

Whitehall Choir

Minutes of Committee meeting, 9th November 2018, 6.30pm, St Peter's Eaton Square

Present: Philip Pratley (Chair), Joanna Tomlinson (Music Director), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Sarah Rollinson (Alto Rep), Ian Williamson (Bass Rep), Martin Humphreys (Publicity Manager), Richard Grafen (Webmaster), Alison Williams (Librarian and minute taker for this meeting), Laura Lowenthal (Business Manager)

Apologies: Patrick Houghton (Treasurer), Ruth Eastman (Secretary), Simon Hunter (Tenor Rep)

<u>Discussion/action</u>	<u>Action by</u>
<u>1. Previous minutes</u>	
PP asked that these should be reviewed at the end of the meeting to check if everything had been actioned. (See 7 below)	
<u>2. Timings and choreography for 20th, 23rd and 24th November</u>	
There was a detailed discussion about the arrangements for the two final rehearsals and the November concert and actions were agreed.	
<u>3. Christmas concert 17th and 18th December</u>	
There was a detailed discussion about arrangements for the final rehearsal and Christmas performance and actions were agreed.	
<u>4. Developing and using our online presence</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">MH proposed continuing to use a gentle and persistent approach to developing our online presence. In discussion, the significance of Twitter was noted. RG would explore other channels. (Afternote: In preparation for 24 Nov concert, RE used Twitter to engage an encouraging group of commentators and supporters.)	MH/RG/RE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Agreed that we need to encourage choir members to generate potential content, e.g. fun shots from rehearsals. A smaller group can then use this material as appropriate. MH to set up a WhatsApp group to collect potential content. JT to say something at rehearsal to encourage people to generate material.	MH/JT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">PP proposed action for 2019 - review the website with particular reference to the landing page.	PP
<u>5. and 6. Financials and our 75th season and beyond - both items considered together</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Agreed that we should set ourselves the overall objective of increasing the Jubilee Fund from £25,000 to £30,000 by the end of next season both to mark our 75th season and to give additional security to the	All

<u>Discussion/action</u>	<u>Action by</u>
choir, as well as to provide for some adventurous programming such as the Creation.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas agreed to be pursued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A fund-raising social (e.g. meal + auction of promises) in the first quarter of 2019, probably a Friday evening. ○ Set a Choir target and encourage choir members to do their own fund-raising promotions; show progress against the target on the website. (Note that Bridget Gardiner has previously prepared a paper with small fund-raising ideas). ○ Matched giving by employer against subscription. 	All in 2019 agenda
<u>7. Outstanding points from last minutes</u>	
The following items from the last minutes still need to be followed up:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer discussion of the choir development options/proposals included by JT in her paper to the last meeting, with feedback obtained by part reps from their part members. PP/RE to include in next Committee agenda. 	PP/RE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2019 concert - identify actor. MH had a specific suggestion to follow up. 	MH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise Patrons. 	PP/PH/JT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise Friends scheme and material. 	PP/KG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolve IW's query re Jubilee fund - £22 discrepancy 	IW/PH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm venue booking dates: March 2020 - St Albans Holborn for Rachmaninov Vespers; November 2020 - Holy Trinity Sloane Square for Monteverdi Vespers 	RE
<u>8. AOB</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PP was especially pleased to be able to report that Antonia Romeo has agreed to be President. Creation concert is in her Departmental diary. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to check if the Whitehall Choir still has a piano in the basement of 1 Victoria Street. (Afternote: BEIS confirm it's theirs.) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KG asked if there was a policy on publicising other choir's events. It was agreed that we should use the members' page and flyers on the table at choir rehearsals to publicise events which might be of interest to choir members, and not generally circulate them by email. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH had been asked if choir events could be publicised in a Conservative party newsletter. It was agreed that care needs to be taken to ensure that the choir is apolitical. Members can, though, mention they sing in the Whitehall Choir and invite people to concerts. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key dates included with last Committee papers were circulated again after the meeting. [Also on Members' page of the website.] 	AW
<u>9. Date of next meeting</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 17th January 2019 at St Peter's 	All