

# King's Lynn Festival Chorus

## Committee Meeting

held on

**Tuesday 26 October 2010**

**The Priory, Magdalen 7:30pm**

**Present:** Nick Balaam, Mandy Claydon, Keith Macleod, Sue Stewart, Fiona Ross,  
Penny Gillies, Nicola Berns (NBn), Helen Herbert, Andrew Stewart, Tom Appleton

**Apologies:** Jan Willson, Anne Peppitt, Penny Matkin

The minutes of the meetings held on 23 July, 4 October and 11 October were agreed and signed as being a true record.

### Treasurers Report

- KM asked a number of questions within his new roll as Treasurer. It was felt that the best person to answer those queries was OH.
- KM proposed that the financial year be switched from 31 March to either 31 July or 31 August. The Committee agreed that some thought needed to be put into this suggestion.

### Librarians Report

- SS asked if some of the very old scores held in the library could be sold. TA suggested that everything should be held onto for future reference.

### **1. Matters Arising**

There were no matter arising.

### **2. Monteverdi Concert**

2a Emma Kirby (soloist) and Quint Essential have been notified of rehearsal times.

2b FR has booked a room at the Tudor Rose for Emma Kirby to use throughout the day@ £45.

2c The six soloist and Quint Essential will use the rooms at the back of St. Nicks as changing rooms, NB will check their suitability and arrange for a clothes rail if required.

2d The question of whether the visiting musicians find their own food etc before the concert or whether KLFC provide soup was raised. This will be looked into.

2e As the Corn Exchange can't provide the staging for this concert NB had obtained a quote from Viking in Norwich.

Lighting	£670	This includes LED lights and mixer desks
Staging	£760	This includes labour

It was felt that that the quote was too high, however the decision was to go ahead with Viking and NB will negotiate with them.

2f NB ran through the concert check list ensuring that everything was in hand.

The programmes, which includes a translation, will be sold at £1.50 each.

Stewards – FR has so far arranged for 12 stewards to be available but requires 2 more. She will make an announcement at the next rehearsal.

KM will organise the 4 floats needed plus £45 cash for the Tudor Rose.

Unicef are organising the refreshments – NB will write to confirm

2g PG informed the Committee that £7200 had been taken at the box office so far.

### **Action NB - check St.Nicks changing areas**

**liaise with Viking re staging & lighting**

**confirm refreshment arrangements with Unicef**

**KM - organise cash for 3X £25 floats 1X £50 float and £45 for Tudor Rose.**

**FR , - organise stewards**

**SS - investigate provision of simple food for musicians**

### **3**      **Christmas Carols in St. Nicks**

- 3a      Visiting musicians are Mardi Brass and Melanie Jones (harpists), TA will confirm rehearsal times with them and produce a draft programme asap.
- 3b      It was felt that a full printed programme was unnecessary and that just a carol sheet with a small biography would suffice, there will be no charge for these carol sheets.
- 3c      Staging and Lighting – The Corn Exchange cannot provide the staging for this concert either. TA wants a horse-shoe shape with two or three raised tiers. The old staging was discussed along with using the coffins but whilst this option would keep costs down Health and Safety could be an issue because of lack of hand rails.
- 3d      NB will confirm with Oliver Hendrie that the heating was booked at the same time as the Monteverdi order. The toilets have been ordered.
- 3e      Publicity – A mail shot went out with the Monteverdi publicity, one press release has been publicised so far and FR will follow this up with another nearer the time. 5000 postcards are on order using an Angel design.
- 3f      Unicef will be asked to provide refreshments.
- 3g      The choir will be asked to provide six mince pies each as is normal for the Christmas concert. TA is keen to have Christmas crackers in the pews , he will look into providing these.

- Action**    **TA - liaise with orchestra and harpist**  
                  **provide crackers**  
                  **NB – staging**  
                  **confirm heating with OH**  
                  **contact Unicef re. refreshments**  
                  **FR – produce carol sheet**  
                  **press release**

### **4**      **CD Recording**

TA has had no confirmation so far. MC has preliminarily booked St. Nicks.  
KM will produce a list of costings to present to Mardi Brass.  
Staging was discussed but a decision left until after the next two concerts.

- Action**    **KM – produce CD costing**

### **5.**      **Other Concerts**

- 5a      **Rochester** – NB has booked a coach, £465, which will leave King’s Lynn at 6:45am.  
                  Twenty five singers plus three guests will be attending.  
                  A packed lunch will be provided for all by the Bishop of Rochester  
                  Uniform will be all black, no ties, jewellery if desired.
- 5b      **Leziate** -    NB will talk to JB regarding the programme and the number of singers required.
- 5c      **Marham** -    There has so far been no response to NB’s email suggesting a fee of £300
- 5d      **Hunstanton 2012** – Correspondence is ongoing.
- 5e      **Blake** – Those participating will pay TA fees, school hire and printing costs.

- Action**    **NB - liaise with JB re Leziate**  
                  **investigate situation re Marham**

### **6**      **2011 Programme**

- 6a      Some of the chorus members have voiced concerns about the ability of the choir to perform **Spem in Alium**. This was discussed at length raising points for and against stretching the choir in this way. TA acknowledged concerns but has every faith that it is achievable. It was agreed that the feasibility of including Spem in the May and Tour programmes will be reviewed after the weekend rehearsal.

- 6b **Festival concert** – There will only be six weeks rehearsal time for the concert on July 17<sup>th</sup>. TA is in negotiations with Greshams school in the hope that after completing a 3 day workshop with him , some of the children could join KLFC for this concert.  
The programme has yet to be agreed.
- 6c **Tour 2011** – Singing venues include two cathedrals and one other. A programme of both sacred and secular music will be arranged.
- 6d **Christmas Oratorio** – It is proposed that this is held over two days because of the length of the performance (c. 3 hours) and the need for full rehearsal.  
Where tickets for both days are bought, these could be discounted..  
TA queried whether KLFC should also hold a normal carol service where the CD recorded at the beginning of the year could be launched.

**Action – decision on 2011 carol service**

- 7 **Tour 2011**  
Everything is in place and the deposit has been paid over.  
TA suggested that some of the men singers from his Southend choir be asked to join KLFC in an attempt to boost that section of the choir in the Spem in Alium. They would pay all their own expenses.

**Action TA - enquire within Southend Festival Chorus.**

- 8 **Purchase of staging**  
Given the recent problems with the hiring of staging the Chairman suggested that KLFC look into buying their own. NB will liaise with OH regarding possible grants and investigate options. Storage, transportation and erection had also to be considered.

**Action NB - investigate options with OH**

- 9 **Welcome Letter**  
All new comers to the chorus receive a 'Welcome Letter' detailing the key aspects of the choir. NB felt that the letter needs updating . There had been a suggestion that there should be a newsletter for existing members. However it was felt that the choir notice board and the KLFC website were very useful to pass on information to those already in the choir and should be updated regularly with all current information.

**Action NB - revise welcome letter**

- 10 **Training Choir**  
HH had contacted Harlow Chorus who run a successful training choir. Details of how the training choir was set up and how it runs was passed onto the Committee.  
NB referred to a report from *Making Music* that he had previously circulated, which advised taking care in identifying exactly why a training choir is wanted, and who to target. It was pointed out that we should take account of the many existing choirs in the area and consider working with some of them on training initiatives. HH will investigate all local choirs within a 20 mile radius of King's Lynn. TA felt that some members of the main choir would benefit from and enjoy many parts of the training.

**Action HH - compile details of local choirs**

- 11 **Fund Raising**  
NB suggests that fund raising for a specific cause, i.e. purchase of staging, should be encouraged. KM will seek sponsors.  
Permission was given to HH to set up a weekly cake raffle within the choir.

**Action KM - sponsors  
HH - raffle**

**12 Committee Responsibilities**

The allocation of jobs within the Committee needs to be re-defined. NB referred to the list of specific tasks which need to be carried out before any concert, plus there are other responsibilities for the weekly running of the choir. NB will send round an email to the Committee detailing what is required.

SS kindly volunteered to take responsibility for the booking of rehearsal venues. MC will forward proposed dates for next term.

**Action NB - email committee identifying areas of responsibility that need to be covered  
MC - rehearsal dates to SS**

**13 AOB**

13a An email from a chorus member had suggested that stronger singers be encouraged to sit at the rear during rehearsals to help support others. TA said that placing strong singers centrally in a section was thought to be helpful. However, it was generally felt that it should be left to the individual to choose where they sit within their section as choir rehearsals are also a social time for many members.

13b TA asked that the layout of the seating at rehearsals be changed to ensure that everyone could easily see him (and vice versa). This was agreed and will take effect immediately.

13c Following a recent rehearsal held in South Wootton Church TA confessed to being very unhappy with this venue. SS will look into finding somewhere else for 25 Nov when we next cannot use Springwood School.

13d Some chorus members had asked that the choir has the chance to sing some of its old pieces. SS will pass on examples of past repertoire to TA.

13e HH suggested that the KLFC web-site shows more photographs of the choir and maybe an immediate audible introduction. NBn will discuss ideas with Fraser Reich.

13f The question of advertising a 'Choir for Hire' was discussed and agreed that something along the lines of a Chamber Choir was evolving now with the Blake /Leziate/Marham/Old Hunstanton fixtures.

13g Although TA had responded to everyone who had contacted him regarding the summer auditions there was still some concern amongst the chorus that the scores they had achieved would now stand for two years. The only alternative to this would be annual auditions but this would probably not be financially viable because of the significant cost of auditioning the whole choir. TA is happy to consider anyone volunteering for extra events.

**Action SS - venue for 25 Nov  
examples of repertoire to TA  
NBn - liaison with FrR re website**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:15p.m.

Next Meeting

**Monday 29 November, 6:00pm**

Springwood School

**N D Balaam**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_