

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Monday 15th March 2021 8pm via Zoom

1	<p>Present: Simon Durk (SD), Neil Fricker (NF), Keith Hamilton (KH), Liz Hamilton (LH), Gillian Jackson (GJ), Gill King (GK), Helen Milner (HM), Alison Vining (AV), Oliver Walker (OW), Pam Watkins (PW).</p> <p>Apologies: Elissa Renouf (ER).</p>	Action
2	<p>Minutes of Meeting 11th January 2021 The minutes were accepted as correct.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising HM will contact the patrons.</p>	HM
4	<p>Finance Update KH gave an update on the SCS finances as at today's date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscriptions received £5,345 (KH will send Gillian an updated spreadsheet) • Fundraising to date has raised £239 (including £27 from Amazon and £73 from Easyfundraising) • Interest received on the deposit account £4 - interest rates currently very low (0.01%) • Only payments made since the last meeting are OW's rehearsal fees of £550 for the Spring term, John Fletcher fees of £38 and payments of £125 each for the two Masterclasses (Robert Rice and Themba Mvula) • Funds in the bank £28,218 (COIF deposit account £18,800, current account £9,418) • Surplus income over expenditure to date £3,143. • Last year's books are with Carol to review. 	
5	<p>Update from working group on Covid-secure considerations</p> <p>a We have a Risk Assessment for rehearsals, but not performances. This will probably have to be overhauled when we can meet again.</p> <p>b From May 17: we could rehearse inside with no limits on numbers but some other limits e.g. windows, one-way systems etc. From June 21: it appears we might be back to normal but may have to wear masks.</p> <p>c It was felt there was no particular reason to meet to rehearse from May 17 as we would not be rehearsing for an event, we could not sit and chat and it might be very difficult to find a venue. It is not clear whether we will be able to find a rehearsal venue in September; Pam Price has offered to ask St. Alphege School, but it is probably too early to say at the moment. A September start seems the most realistic prospect. It was agreed to ask Solihull School again as a preference, but to have St Alphege Juniors as the second venue. PW will contact them later next term.</p>	PW
6	<p>Rehearsal and Concert Plans</p> <p>a Summer Term 2021 OW had suggested an outdoor social event and GK had offered her garden.</p> <p>b OW shared his aims and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable members to experience and perform a variety of choral works to an ambitious standard • To motivate members to develop the quality of their own singing and musicianship • To engage professional soloists, orchestras, conductors and composer to inspire and support the work of the choir • To grow the membership without compromising quality • To work as a musical resource for the borough of Solihull and beyond, aiming to engage as wide an audience as possible with the joy of choral music. <p>i <u>Alexander L'Estrange</u> This would draw together several strands of the above. To engage the community and vary the repertoire slightly. We would not necessarily use all of the styles which he teaches. OW spoke to him about a masterclass with him and his wife. OW would like to invite him to compose a piece of music for us and perhaps some primary children as well. He could also do an online session with us next term.</p> <p>ii <u>Summer 2021</u> Rehearsals start online from 21 April, half-term 2nd June. Online workshop: Alexander L'Estrange. Afternoon gathering and singalong: 26th June. Repertoire: Encores for Choirs, Over Jordan (Alan Simmons), By Popular Request, European Sacred Music. These are four books, but OW would like to return to these books in the next</p>	

	<p>few years. OW will think about which one could be taken out as the cost for all four is over £40. The choir will be asked to let SD know their thoughts on this. (<i>Post-meeting note: OW has suggested removing Over Jordan and By Popular Request from this list if choir members are unhappy with the costs.</i>)</p> <p>OW ran through his suggested plans for the next three years (see Appendix 1 and PowerPoint: Solihull Choral Society). This would be a rolling programme, with plans made more than one year ahead, at least four terms.</p> <p>iii <u>Musical Resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular rehearsal accompanist (£60 as of November 2019). The committee agreed this would be valuable. • Termly language coaches, as required. • Auditions to restart in Summer 2022: these would be an opportunity for OW to speak with singers about their own voices. • Appoint an honorary Choir Patron: e.g. Gaynor Keeble – she has worked with local choirs, she may like to sing with us. To be discussed at another meeting. • Formalise our link with Sinfonia of Birmingham: i.e. booking them three years in advance, reciprocal arrangements on websites/marketing, including orchestral music in concerts. OW's contact has stepped down as manager but the new person seems keen to keep the link going. OW feels they are very reasonable in price for the quality of playing. • Offer free access to workshops/singing days to local choirs and schools. This could help with attracting new members. <p>iv <u>Costs:</u></p> <p>OW had circulated a spreadsheet of estimated costs, based on prices from before lockdown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We hope that the Josephine Baker Trust will still be operational. • John Rutter apparently does not charge for his workshops although there are other costs associated with it, e.g. music hire. • Alexander L'Estrange: Composers charge by the minute for commissions: This is probably non-negotiable. The length of the piece would be negotiable. OW would suggest an accessible piece for SATB with a separate part for a children's choir (which choir to be decided). He would produce separate resources for the children's choir. Piano or organ accompaniment. His £250 fee for an online workshop might be negotiable; OW would like to ask for an online workshop to be included in the price. We would own the rights for the first performance, first recording, name at top of first page. He was keen for us to commission one of the pieces in his oratorio, GreenLove: Songs to Save the World, but OW was not sure that this would be appropriate for us. <p>The committee received the plans very well and felt it would be an excellent plan to re-launch the choir and to attract new audiences.</p> <p>OW will share a condensed version of this plan with the choir on Wednesday.</p>	
<p>7 a</p> <p>b</p> <p>c</p> <p>d</p>	<p>Relaunch</p> <p><u>Liaison with other choirs</u> Neil Fricker had sent some suggestions to the choir. The programme OW has suggested provides lots of opportunities to work with other choirs. Neil had sent some questions in advance of the meeting, and members of the committee were asked to reply to him.</p> <p><u>Membership</u> What can we do to re-engage existing members and attract new? Bursary scheme? Covered above and not discussed further.</p> <p><u>Audience</u> What can we do to re-engage and attract new audience? Covered above and not discussed further.</p> <p><u>Patrons</u> To be discussed in May.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Fundraising and Social Events Possible social event on 26th June.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Any Other Business None.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Dates of future meetings – 17 May 2021</p>	

Appendix 1 - Future Concerts - Updated 15.03.2021

Concert Date	Venue	Programme	Comments
2021/22 Season			
Summer 2021	Online	Workshop – Alexander L'Estrange	£250 "negotiable"
Autumn 2021 <i>Singing for Joy</i>	tbc	Workshop – You can sing but can you swing? Alexander L'Estrange	tbc – hopefully included in commission
13.11.21	tbc	Carmina Burana – Orff Feel the Spirit – Rutter Children's Choir Repertoire	Estimated costs: Orchestra £3,500, SATB soloists £1,200. Venue: est. £470 Total £5,170
11.12.21	tbc	Christmas Concert, incl. A. L'Estrange commission with St. Alphege Junior School	St Alphege Junior School Choir Donation £100 Organist £150 Venue donation: £280 (if Friary) Commission £3,600 (4 mins) Total: £4,130
Spring 2022 <i>Singing with Passion</i>	tbc	Workshop – Singing Passionately – John Butt	£400
26.03.22	tbc	Concert: St John Passion, Bach	Sinfonia of Birmingham £2,850 Evangelist £500 Soloists (SATBB) £750 (Josephine Baker) Venue: tbc Total: £4,100 excl. venue
Summer 2022 <i>Singing with Spirit</i>	tbc	Workshop with Themba Mvula including Gospel Favourites	donation Total: £570
18.06.22	tbc	Concert including Rutter "Feel the Spirit" and Gospel favourites	Pianist £150 Soloist £150 Total: £300
Autumn 2022 <i>The Music Makers</i>	tbc	John Rutter Workshop (including Faure Requiem)	Rutter £1,000 (potentially) Pianist £250 Total: £1,250
Autumn 2022	tbc	Cockaigne Overture, The Music Makers Elgar, Faure Requiem	Orchestra £3,500 Organist: £150 Soloists (2 x £400) £800 Venue: tbc Total: £4,450 excl. venue
Christmas 2022	tbc	To include Ceremony of Carols	Organist: £150 Harp £200 Soloists x 2 £100 Venue: tbc Total: £450 excl. venue
Spring 2023 <i>Hallelujah!</i>	tbc	Singing Day: Come and Sing The Armed Man, Jenkins	tbc

Spring 2023	tbc	Concert: Messiah Handel <i>? joint</i>	Orchestra £2,000 Organist: £200 Soloists (4x £150) £600 (Josephine Baker) Venue: tbc Total: £2,800 excl. venue
Summer 2023 Looking at the Stars	tbc	Concert including Esenvalds, Part and Whitacre	Pianist £150 Soloist £150 Venue: tbc Total: £300 excl. venue
Autumn 2023 Majestic Mozart	tbc	Singing Day: Mozart with Paul Spicer	
Autumn 2023	tbc	Mozart Concert: Magic Flute, Requiem, Coronation Mass	
Christmas 2023	tbc		
Spring 2024 Viva Italia!		Workshop: tbc	
Spring 2024		Concert: Petite Messe Solennelle - Rossini	
Summer 2024 Sacred & Profane		Concert: Opera Choruses	

Appendix 2 - Committee Members and Other Roles (Non-committee members in italics)

Chair	Helen Milner
Chair Elect	Simon Durk
Secretary	Alison Vining
Treasurer	Keith Hamilton
Membership Secretary	Gillian Jackson
Librarian	Gill King / <i>Paul Clark</i>
Marketing / Publicity	Elissa Renouf
Website and Tickets	Liz Hamilton
Design and IT Support	<i>Mark Emms</i>
Fundraising	<i>Pam Price</i>
Concert Management	<i>Mike Norris</i>
Bursaries	Gillian Jackson
Bookings	Pam Watkins
Committee Members	Neil Fricker
Section Reps	
1 st Sopranos	<i>Kathy Carter</i>
2 nd Sopranos	<i>Pam Price</i>
1 st Altos	<i>Janet Gibbins</i>
2 nd Altos	<i>Carolyn Small</i>
Tenors	<i>Mark Emms</i>
Basses	<i>Simon Durk</i>