



Minutes of Committee Meeting Monday 10th January 2022 7.30pm via Zoom

1	Present: Sue Coates (SC), Simon Durk (SD), Neil Fricker (NF), Keith Hamilton (KH), Gill King (GK), Sue Lawrence (SL), Helen Milner (HM), Alison Vining (AV), Oliver Walker (OW), Pam Watkins (PW). Apologies: None.	Action
2	Minutes of Meeting 1st November 2021 The minutes were accepted as correct. There were no matters arising.	
3	Matters Arising None.	
4	<p>Financial Report</p> <p><u>Concert Account</u> Satisfying the Covid rules and regulations has affected how many tickets we can sell, however we sold 146 tickets for Carmina Burana (Bushell Hall) and 137 for Follow the Light (The Friary) (we had four cancellations for this concert i.e. only 133 attended on the night, in compliance with The Friary's reduced 135 seating capacity) Ticket receipts (net of Stripe/Zettle fees) were £2,041 for the Autumn concert and £1,830 for Christmas. As total concert expenditure was £7,420 for Carmina Burana and £1,193 for Follow the Light, this has resulted in a deficit of £5,379 (budget – loss of £5,875) and a surplus of £637 (budget-loss of £125) respectively Budgeted costs of £200 still to come in respect of the Christmas concert (being our usual donation to The Friary) The Committee should be aware that we are budgeting for a further loss of £4,825 on the Spring concert St John Passion (venue for this concert tba)</p> <p><u>General Account</u> Subscriptions received to date total £6,415 (outstanding instalments due for 2021/22 a further £840) Interest received on the COIF deposit account £1 - interest rates currently very low (0.01%) . General payments made to date comprise rehearsal fees of £2,580, rehearsal venue fees of £397, Making Music subscription and insurance £295 and sundry costs of £213 (includes 4 x £16 instalments paid under a 12-month initial subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud, software used by Mark Emms to design our posters and programmes).</p> <p><u>Fundraising Account</u> Fundraising to date has raised £1,133 (including £640 from Patrons, £262 from Silent Auction, £75 from Amazon/ Easyfundraising, and £156 donations in lieu of tickets). Carol singing at the Forest Hotel: KH has sent an invoice which he will chase as they have not yet paid.</p> <p><u>Choir Development Fund</u> Tickets sales for the October 'You Can Sing ... But Can You Swing?!' workshop totalled £486, costs incurred were £105 for the accompanist and £375 for Joanna L'Estrange (this amount has still not been invoiced to SCS) (included in Accrued Liabilities in the accounts).</p> <p><u>Society Funds</u> Bank balances total £23,717 (COIF deposit account £18,800, current account £4,917). Surplus of expenditure over income to date is £296. It was agreed that approx. £4.5k should be moved from the Deposit account to cover expenses in early March to cover expenses for the March concert. This will leave approx. £14.5k in the Deposit Account. (SD proposed, SL seconded.)</p>	

5	<p>Review of November and December Concerts</p> <p>Music and brief mention of Covid.</p> <p>OW was very pleased with both concerts. The November concert was a great team effort by everybody. Solihull School offered it at a budget price of £350 which was appreciated. It boosted our ties with Chandos, hiring the staging.</p> <p>Christmas: it was a shame that the Friary restricted the numbers.</p> <p>The atmosphere was very good and the new piece very well received.</p> <p>SongSquad was very good and their contributions was appreciated. Allison Taylor wrote and said she enjoyed it. It was agreed to make a £100 donation to them; AV to ask how to do this.</p> <p>In the past, we have always made a £200 donation to the Friary for the use of the church; this was agreed.</p>	
6	<p>Future Concerts</p> <p><u>March 2022 Venue? Will we have enough singers? Covid Survey?</u></p> <p>PW has asked Solihull School whether the chapel is available as Olton Friary have such strict rules on numbers.</p> <p>Numbers of singers needs to be borne in mind as there were so few at the first rehearsal. It was agreed that it would be worth approaching some of the young people who sang at the Carmina Burana to see if they would like to join in a more formal capacity, e.g. as bursary students. OW will follow this up with Pam Price.</p> <p>There have been 27 responses to the Covid survey already; HM will send a report with the answers. SL has some masks which are good for singing and will bring them to rehearsal on Wednesday to show. All choir members should wear masks and if not, explain why to SD or OW. OW does not feel the need for a screen.</p> <p>Soloists: There are five soloists, the Evangelist and four smaller roles. Originally, we intended to use the Josephine Baker Trust for the other roles. Elissa has not had much success in contacting the JB Trust for this concert. KH will try to help Elissa with who to contact. If this does not prove possible, further discussion about how much to pay soloists will be needed. OW advised that £350 plus travel expenses would be a normal amount.</p> <p>Covid Cancellations. OW has had no contract with the orchestra, so is not sure what our liability would be if the concert has to be cancelled due to Covid; OW will ask them.</p> <p>If we need to</p> <p><u>John Butt St John workshop</u></p> <p>It is proposed to run a joint event with the Nottingham Bach Choir on 5th March. The cost would be split and it would be hosted at Repton. OW proposes that Repton pays the fee, accompanist and refreshments and invoices the two choirs.</p> <p><u>June 2022</u></p> <p>Alex Woodro will leave Solihull at the end of this academic year, so has resigned as our accompanist. He would like to play for the summer concert as his last one.</p> <p>PW will contact the Packington Estate to find out if we can use the church and whether they have any social distancing requirements.</p> <p>Music is John Rutter “Feel the Spirit” which will cover half the programme. “Encores for Choirs” will be used for the other half.</p> <p><u>Themba Mvula</u></p> <p>OW will find out if Themba Mvula would be available for a workshop in the Summer Term.</p> <p><u>2022/23 proposals</u></p> <p>To be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Choir Feedback</p> <p>Janet Mercer raised several questions for the AGM at late notice. KH and SD met her on Friday. She likes the range of music. She would like to choir to reach out to others. She was concerned about the subscription which had prohibited one person from singing.</p>	
8	<p>Auditions</p> <p>Most committee members felt that auditions are valuable and helpful.</p> <p>OW feels that people do not need to be able to sight-read in order to join the choir.</p> <p>He feels that auditions are useful to gauge people’s voices and ensuring people are on the right voice part.</p> <p>It was agreed that the word “audition” is not helpful. The website suggests it is a voice test. It is not the right time to re-introduce voice tests at the moment; perhaps in the summer.</p>	
9	<p>Patrons and Bursary Students</p>	

	<p>We need to encourage more patrons. They get four concert tickets, invitations to social events and to watch rehearsals, the Newsletter.</p> <p>KH wrote to everyone who had left the choir in the last few years to ask if they would like to be patrons – they either did not reply or said no. Other avenues also were unsuccessful. It was suggested that we ask a local celebrity to be an honorary patron.</p> <p>In the past it has been suggested that businesses or individuals could be asked to sponsor part or all of a concert but this is difficult in the present climate.</p> <p>We used to have bursary students from the Conservatoire, however OW commented that it is a different institution from what it used to be.</p> <p>Gillian has contacted all the schools and had no responses.</p>	
	OW left the meeting at this point.	
10	<p>Safeguarding Policy</p> <p>A policy is in existence, written by Cornelia. AV will circulate and SL will ask her if any changes are needed.</p>	
11	<p>Website, Social Media and Publicity</p> <p>Mark has set up a members' area with a committee area. Mark has to post information on these areas. At present minutes of the committee meetings are in the committee area. HM will discuss whether these can be put in the choir area and find out the password.</p> <p>KH would like a more organised procedure to track whether new members have paid their subscriptions.</p>	
12	<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>SL asked if all committee members could be pro-active in ensuring that SL or SC are aware of new choir members. It was agreed that new members should be asked for subs pro-rata, e.g. two thirds if they join the choir in January.</p>	
13	<p>Fundraising</p> <p>Pam Price had offered to organise a large event e.g. a quiz. However, due to the Covid situation it was thought this might not be possible at the moment.</p> <p>The raffle for the hampers raised approx. £460</p>	
14	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>	
15	<p>Dates of future meetings –</p> <p>Proposed dates: 14 March 2022, 16 May 2022</p> <p>It was agreed to meet via Zoom by preference.</p> <p>AGM: 21 September 2022.</p>	

Appendix 1 - Future Concerts - Updated 10.01.2022

Concert Date	Venue	Programme	Comments
2021/22 Season			
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) £1,500 Venue: tbc Total: £4,100 excl. venue
Summer 2022 <i>Singing with Spirit</i>	tbc	Workshop with Themba Mvula including Gospel Favourites	£350 to Themba. OW rehearsal fee Total: £570

18.06.22	Packington	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 (Non-committee members in italics)

Chair	Simon Durk
Secretary	Alison Vining
Treasurer	Keith Hamilton
Membership Secretary	Sue Lawrence / <i>Sue Coates</i>
Librarian	Gill King / <i>Paul Clark</i>
Marketing / Publicity	Elissa Renouf
Bookings	Pam Watkins
Newsletter	Helen Milner
Committee Member	Neil Fricker
<i>Website and Tickets</i>	<i>Liz Hamilton</i>
<i>Design and IT Support</i>	<i>Mark Emms</i>
<i>Fundraising</i>	<i>Pam Price</i>
<i>Concert Management</i>	<i>Mike Norris</i>
<i>Soloist Liaison and contracts</i>	<i>Janet Gibbins</i>
<i>Bursaries</i>	<i>Gillian Jackson</i>
Section Reps	
1 st Sopranos	<i>Barbara Williams</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>David Lewis</i>