

Minutes of Scottish Chamber Choir Committee Meeting

Sunday, 6 November 2022

Steiner School Hall, 60 Spylaw Road, EH10 5BR

Present:

Brian Kerr (Chair), Julie Morrice, Alison Fraser, Cath Hadshar, John Halliday, Valerie Holehouse, Marjory Lobban, Iain McLarty, Stéphanie Robin, Alastair Wilson

1. Apologies and matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting on 13 September

There were no apologies. Matters arising:

- (a) ESMS have confirmed that the cost per rehearsal session for hire of the Dean will increase to £50 from January 2023. (Contracted availability of the venue is from 19:00 to 21:45; rehearsal times will remain unchanged, although this may provide useful flexibility for e.g. auditions.)
- (b) Thanks were recorded to Amy Wilson for reinstating tea/ coffee at rehearsals.
- (c) Alastair Wilson has taken on the role of Committee Secretary.
- (d) Absences (see item 8 below): It was agreed that all choir members should be reminded at the start of each year, and before each term, of the criteria for the number of rehearsals that can be missed per concert and of the requirement to be available for final week rehearsals. Arrangements will be put in place for members to confirm at the start of each session whether or not they are in principle available for each concert. In the short term, Alison will ask members to confirm their availability for the March 2023 concert and both June 2023 concerts, with a commitment to attend final week rehearsals. **[AF]**

2. Welcome to new committee members and arrangement of task handovers

The Chair welcomed new members and encouraged them to liaise with their predecessors as necessary.

3. Brahms concert

- (a) Front of house arrangements: SCC, Calton and MCO are each providing two volunteers to sell tickets at the door (card-reader to be available) and to scan pre-sold tickets. Cath Hadshar and Guillaume Robin have volunteered for SCC. **[CH, SR]**
- (b) Ticket sales: 89 sold so far via TicketSource; need to sell another 112 to break even.
- (c) Programmes: Martin Tarr is printing 350 copies. **[SR]**
- (d) Choir arrangements for the day: to be confirmed. **[IMcL]**
- (e) Reviews: Stéphanie is contacting the Edinburgh Music Review. **[SR]**

4. Publicity, venue and ticket arrangements for Christmas concert

- (a) Venue: Booking already confirmed.
- (b) Publicity: Flyers and posters are being printed and will be available shortly; copies will be provided to Greenbank Parish Church and to other local churches. **[SR]**
- (c) Final rehearsal on 17 December: This will take place at the church from 16:00 to 18:00 (at latest); John will liaise with the venue. (Decisions on timing of final rehearsals (morning vs. afternoon) to be taken on a concert by concert basis.) **[JH]**
- (d) Tickets: The usual arrangements are being made with Ticket Source. **[ML]**
- (e) Front of House: John will confirm respective roles with the venue. **[JH]**

5. Programming 2023-25

Iain summarised the content and rationale of the draft proposals set out in his paper. Additional points in discussion included:

- Important to reach early agreement on proposals for Spring/ Summer 2023.
- Feedback from the Committee, individually and collectively, very welcome both on specific proposals and on the balance of the 3-year programme overall.
- The Choir's policy is to aim for all concerts to break even, unless a specific decision otherwise is made. The Ramirez *Missa Criolla* proposed for Autumn 2023 and the Rossini *Petite Messe Solenne* (Autumn 2024) require a larger than normal number of instrumentalists; the remaining proposals are either *a capella* or with piano/ organ.
- The Autumn 2023 concert, requiring a full 3 months of rehearsals, would be in late November/ early December, with no Christmas concert that year.
- We should aim to perform outside Edinburgh at least once per season. The proposed Summer 2024 concert could be at St Machar's in Aberdeen.
- Consideration also to be given to use of non-church creative venues; and to the inclusion of readings/ poetry/ projections alongside music.

Actions agreed:

- (a) Committee very content with the thrust of the Spring and Summer 2023 proposals; Iain will work out details. **[IMcL]**
- (b) Committee members will consider and offer any comments on/ suggestions for the remaining proposals. **[All]**
- (c) Alison will email choir members to remind them to purchase a copy of *Oxford Christmas Motets* if they don't already have one. **[AF]**
- (d) John will provide further information on the specific option he mentioned. **[JH]**

6. Choir Library – for further discussion

There was insufficient time to cover this item. Iain and Valerie would in particular be grateful for feedback from the Committee on the following: **[All]**

- (a) any suggestions for changes to the proposed categorisations; and
- (b) proposals to keep items that have not been categorised (i.e. not highlighted).

7. Membership update and possible sharing of members' contact details within the choir

Marjory raised proposals to circulate members' contact details among the choir, in order to facilitate internal communications. Marjory is considering a suitable email to choir members, bearing in mind the Choir's legal obligations under the General Data Protection Regulations, including the requirement to have explicit written consent of data subjects before sharing their personal data. **[ML]**

8. Website information update

The Chair spoke to his note proposing that he liaise with the SCC website co-ordinator on how best the information in the Welcome Pack for new members and the policies on subscriptions and attendance can be edited and placed on the members' area of the website; this was agreed. **[BK]**

9. Adopt a Music Creator application progress

Iain updated the Committee on his recent application on behalf of SCC, the outcome of which should be known within 2-3 weeks. If the application is successful, the pairing with a young composer would potentially involve a workshop in Spring 2023 and inclusion in the programme in Autumn or Christmas 2023. The organisation has also made clear that further applications would be welcome if we were unsuccessful this time. *[IMcL]*

10. AOCB

The Chair will write to Iain with a proposal for increasing his Musical Director fees. *[BK]*

Date of Next Meeting: 28 April 2023

AW

10 November 2022