had just about matched each choir members £20 contribution and the choir would end up with a surplus of between £900 and £1000 from the day. It was agreed that it was worth planning a similar day with the Whitehall orchestra for the next season but consideration should be given to PS conducting the whole day. Alternative venues should be explored in particular St Johns Waterloo.</p>	JW to discuss with David Rawlins. LW to get details from St Johns

5 Budget	PH reported that we were likely to end the year with a small surplus but he was still awaiting out turn figures from St Johns Smith Square in relation to the Handel concert. He was anxious to make his finance report to the AGM interesting to members . Suggestions included highlighting the value members got when subs were analysed in terms of cost per rehearsal; the need to stress how dependent the choir was on selling tickets for concerts, as a major source of our income. PS emphasised that these also represented value for money given the venues and quality of performance. PH recommended that the subs should not be increased in 2012/13 and the Committee agreed.	
6 St Margaret's Westminster concert 23 November	PS agreed to review the draft programme and drop one item as it was felt to be too long	PS as soon as possible to inform committee and librarian
7 Bach B Minor Mass March 2013	LW reported that the contract with SJSS had now been signed and PH confirmed that the orchestra was booked. PS agreed to arrange soloists	PS to follow up booking of soloists
8 Banqueting House anniversary concert 1 July 2013	Since the last meeting LW had negotiated with the Banqueting House a ticket price of £15 without meal but with use of the crypt for drinks after the concert. PS agreed to review the draft programme he had previously suggested as it was considered rather long and very challenging!	PS to suggest an amended programme

<p>9 Ideas for special events 2012 -2013 season</p>	<p>1: The Whitehall Orchestra had invited the choir to perform Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on 29 March 2014 at SJSS. The committee was not strongly in support of the idea. To discuss again at the first meeting of the new season and to consider whether to ask part reps to circulate members for their view of whether they wished to participate.</p> <p>2: Brandenburg Festival: Bob Porter had invited the choir to participate in the 2013 festival and it was suggested we could offer to perform the B minor Mass around the time of our concert at St Johns. However following exchange of dates between Bob and Paul there were no mutually convenient dates available.</p> <p>3: Come and Sing: with the Whitehall Orchestra - see Item 4 above to be programmed for May 2013. Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony and Dvorak Stabat Mater were suggested as possibilities.</p> <p>4:Choir Commission: it was agreed that to mark the 70th anniversary of the choir a short work on an Easter theme should be commissioned through a competition open to young composers under 30. Officers should ask the Jubilee Fund Trustees whether the fund could support the prize. The piece would be performed as part of the Easter 2014 concert and PS considered the winning work together with other items from this concert should be recorded shortly afterwards (i.e. late spring 2014). This would mean the arrangements should be confirmed by the end of 2012, the competition announced in early 2013 and the adjudication and winner chosen and announced autumn 2013. It was agreed that BN should take forward planning including specification, advertising of competition, suggestions for adjudicators etc and report back at next committee meeting. JW to outline proposal at the AGM.</p> <p>5 Choir Weekend: PS still had 22 /23 June 2013 available for a choir away weekend event. Holy Cross at Winchester was not available. Other possibilities should be explored and discussed at the AGM. Suggestions included St Mary's Portsea</p>	<p>JW to discuss at next meeting</p> <p>Officers to email Jubilee fund re support for a competition. BN to develop proposals for discussion September 2012</p>
<p>10 Choir Constitution</p>	<p>PH presented some suggested amendments to update the choir constitution to reflect the its current status and structure. The main amendments covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) inclusion of a reference to the Choir being a registered Charity; b) indication that the officers as registered trustees were responsible for the conduct of the choir; c) replacement of the requirement that one member of the committee be from DTI by a requirement that one member of the committee be responsible for liaison with DTI; d) removal of requirement that at least three members of the committee are civil servants; e) addition that the quorum of five members should include two of the officers of the committee; f) inclusion of reference to the Jubilee Fund and the requirement that three members of the choir be custodians of the Fund by formal request of the Committee. <p>The Committee were asked to let PH have any dissension to these proposals before the AGM on 10 July at which he would propose they were incorporated into a revised constitution</p>	<p>All to respond if necessary to PH prior to AGM</p>
<p>11 AGM 10 July</p>	<p>JN reminded the Committee to ensure nominations were in place and forwarded to Philip Pratley by 3 July. The Officers and PS would each present a report covering the past year's activities.</p>	

12 Committee dates for next season	LW would circulate again dates for next season's committee meetings. These were: 17 September 2012 19 November 2012 21 January 2013 11 March 2013 29 April 2013 17 June 2013	
13 AOB	RN reminded the choir that she would not be able to host future committee meetings. The choir thanked her for arranging the room in HMT for recent meetings. LW agreed to explore the possibility of using the room at the back of St Stephens or their Napier church hall in Vincent Square.	LW to liaise with St Stephens