

Scottish Chamber Choir Committee Meeting 29.11.2019

Minutes

79 Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh

<p>1. <b>Present:</b>Guen Innes, Pauline McClellan, , Marcia McDougall, Graham Drew, Walter Thomson, Stéphanie Robin, Valerie Holehouse, Iain McLarty <b>Apologies:</b>MildaZinkus</p>	
<p>2. <b>Minutes of last meeting:</b>Approved</p>	
<p>3. <b>Matters arising:</b> <b>Conducting scholar-</b> Stephanie has drafted an advert; not publicised yet- could have someone in post for half a season or two concerts – decision to leave till next season. Aim to recruit in September/ October 2020 when students return– aim to get someone for Jan 2021.  <b>AGM – amendment</b> made to constitution – to be put on to website with the change regarding 3 year rotation of committee members – Guen plans to step down next year. Most of the work for concert secretary is through the summer – aim to have someone for this summer 2020. PM to send out email and an announcement with role description – aim to have some overlap with Guen.</p>	<p>Action  SR IM  PM PM</p>
<p>4. <b>Follow-up from November concert:</b> interesting new venue – good to work with Simon again – expanding relationships with different musicians. Leighton’s son and his wife came and were very enthusiastic – good to have this connection with the composer. Generally went very well, good venue. Arrangement on stairs was difficult. Suggestion to do a concert in the afternoon or lunchtime – worth thinking about this – maybe two years hence; could try this at some stage. Different times could attract different population and help to build up audience.</p>	<p>SR</p>
<p>5. <b>Follow-up from choir consultation at AGM:</b> <b>Recruitment:</b> - Want to recruit in each voice. Encouraging to have more young people interested but sight reading skills have been lacking in those who have auditioned so far. <b>Options:</b> Young people leaving NYCOS: Pauline will speak to Julie about advertising here. Schools – unlikely to stay. GD will put posters up in Alison house now and start of January for recruitment. SR puts posters in music library and on Twitter and Facebook – follows all other choirs. Not a good idea to contact other choirs specifically regarding recruitment. Posters in hospitals. Singing teachers: can contact society of music teachers. <b>Website Feedback</b> – we come high on google ranking for ‘Scottish Choir’ but low on ‘Edinburgh Choir’ – changing the first line to Edinburgh-based choir has helped. Meta data contributes to this. Can pay to improve listing but expensive.  <b>Applying for lottery funding</b> – could apply for money for choral scholarships which would include doing workshops for young singers which Iain could be paid for. Hard to recruit and not a priority for now as tenors and basses now stronger. Lottery deadline of £1000 for simple application is next week – could put this in for collaboration with Meadows CO and CaltonConsort– ‘bringing people together.’  <b>Building an audience</b> – do one popular piece every two years e.g. Brahms</p>	<p>PM GD SR  PM</p>

<p><b>Venue</b> – single venue suggested – agreed at meeting this is not ideal as good to have different venues and towns.</p> <p><b>Avoiding clashes with other choirs</b> – music library has a diary but most choirs like to do concerts at the same time. Next year’s schedule is a bit different.</p> <p><b>Collecting information from the audience</b> eg email addresses – have done this in the past; not very successful. Would need an extra person for front of house to do this – would need to ask personally.</p> <p><b>Choir activities:</b> e.g. carol singing for charity – could be done in small groups – private events; or at a Mall. Perform at an art gallery or ‘interesting place’ e.g. Portrait gallery – but free; could try different things. With a youth choir/come and sing events. Vocal weekend workshop at a big house – Amy to investigate.</p> <p><b>Social events</b> – could do a hill walk in summer; ceilidh/ Burn’s supper – not much enthusiasm for the latter two</p>	<p>SR</p> <p>PM to ask Amy</p>
<p>6. <b>Next year’s schedule:</b> – music has been decided. March concert –programme notes discussed. Aim of this concert is to publicise ourselves – should have a good programme to include words of the songs, short biographies and something about International Women’s Day, but not necessarily much about the pieces as Iain could introduce them. Women’s day is a good advertising draw. Concert costing £230 for music so far plus Iain’s fee. Could do one programme between two rather than one each. Usually get a good audience there (120-150). Agreed to do 20 posters and lots of social media with a digital version of the poster but no flyers. We have advertising arrangements with other choirs but we may not have arrangements yet. SR will check with MT about advertisements.</p> <p><b>Concerts at Limekilns and Biggar</b> – Cost: Biggar – a percentage of the concert takings, Limekilns £20. Estimated audiences 80-100. Need to recoup £900 from these concerts – if not will eat into running costs of choir. Need to ask Biggar minister’s wife about rehearsal for 3.30-5.30. Need time to eat. PM will contact Biggar about use of church hall for choir between rehearsal and concert – we could hire the hall for £15/per hour or perhaps stay in the church. PM will ask for details of this and an idea of the contribution they wish for. The minister’s wife happy to put up concert posters; Catriona to put concert posters up on Facebook – SR will ask Catriona to do this, JM will write an article for local paper. Marcia will organise publicity in Limekilns and surrounds and will ask Fife members to distribute posters and flyers nearer the time. Martin has a website advertising Fife music. Limekilns church booked for rehearsal and will be available between. MM to organise local venue for food.</p> <p><u>June Music:</u> Theme of Farewell Parry: <i>Songs of Farewell</i>, Taverner <i>Song for Athene</i>, Whitaker <i>When David Heard</i></p> <p><u>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> June:</u> Guen will book rehearsal space. Could be partially social time depending on how the previous concert went.</p>	<p>SR</p> <p>SR</p> <p>PM</p> <p>SR JM MM</p> <p>GI</p>
<p>7. <b>Brahms Requiem update:</b> WT circulated a basic agreement regarding a memo of understanding – basic terms from Making Music website. Steering committee has been identified — needs to be an agreement about respective responsibilities of the musical directors and the conductor e.g.– who takes musical decisions and whether there will be joint rehearsals, who books venues and soloists, which chorus master is going to take it and who is the main leader. IM said this doesn’t necessarily need to be in the written agreement but they would decide between</p>	

<p>them all as professionals – this would have to be agreed between the 3 musical directors. WT will draw up the agreement and agree it with the others involved in the steering committee – Miles Morrison and Douglas Nicholson.</p> <p>Reiner has agreed to be the treasurer; no separate bank account but there is already a list of expenses for which each body will have responsibility. Soloists – raised by IM a while ago but no progress so far.</p> <p>Need to have a meeting between the groups responsible and the musical directors. Ideally the sooner the better – PM will contact the others – to decide finance/musical issues/soloists/extra musicians.</p> <p>St. Cuthbert’s booked for 7<sup>th</sup> November. Other thing to establish is insurance – who would be liable in the event of cancellation. Need to have clarity on respective responsibilities and liabilities. Insurers will need to know the arrangements.</p>	<p>WT</p> <p>PM</p> <p>GD</p>
<p>8. <b>Treasurer:</b>Card reader – only £19 to purchase a card reader if we get it by end November– charges 1.75% of the transaction. Needs a phone connected to internet – front of house person needs to do this and needs network. No contract or ongoing cost. Agreed that GD will purchase this.</p> <p>IM’s salary –increase rehearsal fee to £150 from January</p> <p>Subscriptions– will need to increase next year – to cover this would go up by £1.50/£2 month – from AGM.</p> <p>GD will contact individuals regarding payments not in line with agreed fees.</p>	<p>GD</p> <p>GD</p>
<p>9. <b>Publicity:</b> Twitter account: GI to retry this.</p> <p>Options for website: Sound bites on to the website – leave till Limekilns – Marcia’s husband would be able to record the concert.</p> <p>Personal quotes on the website from individual choir members – could have individuals who wanted to do it - Stephanie to send out questionnaire to choir members – could just have quotes from these responses.</p> <p>Jim was to join to discuss the website: unfortunately the change of venue for the meeting was not communicated to him – sincere apologies from MM and PM. He has sent a discussion paper to consider.</p>	<p>GI, SR, MM</p> <p>All</p>
<p>10. <b>Music:</b> Welcome to Valerie as new Librarian. Valerie has had a request to hire music from the SCC library – VH will send the music for hire list to Guen to put on Making Music website.</p>	<p>VH, GI</p>
<p>11. <b>Membership:</b> Discussion about attendance and musical discipline regarding first sopranos following on from a document sent by MZ. Emails will be sent to relevant parties – Iain and Milda will discuss what will be said regarding this.</p>	<p>IM, MZ</p>
<p>12. <b>Next meeting:Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm at SR’s house:</b> 93/6 Warrender Park Road, EH91EW Apologies MM: WT will do the minutes</p>	