

King's Lynn Festival Chorus

Minutes of the

COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 23 September 2010

at

Lattice House, Gayton – 7:30pm

Present: Andrew Stewart, Jan Willson, Oliver Hendrie, Mandy Claydon, Sue Stewart, Fiona Ross, Penny Gillies, Anne Peppitt, Nick Balaam, Fraser Reich (DFR), John Bennett (JBt), Tom Appleton

Apologies: Pete Willson

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2010 were agreed and signed as being a true record.

1. Matters Arising

- 1.1 TA expressed his thanks and delight at the success of the Festival Concert.
- 1.2 AS thanked everyone involved in the summer auditions, particularly JW and MC. JW thanked TA for the professional and considerate way in which they had been carried out. TA reported that he was generally very pleased with the standard of singing he had heard over the audition weekend. AS had received an email of complaint from a member of the chorus regarding the electronic keyboard which had been used during the auditions. The contents of the email were read out to the Committee and were duly noted.

2. Treasurer's Report

- 2.1 OH had prepared his report for the forthcoming AGM and talked through each point with the Committee.
- 2.2 AS congratulated OH on his accurate tour budgeting.
- 2.3 PG informed the Committee that the Corn Exchange would offer an advance on the takings of the ticket sales for the Monteverdi concert. 241 tickets had been sold to date. OH said this wasn't necessary and that cash reserves were high enough to cover any slight loss on the concert.
- 2.4 FR expressed thanks to OH for his excellent stewardship of the choir's accounts.. This was unanimously seconded.

3. AGM 2010

- 3.1 The size of the Committee was discussed and it was decided that it would remain as per the Constitution at eleven members plus any co-options.
- 3.2 Those standing down from the Committee this year are:- Andrew Stewart- Chairman, Oliver Hendrie-Treasurer, Fraser Reich, Pete Willson, John Bennett.
- 3.3 The need for more new people to join the Committee was discussed . A number of those present expressed the view that it would be healthy to have competition for both offices and general membership. JBt suggested that chorus members should be approached individually to encourage them to put themselves forward.

4. Concerts

- 4.1 **Monteverdi Concert – 14 November** – OH queried whether formal contracts would be required for the soloists. TA confirmed that these were not necessary.
- 4.2 TA announced that it would not, after all, be possible to organise KLFC attendance at an open rehearsal of the Monteverdi Choir under John Elliott Gardiner.
- 4.3 The problem with lighting for the choir in St. Nicks was discussed at length. The option of buying our own stands and lighting could work out more expensive than hiring when purchase price, storage and insurance is taken into account. AS will investigate possible retailers.
- 4.4 The 'Preparing for a Concert' list was read out and various tasks assigned as below:

Liaise with Corn Exchange	JW/PG	Heating	OH	St. Johns Ambulance	JW
St. Nicks Keys and Organ install.	OH	Floats	OH	Programs	FR
Music stands for Quintessential	FR to liaise	Toilets	AS	Stewards	FR
Refreshments – Unicef to be asked	AS?	Cleaning on Monday	NB	Gifts for soloist-wine/rose	JW

The Organ has been booked and the staging is being arranged from the Corn Exchange by PG and JW.

- 4.5 FR will book a room at the Tudor Rose for Emma Kirkby to use during the day and as a changing room before the concert.
The orchestra can use the two rooms in St. Nicks as Male and Female changing rooms. If possible the rooms will be made more comfortable in advance.
- 4.6 TA will ask John Byron for the use of his keyboard during rehearsal on Thursday 11th November.
- 4.7 The Choir uniform will be all black.
- 4.8 TA will stand in for one of the basses if he is called away on a personal matter.
- 4.9 JB suggested inviting local dignitaries to the concert.
- 4.10 **Christmas Concert - 12 December**– SS asked when rehearsals for the Christmas concert were likely to start as music scores needed to be ordered. TA confirmed 15 November 2010.
- 4.11 DFR voiced the importance of having the Christmas concert publicity ready to distribute at the Monteverdi concert in November. NB said that this was what was planned.
- 4.12 Along with Mardi Brass, the harpist Melanie Jones would be joining us for the concert. The draft format of which is:
20 minutes KLFC - A Ceremony of Carols (Britten)
20 Minutes Mardi Brass
Interval
Carol Arrangements (by Mardi Brass) interspersed with congregational carols.
- 4.13 PG expressed concern regarding the erection of the corn exchange staging as there would be no labour available at that time of the year. Suggested it is left in the chapel after the Monteverdi concert. FR will contact Brian Chase to see if this is possible.

- 4.14 A full discussion took place regarding the price of tickets. The cost of putting on the concert was examined, comparisons to previous years were made and the possibility of a family ticket was considered.

It was agreed that the Chapel would have two pricing zones:

Zone 1- the centre seats from front to back and *Zone 2* – side pews on both sides.

Prices were then confirmed as

Zone 1	£16 (£14)
Zone 2	£12 (£10)
£5 for children under 16	

- 4.15 TA asked if it would be possible to have Christmas crackers in the pews. The problem of the mess left behind was raised but the idea will be considered.
- 4.16 **Leziate Carols** - NB will discuss with John Byron what is required in terms of balanced voices for a 20 strong choir. He will then ask for volunteers from the choir.

5 **2011 Programme Planning**

- 5.1 TA recommended that the Spring concert be called **English Splendour** and the repertoire will include Tallis' **Spem in Alium**. This will also be the rep. which is taken on tour. The Christmas concert will be held over two days when the chorus will perform **Bach's Christmas Oratorio**. Suggested dates for these concerts were **14/15 May 2011** and **10/11 December 2011**. MC will check availability of St. Nicholas Chapel for all dates.
- 5.2 The May concert will require intensive sectional rehearsals so the weekend of 29/30 January will follow the format of:
- **Saturday 29/1/11** – 8 choirs/ 5 voice parts – 3 voices on each part
1 choir rehearsing per hour
 - **Sunday 30/1/11** - Choirs 1-4 1 ½ hours in morning
Choirs 5-8 1 ½ hours in morning
All 8 choirs together for 2 hours in afternoon
- 5.3 The Christmas concert will be very expensive to put on but OH informed the Committee that the choir should be in a financial position to be able to stage it. Professional requirements would be (*tbc*) the 20 strong Iceni Ensemble and four soloists. The two 1½ hour concerts over the weekend of 10/11 Dec. would be split as follows:-
Saturday 10th Bach's Oratorio parts 1 – 3
Sunday 11th Bach's Oratorio parts 4 - 6
- 5.4 The **Festival Concert** will be held on **Sunday 17th July 2011**. TA is waiting for a response after initial contact. The venue will be the Corn Exchange and the rep. something which can be performed after only 6 weeks rehearsal time.

6 **Excursion to Rochester**

NB will ask the choir for a list of names of those who are interested in travelling down to Rochester, at the invitation of James Langstaff as the new Bishop, on Saturday 11 December 2010. Further details to be confirmed.

6a. **Sunday 10th October.**

A special service is being held in St. Margarets Church to wish James Langstaff farewell. A number of KLFC members have volunteered to join other choirs from the region. AS will say a few words on behalf of KLFC and present James with a small gift.

7 **Old Hunstanton Jubilee Celebrations 2012**

TA will not be available for the preliminarily suggested dates of 25-28 May 2012.

AS raised concerns about how much work would be involved in learning the Coronation Service and that only a 36 strong choir is required.

NB will write to Neville Mackinder and ask that he supply more details of what it is they're planning.

8. Choir Tour 28/5-1/6/11

Numbers are down from previous tours and a few more people are called for to allow us to qualify for the free places required. TA will ask for any further interest in the trip at the next rehearsal.

9. Blake Gig

TA will select 30 singers to perform in the Corn Exchange on Tuesday 2nd November 2010 with Blake. This selection will be based on performances during the summer auditions.

The repertoire is Nessun Dorma, Jerusalem and Hallelujah. All pieces will be sung from memory.

Extra rehearsals will be required (Thursday 28 October and from 6pm on Tuesday 2 November) and those singing will be required to pay TA's rehearsal fees.

Wendy Hendrie will be asked to book Springwood drama studio on 28th for this purpose.

10 Training Choir

TA is keen to set up a training choir to encourage youngsters and anyone with a good voice but no musical ability to take part and discover the joy of singing. He would like to run the project but accepts that costs could be a problem therefore suggests a qualified vocal coach and/or an apprentice conductor.

Funding could be available for such a training project.

A separate meeting was suggested to discuss this long term proposal.

10a Chamber Choir

The idea of a Chamber Choir with a core of say 42 voices was raised by TA. This choir could then be called upon for such projects as the Old Hunstanton concert and the Blake gig. The repertoire and team selected would be dependent on what was required. A young person who wanted to learn conducting could be part of this venture.

11. AOB

11.1 A vote of thanks to Helen Herbert for taking over the rehearsal refreshments was recorded.

11.2 A fixed price list for outside performances is required so that more accurate quotes can be given. This should be based on costs plus a margin of profit for the choir.

11.3 Mary Hurst has been a member of the choir for many years. Unfortunately due to ill health she feels she must step down. AS will write to her with best wishes and thanks.

11.4 Another prominent member of the choir has had a stroke but thankfully is recovering. MC will send a card with the best wishes from all.

11.5 A chorus member had approached FR and asked that the subject of singing some of our existing rep. be raised and that more 'fun stuff' be scheduled in the future.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 10:30pm

Thanks were given to John Bennett for his hospitality.

Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 26 October 2010

The Priory, Magdalen. 7:30pm

N.D.Balaam _____

Dated _____