

Minutes Scottish Chamber Choir Minutes 14.2.22 Online Meeting

	Action points
<p>1. Present: Brian Kerr (chair), Julie Morrice, Valerie Holehouse, Graham Drew, Marjory Lobban, Stéphanie Robin, Iain McLarty, Marcia McDougall, Apologies: Neil Dawson</p> <p>2. Minutes of last meeting approved; no matters arising</p>	
<p>3. March Concert Old St. Pauls: there will be a rehearsal 2pm-5pm on Sat 19th March. We would like Simon to be at the rehearsal at 2pm. Possibility of solo organ piece for concert to split up the first half. Julie will ask Simon. Durufle Messaien Poulenc – the organ piece would go on one side of the Messaien. Iain will put Simon in touch with Julie re biography Choir to use choir room for belongings; ideally avoid waiting in there. Tickets – will be online or by Credit card at the door-Guillaume will operate this. No cash. Wi-fi may not be a good signal. Have sold 15 tickets so far. Julie will ask about wi-fi. Also need people at door. Catherine will find two people for front of house with phones that can scan barcodes. Julie will send Stéphanie the OSP contact to put up posters. There will be no stewards at OSP. No social distancing in audience and they will have to wear masks.</p> <p>4. Websites and Fliers- not printing – please look at document from Stéphanie and let her know what you think. Does anyone have experience of using websites to advertise concerts? Could put money into targeting people who like choirs on Facebook. Also would get an idea of whether it was worth doing. Stéphanie will ask Catrina about this. If she hasn't experience of this Iain will help.</p> <p>5. Repertoire for summer concerts: Parry and Byrd 4 part mass. Space for further item – possibly a Judith Weir piece 'The Song Sung True' – She is Master of the Queen's Music. Iain increasingly conscious of programming music by people other than (deceased) white men. Also it is the Jubilee weekend so would fit with Judith Weir. Byrd plus Weir in one half, Parry in second half. Copies are available on a website which Iain will find for digital download. Could buy the originals or have them printed out - £3.94 per copy for 30+, £2.10 per copy for digital. Valerie will check with Martin if he can do this. Aim for 40 copies.</p>	<p>Iain</p> <p>Iain</p> <p>Julie, Stéphanie</p> <p>Catherine (Julie to ask her)</p> <p>All – feedback to Stéphanie</p> <p>Stéphanie</p> <p>Iain Valerie</p>
<p>6. Repertoire for further ahead:</p> <p>5 clear principles from Iain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There should be a range of composers and styles over the course of a season and over these three years, from the Renaissance to Contemporary (including new commissions) and both secular and sacred repertoire. ○ Each season should include a few popular pieces which singers enjoy performing and which draw an audience. ○ Consider diversity in programming for every concert aiming to ensure that we move away from programmes that are exclusively music by white men (potentially except where a programme is a single piece). ○ Work to a budget each year which covers both music and musicians but also look at opportunities to apply for funding over this period. ○ Consider how to do things which vary concert formats (previous examples include Shakespeare programme with actors, Pärt/Bach/Jackson programme using space in a different way, St Giles' at Six). Further collaborations possible. <p>Iain asking for feedback on these principles. Iain's role is to come up with a programme</p>	<p>All – feedback to Iain</p>

would plan the programmes and can bring these to the committee for comment. General support for these principles.

Suggestions for future repertoire. Bach motets esp Komm Jesu Komm, Haydn Masses, Rossini Mass acc by chamber organs, Handel. See list from previous AGM for more ideas.

- 7. Facilitate conversation with choi over repertoire:** An idea was for the choir to bring pieces to listen to at one of the rehearsals. Could do this to help people explore things together. **Iain** to look for the pieces people brought to the zoom rehearsals. Could remind people electronically and at a rehearsal to bring ideas. Invite a contribution from all choir members that will help us shape programmes for next three years and also to tell them about the principles. Would like the ideas before the summer – could do 30-40 minutes before a rehearsal – facilitated conversation. To do this **on either first or second rehearsal after March concert e.g. 21st March**. Would need to give them warning ahead of the March concert as an opportunity to look at different music. **Julie** will ask Milda if she would be interested in helping with this. If not **Iain** is happy to facilitate.

Iain

- 8. Arrangements for Brahms concert on 12th November.** Brian will bring together the steering group in May to revisit the decisions and what needs to be done – venue is booked, date established. There have been some meetings about it over the last 2 years. Rory Wilson is running Calton Consort at the moment. Thank you to Brian for taking this on.

Julie

- 9. Vacant concert secretary post.** Brian and Marcia can deal with the Summer concerts. Julie has a document from Guen describing the duties of the post. **Brian and Julie** are dealing with Stuart's Melville college. **Stéphanie** is contacting venues anyway and could help. Could approach some of the newer members. Neil has already handed over the summer concerts.

Brian

- 10. Membership categories:** Graham has done a useful note on this:

Brian and Marcia

There has been much discussion on the subject of subs, complicated by invited singers; deputies and those wishing to sing for only one "session".

Subscription for membership, as laid out in the constitution, is an annual sum. For convenience only, members are allowed to pay that sum monthly. However there is no such thing as a monthly subscription. The annual sub is £168. The year starts on 1st July.

Two years ago it was agreed that since the year was effectively split into 3 "sessions" (with occasional exceptions), singers wishing to participate in a single session would be asked to pay one third of the annual subscription for the privilege. Since a session is usually 3 months long this equates to a monthly fee of one ninth of the annual sub.

Rather than set up a whole raft of possible payments, I propose that we establish, constitutionally, a temporary membership status, with a monthly sub equal to one ninth of the annual amount rounded up to whole pounds.

The temporary membership fee would be £19 per month. It would then be applicable to members wishing to sing in one concert, and to deputies, and account for the fact that deputies might join in the middle of a set of rehearsals. 50% student rate still applies.

We agreed there would be three categories for members

1. Permanent – would expect to sing in each concert but could miss occasional concerts; would however pay for the whole year.

2. Deputies (Temporary members) who come in occasionally; would pay for the session attended (i.e 1/3 of yearly fee or £19 per month)

3. Invitees **would not be charged.**

There are some members who don't wish to pay the whole subscription every year but if not singing regularly then they should be a deputy not a permanent member. If someone leaves before the end of the year they would be expected to pay for the missing months except in exceptional circumstances.

Invitees – should be invited with the knowledge of at least the conductor and membership secretary – should inform the whole committee. Need to ensure we know exactly what people are (deputy/invitee/full member) and what they are expected to do. **Marjory** will write something about this.

Need to find out where the *policies and procedures* are lodged. E.g. policy on attendance **Iain** and **Milda** wrote.

For further discussion – **should we have a code of practice to pass on to new members?**

11. Scholarships – Not much interest in tenor scholarship – currently not essential. One enquiry was for March concert – still on a list – **Marjory** to chase him up to join as a permanent member to audition.

12. Wilma – unavailable in first 2 weeks of September – would like something instead in 2023

13. Storage of music: too much: 20 boxes or so and storage is an issue. There are fewer than 30 sets of photocopies – could get rid of these. Options: – sell, pay for storage or find somewhere else. 90 sets have >24 copies, 30 have fewer than 23 copies. We lend it out for £15-20 per set. Difficult to justify selling it as would be a slow process. We should hold on to more contemporary music and some things which may be done repeatedly. Are we charging too little to lend? Libraries e.g. Edinburgh University Library/City Library – worth asking if they would be interested in taking some of the music either on a storage for us basis or we could sell it to them - **VH.VH** to send Jim info on new music we have for the website. Can rent it out to support our own activities, but not for making profits. **Iain** to look at the list of what remains and decide what to hold on to. Put back on agenda. **VH** will send **Iain** a list of the music. Also need to know what is a commission/what is bought in.

14. Christmas 2022: Greenbank – not confirmed – **JM** will confirm with Greenbank and will confirm next time.

15. Date of next meeting: Friday 29th April. Apologies from **Marcia**

Marjory

Julie

Marjory

Iain

Valerie

Julie