

Minutes of Scottish Chamber Choir Committee Meeting

Friday 28 April 2023 (1930 to 2110)

(on Zoom)

Present: Brian Kerr (chair), Julie Morrice, Iain McLarty, Valerie Holehouse, Alison Fraser, Stéphanie Robin, John Halliday, Marjory Lobban

<p>1. Apologies and Matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 11 January 2023. Apologies from Catherine Hadshar and Alastair Wilson. Matters arising: The meeting with Calton Consort and Meadows Chamber Orchestra to discuss future collaborations will take place in early May. BK and IM will attend and suggest possible repertoire to be agreed under item 3 below. IM asked for suggestions as to why we had such a good audience for the Lux Aeterna concert at Old St Paul's. It was suggested that the publicity had been particularly attractive, and that asking each choir member to distribute 30 flyers and emphasising the importance of spreading the word to their social media contacts had contributed. It was agreed that continuing to promote concerts across different media is important and that issuing 30 flyers to each member is a policy to be picked up next season. Jim Murdoch has been posting updates on FB and this should be encouraged and perhaps the frequency of posts could be increased. The audience at OSP was around 120 but the atmosphere was very good and it felt like a substantial crowd.</p>	
<p>2. Summer concerts 2023 Publicity: posters and flyers are being distributed in Biggar and Haddington. Choir members should be asked to promote the concerts on social media and particularly to contacts they may have in those areas. FB promotion should be targeted on East Lothian and the Borders/South Lanarkshire. The Concerts in Broughton mailing list should be used if possible. It was decided there should be no interval. Front of House: JH to organise. Marjory has kindly volunteered to help at both concerts but at least two more people will be needed at each venue. Entry will be normal ticket prices for Haddington and by donation (suggested £12) at Biggar. Ticketsource details need to be finalised for ticket sales. ML will speak to Graham Drew who had researched this. Biggar Kirk is not charging for venue hire but we will donate a proportion of the takings. Holy Trinity, Haddington is charging £16.50 per hour.</p>	SR JM JH ML
<p>3. Concerts in 2023/24 After discussion of venues, dates and repertoire, and bearing in mind the availability of both Kevin Leomo and IM, the following was decided:</p>	
<p>Saturday 9 December 2023 (or possibly Saturday 2 December) Old St Paul's Missa Creola; Chichester Psalms, Kevin Leomo collaboration</p>	JH

Kevin will know on May 24 whether 2 December is possible for him. In the meantime, we should ask OSP to hold both dates.	
<p>Saturday 2 March 2024 Canongate Kirk programme of a cappella Renaissance music</p>	JH
<p>Saturday 25 May 2024 St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen Ailie Robertson commission, Rheinberger, Woo complete Gloria</p>	JH
<p>Autumn 2024 programme with small orchestra Christmas Oratorio 1-3 or Mozart/Haydn mass</p>	
<p>Collaboration with MCO/CC suggested pieces: Mendelssohn Lobgesang/St Paul; Bach B minor mass/St Matthew Passion</p>	IM BK
<p>The rehearsal schedule for 23/24 was approved. Committee meetings are ok on Wednesdays except for 20 March 2024.</p>	BK
<p>4. Adopt a Music Creator IM outlined the next steps of the process, commenting that he would be running the rehearsals in the autumn once Kevin has produced a score for us to work on together. He acknowledged that the process of collaboration has been challenging for some members but that the choir has engaged well and that we should be meeting Kevin somewhere in the middle between traditional and experimental music. He underlined that Kevin's gentle and unhurried style is an important part of exploring a new methodology. The opportunity to have a funded place at the London Group Day on 14 May should be opened to all choir members.</p>	JM
<p>5. Funding applications for Ailie Robertson commission An outline wording has been drawn up and the costs of the commission have been established. The funding sub-committee plans to get the applications in during May so that we will get responses back by the end of the summer. That allows time to think of other funding possibilities if the applications are not successful.</p>	IM JM CH ML
<p>6. Treasurer's report The choir has a healthy bank balance of £14579.49</p>	
<p>7. Committee roles JM will produce a draft of job descriptions and will circulate to the committee</p>	JM
<p>8. Committee meeting platforms</p>	AW

IM recommends we look into Google Meet which is free. Zoom is expensive. Teams is reasonably priced. It was agreed that an annual face-to-face meeting, possibly with a meal, would be a good idea.

9. Choir social event

A summer event on the Ratho canal boat is to be explored.

10. AOCB

The Dean is unavailable on Monday 8 May due to the Coronation. BK will try to find an alternative venue.

The dispersal of the unwanted library items is going well.

We need to find an auditor for the choir accounts.

JM

BK

ML

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6 September 2023.