

Whitehall Choir Committee Meeting, 19th March 2012

Attendees

Jonathan Williams

Patrick Haighton

Rose Chandler

Ruth Eastman

Martin Humphries

Malcolm Todd

Rachel Nixon

Richard Grafen

Kate Goulden

Penny Prior

Katherine Hertzberg

Ben Nicholls

Alison Williams

Apologies

Paul Spicer

Liz Walton

Lawrence Grace

1. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed.

2. Budget for 2010/11

The budget has been circulated to Choir members. There were 2 main points. Firstly, that James can be classified as an independent musician for budgetary purposes. Secondly, to confirm that we are writing off a number of cheques as previously agreed.

It is a legal requirement that the Choir agrees the accounts. This will be put to the Choir at the SGM on 20th March. **Action PH**

There was some discussion about the purpose of the Jubilee Fund and whether this ought to be reconsidered. The Jubilee Fund was established to mark the 50th anniversary of the Choir. It is only to be used to further the musical interests of the Choir and there are strict criteria against which we can spend. We only use the interest to keep the balance around £20,000 but we do borrow from the Fund e.g. when we made our CD. It was agreed to discuss this at a future committee meeting. **Action LW**

3. Budget for 2011/12

Currently we have not sold enough Handel tickets which will leave us with a big deficit. We agreed to ask Choir members to try to make one final push on ticket sales. The advert had gone into the press that weekend.

For the Brahms the orchestra is paying for its own share of the day. Choir participation is looking good with £950 taken from members already.

Regarding the general budget the Treasurer sees no significant issues. The Treasurer confirmed that the Come and Sing event that has taken place is included in the concerts line of the budget. The Come and Sing line is in relation to a further event which is budgeted for, but not yet planned.

Next month we will receive membership payments from new members at which point we will have a better picture of actuals for the year.

4. Mozart concert

The concert went well, and feedback was that Paul thought we sang well. However there were some issues with the management of the concert via the orchestra. We agreed to ask Philip Pratley to act as single point of contact with the Brandenburg Sinfonia for future concerts. **Action JW**

5. Handel concert – arrangements

We discussed the final arrangements for the concert including the timetable for the rehearsal and photo. Concert dress is black with black jackets for men. We agreed to remind ladies that skirts should be long and that trousers should be smart. **Action JW**

We recorded our thanks to William for all his work to produce a fantastic programme.

6. Future concerts

We need to start promoting the Brahms. We need to encourage all singers to come along whether they have sung it before or not. **Action Publicity Team.**

We confirmed we would be performing in German and discussed the possibility of holding a pre-rehearsal if people were nervous about this. Ben volunteered to play the piano for the rehearsal and for other occasions where James isn't available. We thanked Ben for his kind offer. We would consider an additional rehearsal at the next meeting. **Action JW/LW**

We have a booking on 28th March 2013 at St John's Smith Square. This is Maundy Thursday. It appears that there is a lunchtime concert that day which will mean our dress rehearsal will be later than usual. **Action LW to check booking details.**

We also have a future booking with Banqueting House. We agreed to make a decision on this depending on price. **Action LW**

We considered whether we should add a piano harmonium to the Rossini programme. We agreed to leave this to Paul to decide and Jonathan would discuss this with him. **Action JW/PS**

Patrick is visiting St Peter's – we asked him to check lighting, seating and parking. **Action PH**

7. Librarian role

Rose explained the main points around the librarian role from which she is stepping down. The main issue is the amount of driving as she has to drive to Hertfordshire to collect hire copies and then drive to London for rehearsals and for the concerts. Although theoretically it should be possible to borrow music from public libraries, this has not so far been possible. It is worth noting that the library system will be changing but we do not yet know the details of this. We discussed the possibility of developing a pool of drivers – there were a number of volunteers – we could help with the driving if the new librarian could manage the logistics. We agreed to arrange an event for volunteers – librarians and drivers - to consider future arrangements. We encourage members to volunteer for the role of librarian with these issues, and suggested mitigations, in mind. **Action JW.**

8. Special Events

We would like to do something to mark the Choir's 70 years and Paul's tenure with us. Ben suggested we do an English Cathedral tour, or a tour of Oxbridge colleges. He agreed to look into this. **Action BN**

We would also like to look into the possibility of commissioning a piece to mark the anniversary.

9. AOB

Next meeting on 30 April at 100 Parliament Street. **RN to book room for 18 June.**

We discussed whether we should advertise museums or other organisations in the programme, in exchange for promoting our concert. We agreed this would be at the Chairman's discretion.

We would remind Choir members to purchase from Amazon via our website. **Action JW**