

**Minutes of Committee Meeting
Monday 17th May 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), Elissa Renouf (ER), Alison Vining (AV), Oliver Walker (OW), Pam Watkins (PW). Apologies: None.</p>	Action
2	<p>Minutes of Meeting 15th March 2021 The minutes were accepted as correct.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a <u>Honorary patron</u> We need someone relatively local, or with a local connection. Suggestions included Gaynor Keeble, Roderick Williams, Nigel Short (of Tenebrae), Alexander l'Estrange and John Butt. It was agreed to see if John Butt could do a workshop on Bach, and to revisit this after both workshops.</p> <p>b <u>Liaison with other choirs</u> NF had produced a paper about this; everyone had been requested to respond with any ideas. He has received three replies and would welcome more. All were in favour of some form of liaison. A local group appeared to be preferred, although there were no specific suggestions. This should be discussed at future meetings and opportunities identified. Starting a conversation is the most important aspect at present. OW feels we should invite other choirs to join our singing day with Alexander l'Estrange (AL) on 2nd October. The main objective was to avoid local clashes of repertoire and dates. It was thought a diary for organisations in the West Midlands would be useful, even though it's difficult to avoid clashes. There were some suggestions of existing vehicles for dissemination of information. There were also some good suggestions of what we should sing which NF will forward to OW. Contacts: Birmingham Festival Choral Society (ER), Chandos (GK), Hampton Singers (SD), St. Alphege (AV), Solihull Symphony Orchestra (Mark Emms), Fellowship Singers (NF). EF will put together a letter/email about workshops and diary dates after discussing with OW and others.</p> <p>c <u>Patrons and Membership</u> HM will speak to Geoff Wyatt about this. It would be appropriate to contact the patrons now to see if they would like to continue. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to contact those members who have not joined the Zoom rehearsals and try to encourage them to come to the special events this term. OW agreed to do this – HM to provide names and contact details –</p> <p>d <u>Josephine Baker Trust</u> ER has written to the Josephine Baker Trust to establish the current position but has not yet heard back.</p>	<p>EF</p> <p>HM</p> <p>OW HM</p>
4	<p>Finance Update KH gave an update on the SCS finances as at today's date: <u>Treasurer's Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscriptions received since the last meeting £175, total to date £5,520. KH will send Gillian an updated spreadsheet. No subs received from James Acton (under 30?), Marilyn Homer or Helen Kiteley. Anticipating a further £140 will be received in June/ July in respect of the 2020/21 season. • Fundraising to date has raised £282 (including £27 from Amazon and £115 from Easyfundraising) • Deposit Account T&C changes: interest received on the deposit account still just £4 - interest rates currently very low (0.01%) • Only payments made since the last meeting are OW's rehearsal fees of £440 and Mark Emms fees of £120 for SCS website hosting and maintenance. • Funds in the bank £27,876 (COIF deposit account £18,800, current account £9,076) • Surplus income over expenditure to date £2,801 (this figure does not include the 2020/21 Gift Aid claim, which is in the course of preparation). • Carole Liddle has reviewed last year's accounts and raised this point "The grant received for the Josephine Baker Trust has been netted off the December soloist fees, strictly this should be in income, with the gross cost in expenditure. I might be inclined to put a note that the £660 is net, as the JB Trust might get a bit tetchy if not acknowledged, should they 	

	<p>ever ask to see a set of accounts". KH advised Carole that we thanked the Josephine Baker trust for their financial contribution towards the soloists' fees in the November 2019 concert programme, a copy of which was forwarded to the Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other than that, the 30 June 2020 accounts received a clean bill of health. • TicketTailor's terms and conditions have changed. £18.70 a month before lockdown, (we suspended our membership at lockdown). You can now either pay as you go or buy tickets. Either way it is fee based, 40p per ticket, or buy credits in advance. LH did some calculations based on what it would have cost: £187 under old system, £170 buying credits under new system. It was agreed to buy credits. 	
5	<p>Alexander l'Estrange Contract OW and KH are working on the detail. He will write the piece, to be available in September, around 4 minutes long, SATB, organ and/or piano and optional children's choir. His wife will write the text. To be performed at the December concert. SongSquad from St. Alphege School has been loosely engaged to sing the children's parts. AL will run a workshop on 2nd October, 10am – 4pm approx. It was agreed that an extra committee meeting should be convened to discuss this.</p>	AV
6	<p>Plans for the term</p> <p>a <u>Workshop 26 May</u> The online workshop with AL is on Wednesday 26 May. OW would like to invite others to join this, despite the late notice. This was agreed. Everyone should feel free to invite friends. OW will write something for the Newsletter which people can send on to others. OW will write some information and send to HM together with the pdf which will need to go out.</p> <p>b <u>Social gathering / singalong 26 June:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GK will send something to HM for the Newsletter. • It was agreed that we don't know what Covid restrictions are going to be; assuming it can go ahead it was agreed that people should bring their own chair, drink, food and music. A few people will lend gazebos. • Provisional timings (assuming it goes ahead): 1.5 hour singing, food and drink for 1 hour, then concert (to ourselves). 2pm to 6pm. • Just singing members, no guests. 	OW HM
7	<p>Rehearsals Autumn 2021</p> <p>a <u>Venue</u> PW has emailed Solihull School with a proposed set of dates based around the school timetable. OW will send a list of dates for next year to PW. OW anticipates that Solihull School will not commit and thinks a church might be more likely to welcome bookings. It is worth pursuing different avenues. AV will produce a Choir Diary with help from OW and PW. Concert or workshop venues have not been booked yet.</p> <p>b <u>Accompanist</u> OW will contact Alex Woodrow.</p>	OW AV OW
8	<p>Concert Plans</p> <p>a <u>Autumn 2021</u> Sinfonia of Birmingham: their committee is being very cautious about distancing. The only venue which could accommodate this, our choir and the children's choir is the Bushell Hall. The tiered staging in the Bushell Hall is owned by Chandos; we would need to use this. Olton Friary would be the preferred venue for the Christmas and Spring Concerts, Packington for the summer. Carmina Burana orchestra £3.5k. They have requested a rehearsal in advance of the concert, we would need to pay for the venue (£100 max) and OW's fee for that rehearsal. Agreed. OW has asked St Alphege children's choir if they could provide the children's parts; he has not heard anything back.</p> <p>b <u>Rest of 2021/22 Season</u> Updates, confirm preferred dates and venues All in OW's PowerPoint.</p>	
9	<p>Fundraising and social events Ideas for autumn/winter 2021 to be discussed in more detail at the September meeting.</p>	

<p>10 a</p>	<p>Any Other Business <u>Bursary Students</u> GJ would like to encourage bursary students by contacting schools and colleges before September. The proposal was £250, £100 paid directly and £150 towards the cost of singing lessons or coaching. They would also have music provided free. It was agreed to limit this to sixth form and older who are in full-time education. <i>Is there any money in the bursary fund?</i> No, there is none left. <i>Which money can be used to pay for this?</i> We used to do specific fundraising for the bursary scheme. KH to consult GW on historical restrictions.</p> <p>b <u>AGM and Committee Elections</u> GJ will step down as Membership Secretary. ER feels that someone else should take over publicity but is happy to stay on the committee or resign; it was suggested that publicity should be a team effort. The rest of the choir needs to be encouraged to take on more tasks.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Dates of future meetings – Date to be arranged for additional meeting this term, to discuss committee constitution and rules, publicity team, 26 June event, bursary students. First Committee meeting of 2021/22: 13 September, Proposed dates: 1 November, 10 January 2022, 14 March 2022, 16 May 2022 AGM: 22 September 2021.</p>	<p>AV</p>

Appendix 1 - Future Concerts - Updated 17.05.2021

Concert Date	Venue	Programme	Comments
2021/22 Season			
Summer 2021	Online	Workshop – Alexander L'Estrange	£1k (with October)
02.10.21 <i>Singing for Joy</i>	tbc	Workshop – You can sing but can you swing? Alexander L'Estrange	£1k (with May)
13.11.21	Bushell Hall?	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	Olton Friary?	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 £3,000 (4 mins) Total: £4,130
Spring 2022 <i>Singing with Passion</i>	tbc	Workshop – Singing Passionately – John Butt	£400
26.03.22	Olton Friary?	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>	Packington	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 The Music Makers	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 Hallelujah!	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: next page

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>
Soloist Liaison and contracts	<i>Janet Gibbins</i>
Bursaries	Gillian Jackson
Bookings	Pam Watkins
Committee Member	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>