

Minute of Scottish Chamber Choir Committee meeting.

Friday 29 April, 7.30pm. Online meeting.

1. PRESENT

Brian Kerr (chair), Julie Morrice, Marjory Lobban, Graham Drew, Stéphanie Robin, Valerie Holehouse, Iain McLarty

Apologies - Marcia McDougall

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Approved.

Matters arising

a) March concert at Old Saint Paul's. 110 tickets sold; made a small loss. Thanks to Marjory and Stéphanie for FoH work.

OSP staffing a little minimal. Getting into venue was slow. Bear in mind if we book OSP again.

b) A note of guidance/expectation for all choir members needs to be updated and (re)circulated to all members. **Brian** will take responsibility for taking that forward with help from **Marjory**. It has been mentioned at AGMs before so check back on what has been said.

3. LIBRARY

Iain to look through and decide what should be kept or discarded. **Valerie and Julie** to look at which pieces were choir commissions. Still a problem with storage. **Valerie** to ask other choirs how they store their music. Photocopies to be thrown out.

4. SUMMER CONCERTS

Limekilns - **Julie** to ask Marcia how arrangements are going. FoH people needed?

Rosslyn - one hour rehearsal prior to concert. FoH provided by Rosslyn.

Publicity - printed posters and flyers available at next Monday's rehearsal.

Graham happy to spend up to £100 on social media ads.

Iain suggests using geographically-specific ads on FB for Limekilns concert. Attractive venue so we need to push it as an alternative to Rosslyn. **Stéphanie** to get photos of Limekilns.

Perhaps not necessary to do paid ad for Rosslyn. Wait to see how ticket sales go in next two weeks.

5. BRAHMS CONCERT

Meeting scheduled with Calton Consort and Meadows Chamber Orchestra 13 June. Both CC and MCO very pleased it is going ahead on 12 November. Venue booked. Rehearsals in week of concert not yet confirmed. **Brian** to make sure that is done asap.

MCO treasurer and publicity people will contact opposite numbers in SCC and CC to arrange how money and publicity will work. **Brian** to suggest initial discussion on these before the summer break.

Iain queried the large amount that soloists were being paid. **Brian** to keep that in mind.

Iain suggests choirs don't necessarily need to use the same edition that Peter Evans wants to use. **Valerie** will check which edition will be cheaper.

6. REPERTOIRE DISCUSSION

Positive votes for:

Anna Lapwood, Dobrinka Tabakova, Clara Schumann x 2. Pergolesi Magnificat x 2. Missa Creola x 2 Esenvalds; Dubra , Sally Beamish x 2, Sulpitia Cesis; Cecilia McDowell. Rheinberger x 2.

Hildegard von Bingen; Madalena Casulana, Aleotti.

Hailstork; Bach, Handel, Rossini Mass, Mendelssohn, Bruckner.

We should include a woman/underrepresented group composer in every concert except single-piece concerts.

Orchestral concerts.

A regular orchestral concert would need to pay for itself.

An occasional concert we would need to budget for a loss.

St John Passion made a loss but was good for the choir reputation.

Over the next three seasons we should plan for one small-orchestra piece and also potentially repeat the collaboration with MCO or similar. We need to choose something that will get a good audience.

Good to use student soloists.

Positive votes for:

Vaughan Williams Dona Nobis with piano/strings. Dvorak Mass with organ. Bach Magnificat and Dixit Dominus. Rossini Petite Messe.

Positive votes for:

Readings and music.

Exhibition opening.

Video and music.

Tour - venues beyond Edinburgh.

Not so keen at the moment on:

music from the movies

children's choir

charity concert

Brian pointed out that we are a small committee and different styles of concerts will require a lot of work. Iain said we would need a project manager for such an event.

Iain impressed that people are interested in diverse programming. Budget concerns need thought, but Iain will try and find a balance. **Plan for next season should be finalised at next committee meeting on 15 June. Discuss by email before then.**

7. CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

It was felt that two Christmas concerts and two Summer concerts was too much.

Therefore Rosslyn 3 December - cancel booking.

Greenbank 17 December - confirm booking.

Christmas repertoire will be based in part on last year's Christmas concert and rehearsed in September in tandem with the Brahms.

8. SCHEDULE

Marjory and Brian to update and issue to choir before first June concert. Check dates with Iain first and investigate venue availability before firming up concert dates.

First rehearsal 12 September. Spring concert 25 March. Rehearsal on 6 February. Second summer concert on 17 June.

We should look at other options for final rehearsals before a concert: possibly morning of concert or Friday evening.

9. COVID GUIDELINES

We should continue to follow government guidelines: keep distance, wear masks, keep spaces ventilated, be covid sensible, but we can't insist on people taking tests. Stay at home if you are ill. Make an announcement to choir at next rehearsal - **Julie**.

10. COMMITTEE POSTS

Three members of committee will be standing down at AGM.

Exceptional pressure on Membership Secretary during Covid.

Discussion of ways to share the workload and different ways to communicate with choir.

Need to clarify responsibilities to members of choir - **Brian and Marjory** - see 2b above.

Julie to organise small-group discussion of committee role changes.

Announcement of need for new committee members to choir next Monday - **Julie**.

Next committee meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 15 June.