

Scottish Chamber Choir

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

2 October 2023 at the Dean, Edinburgh

Present: Members of the Committee, Musical Director and 16 other choir members

1. Apologies: Graham Drew, Catherine Hadshar, Roy Ledsham, Marjory Lobban, Jeremy Nicoll, Jennifer Stark, Mike Towers.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 26 September 2022 were unanimously approved as an accurate account.

3. Matters arising: None.

4. Chairs' report

Julie Morrice presented the report of the joint Chairs (previously circulated). She paid tribute to the work of the Musical Director throughout a busy and varied season which had received very good feedback. She thanked members of the Committee for their work, highlighting the contribution of members who were standing down this year and of those involved in the funding application for the commission from Ailie Robertson for the concert in May 2024; and also those who continued their valuable work editing programmes, maintaining the website and maintaining the choir's social media presence.

5. Presentation of Accounts (2022-23) and Treasurer's report.

Brian Kerr introduced this item in the absence of the Treasurer who was unable to attend due to illness. The Treasurer had circulated in advance of the meeting a summary statement of the accounts of the Scottish Chamber Choir for the period 01/07/2022 to 30/06/2023 and a breakdown of receipts and payments for each of the five concerts.

Modest losses on concert revenue for three of the five concerts had been balanced by a profit from the Brahms collaboration in November 2022, and the Choir had suffered only a small deficit overall. The deficit was primarily due to purchase of *World Carols* music for the choir repertoire and to the fact that fees for rehearsal space (although still discounted) had doubled. Reserves remained at over £12,000. The Treasurer was not therefore recommending any change to subscription rates.

Brian noted that reserves were relatively high in relation to turnover. The Treasurer would develop a resilience budget to inform Committee consideration of potential options. The link between concert ticket sales and scope for ambition in programming was also noted.

It was agreed that this statement of accounts be formally adopted, and the Treasurer's report noted. Following brief discussion it was agreed that subscriptions should remain unchanged in 2023-24 and the meeting approved the Committee's recommendation on the level of fee to be paid to the Musical Director for the 2023-24 season.

6. Report from the Musical Director

Iain McLarty introduced his report (circulated in advance). He reviewed the concerts in the 2022/23 season; these had achieved a good balance of classic repertoire, under-represented composers and music from around the world – for example, African and Latin American carols and the *Woo Gloria* which had achieved good audience reaction. He noted scope for increasing resilience in the Bass and Tenor sections.

7. Publicity

The Chair and members thanked Stephanie for her report and for the effort and skill she had applied over several years. All choir members had a continuing role in attracting audiences.

8. Choir Library

The Chair thanked Valerie for her work as Librarian, noting progress in rationalising storage of the choir's stock of music, and the need for it to be accessible, secure and affordable.

9. Safeguarding Policy

It was agreed that the choir should develop a safeguarding policy; a draft was in preparation and would be circulated for comment before further consideration by the Committee.

Access and Inclusion Policy

Following on from this, it had become clear that SCC lacks a formal policy on access and inclusion, which may be creating obstacles and disadvantage both to existing and to potential members. The Committee will therefore draft a policy for formal consideration at a future annual general meeting.

10. Election of Office bearers for Season 2023-24

Julie Morrice and Brian Kerr will continue as co-Chairs.

Marjory Lobban will continue as Treasurer.

Valerie Holehouse will continue as Librarian (and is planning to step down at next AGM).

Catherine Hadshar will continue as Rehearsal Secretary.

Alison Fraser will continue as Membership Secretary.

Alastair Wilson will continue as Committee Secretary.

John Halliday has recently stepped down from the Concert Secretary role.

Stephanie Robin, having stepped down as Publicity Officer, will become Concert Secretary.

Graham Drew has volunteered to join the Committee as Publicity Officer.

Alan Miller and Roy Ledsham have indicated a willingness to attend committee meetings this year, with a view to undertaking odd jobs as they occur, and to possibly undertaking a particular role in future.

Members expressed appreciation of the Committee's work during the past year, particularly of members stepping down; and to those who have volunteered to join the Committee.

11. Any other competent business

There was brief discussion of scope for avoiding date/ repertoire clashes with other performances; of integration of new members; and of choir social events.

Alastair Wilson

27 October 2023