

Minutes of Scottish Chamber Choir Committee Meeting

Thursday 7 November 2024 (19.00 to 20.30) (on Zoom)

Present: Alan Miller (chairing), Iain McLarty, Stéphanie Robin, Alison Campbell, Catherine Hadshar, Graham Drew, Alastair Wilson

1. **Apologies**: Marjory Lobban, Valerie Holehouse

Conflicts of Interest: None declared

2. **Matters arising from Minutes of meeting on 26 August 2024**

(Minutes approved)

(a) Library

The Committee considered a note from Valerie (circulated in advance) and agreed the following:

Valerie will follow up as proposed with Edinburgh University Library and the National Library of Scotland on disposal of the handwritten *Cantos Sagrados* copies, this work being readily accessible in readable printable form. (We will retain the handwritten copies of the McLeod *Carmina*, which are not accessible in this form.) The Committee thinks that copy numbers for the Nordic/ Baltic concert in March 2025 will be sufficient; Valerie will purchase full downloads of the additional music still required for two of the works as proposed. The Committee agreed a straight 5% charge for lending out SCC Library music, with subsequent negotiation only if necessary. **(VH)**

(b) Ailie Robertson Commission: outstanding requirements

Alan will follow up with Brian Kerr on action already taken on audience feedback to the St Machar's premiere. Iain will give further thought in due course to practicalities for making a live recording of *Lost Lights*; Graham may also be able to suggest people who might be willing to record our spring concert. It was suggested that the SCC website could usefully contain more information about our various commissions, potentially with links to audio or video recordings; Iain will consider further, with a view to bringing ideas to the January meeting. **(AM, IMcL, GD)**

(c) November concert: audience feedback

Graham and Stéphanie confirmed arrangements in place. **(GD, SR)**

(d) Subscription increase

The Committee thought that a further reminder in December to members to amend their SCC subscription standing orders would be helpful. **(ML)**

(e) SCC website

Alastair agreed to take over from Julie Morris responsibility for monitoring on the "info@" address the links for general enquiries and approaches about corporate events. **(AW)**

3. **Committee Roles** (*This item was taken first*)

The Committee endorsed Alan in the role of Chair, noting that he would delegate specific tasks on an *ad hoc* basis as required in a spirit of collective leadership.

All remaining Committee members were confirmed in their current roles, as follows:

- Treasurer: Marjory Lobban
- Membership Secretary: Alison Campbell
- Rehearsal Secretary: Cath Hadshar
- Concert Secretary: Stéphanie Robin
- Librarian: Valerie Holehouse
- Publicity: Graham Drew
- Committee Secretary: Alastair Wilson

The Chair highlighted a need to identify a new Treasurer following Marjory's term expiry in June 2025; Alan also invited suggestions for additional Trustees. Cath and Alison will review alignment of the Membership Secretary and Rehearsal Secretary roles. Alison will also review GoogleGroup arrangements with Alison Fraser. **(Cath, Alison, All)**

4. **Finance update**

The Committee considered the written update circulated by Marjory in advance, noting the early stage we are at in the choir's financial year. There was no further discussion.

5. **Season 2024-25 Programme**

(a) 23 November 2024

Arrangements have already been communicated to the choir and publicity is in hand. There will be no interval.

(b) 8 March 2025

Following a brief discussion, Alan will look to identify a choir member who will assist Martin Tarr with editing the programme. **(AM)**

(c) 24 May 2025

While it will not be possible to repeat the May concert in Edinburgh on this occasion, the Committee noted the value in principle of doing so, from a choir profile and financial as well as musical perspective. This will therefore be considered for future years.

6. **Building an Audience**

(a) Publicity

Activity is underway via print, electronic and social media channels.

(b) Workshop on 25 November

Iain confirmed that the programming workshop will focus on repertoire, venue and concert type, also touching on potential for future commissions. The Committee agreed that it will be important to have regular conversations with the choir about building our audience.

(c) Branding and marketing

Alan indicated that following discussion at the workshop he will look to establish a small working group to develop proposals. **(AM)**

7. Collaborative Concert: Autumn 2025

The Committee considered a written update from Brian Kerr, noting that the rehearsal schedule will be available shortly (Cath will circulate this). Alan will follow up with Marjory on what has been agreed on the role of Treasurer on the steering group. **(CH, AM, ML)**

8. AOCB

(a) Document repository

Following discussion of a shared repository for Committee and other documents, Graham has circulated a Dropbox proposal which the Committee is proposing to use.

(b) Equality and Inclusion Officer

Cath will discuss further with Amy Wilson and bring an update to the Committee in January. **(CH)**

(c) 2025-26 Programme

Iain will bring a substantive item to the Committee in January, looking forward over the next three seasons. **(IMcL)**

Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 10 January at 7.00 - 8.30 pm. **(AW, All)**

Alastair Wilson
22 November 2024