

The Scottish Chamber Choir SCIO

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

16th September 2018

held at Wallace Dunlop Hall, Stewarts Melville College, Edinburgh

Present: Pauline McClellan/Julie Morrice Joint Chairs
Marcia MacDougall, Sue Shoosmith, Catherine Hadshar, Guen Innes, Stephanie Robin, Catrina Clyne, Amy Wilson, Bridget Beagan, Valerie Holehouse, Steve Rooney, Graham Drew, Brian Kerr, Vic Hodgson, Jim Murdoch, Martin Tolley, Walter Thomson, Alastair Wilson and Martin Tarr.

Apologies; Formal apologies have been received from Adriana Skaraas, Jennifer Stark,

Minutes: of AGM of 2nd October 2018 were approved.

There are no matters arising not in main agenda.

Chair's Report: Julie Morrice on behalf of joint chairs.

This had been a successful year. Thanks to the Committee, noting Graham Drew in his first year as Treasurer, Guen Innes for extra work resulting from cancellation of the March Concert, and making the insurance claim where costs had been fully met. Thanks to Milda Zinkus who has a major task as membership secretary, and to Stephanie Robin for her energy in publicity in her first year in post.

Also thanks to a number of people outside the committee who had contributed.

Thanks to Ian McLarty who has completed two seasons as MD. He has been robust and imaginative instilling increased skill and confidence in the choir.

We had a successful Mozart Requiem in collaboration with Meadows Chamber Orchestra, a Christmas concert at the Hub for BHF, and a concert of works by Dufay and his contemporaries at Rosslyn and Crail. The March concert was unfortunately cancelled due to extreme weather.

This season is the 50th Anniversary. We have already sung at a BBC morning service in Greenbank Church. We look forward to performing the postponed Jackson work in November and will sing the Bach St John Passion in March 2019. The Anniversary concert in June will be of Scottish Music, hopefully including a new commission and will be followed by a party to which former members will be invited.

There will be a workshop in January, details to follow.

The choir numbers 32 members, 6 having left and 6 joined.

Treasurer's report: Graham Drew

The accounts are annexed. These are prepared on a cash accounting basis. The surplus of over £2000 was highlighted including over £1000 for the Christmas concert for BHF. The cancellation of the Jackson concert was fully reimbursed, noting, in answer to a question, that the insurance premium was part of Making Music membership and should not be affected by the claim. The subscription covers costs and need not be increased.

Musical Director's report: Iain McLarty

He summarized his formal report to say that the Mozart collaboration with Meadows Chamber Orchestra had been a success. The cancellation of the Jackson concert was unfortunate but the postponed performance will be even better with the extra rehearsal available. The Dufay concert in Rosslyn was particularly good.

He thanked the choir for their enthusiasm.

The formal report:

“The 2017-18 season had a real mix of different challenges and some extremely successful concerts. It was great to be able to collaborate on the Mozart Requiem with the Meadows Chamber Orchestra and to work on a piece which is well known but which allowed us to focus on achieving a detailed corporate understanding of it. The collaboration seemed to be a success and hopefully can be developed further in the future. The Christmas concert offered a contrast in repertoire but most importantly from my perspective, brought in substantial income which allows us to be ambitious in other concerts. It was unfortunate that the Jackson concert had to be cancelled but it is great that we are able to do this programme in November and ultimately it will benefit from the extra rehearsals. In many ways the Dufay programme was the most technically demanding but everyone really rose to this challenge and the Rosslyn concert in particular was a real highlight.

Having focused on recruitment over the last two years it was great to see all of the sections of the choir reaching our target numbers, even if we never had a full complement for any particular concert. With a number of people leaving over the summer it looks like our numbers are low again but we should take encouragement from the success of our recruitment over the last few years and a huge thanks to all those who have been working on this.

It was very useful to continue the "check ups" with the tenors and basses and I appreciate everyone taking the time to do these. This year we will revisit the seating exercise with all sections in order to build it.

We ran a conducting scholar scheme for the first time and this had both positives and negatives. This is inevitable with anything being run for the first time and from a personal perspective I learned a huge amount about how to practically run this in order to benefit both the choir and the conducting scholar. While we are not planning on running it again this year I hope that we will do so again in the future as it is something not being done by any other group in Scotland at present.

Finally, a huge thanks to everyone who works so hard to run the choir. I've enjoyed the positive energy which so many people bring to this and look forward to another successful year".

Publicity report: Stephanie Robin

The publicity for Mozart had been fairly easy but we had only sold a few tickets for the cancelled concert in March. We had a good audience at Rosslyn and Crail.

The present season will be more challenging. We need to seek a different audience through focus groups and generally members doing their best. We should not take the selling the Bach concert for granted and the 50th anniversary concert will be challenging. We should think of different ways of promoting it and generally seek to be known outside of Edinburgh.

Tour report: Guen Innes

A mini tour of one night away is planned, with two concerts. It will not be elaborate or expensive, probably 22/23 June 2019 in Glasgow and the West.

Election of Office Bearers for year 2018/19:

The present holders of offices are standing for re-election and were all re-elected, proposed by Catherine Hadshar and seconded by Sue Shoosmith as follows:

Charity Trustee offices;

Joint Chairs: Pauline McClellan (who also acts as librarian) and Julie Morrice

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Graham Drew

Ordinary member: Milda Zinkus (as membership secretary)

Co-opted members who attend committee meetings:

Concert Secretary: Guen Innes

Publicity manager: Stephanie Robin

Minute secretary: Walter Thomson

It was noted that the present main office holders had been in post for a long time and were prepared to operate for another year but would then wish to stand down. In particular the secretary post had been vacant for sometime. Walter Thomson agreed that if a secretary were appointed he would be happy to continue taking Minutes.

AOB: Steve Rooney expressed a view that we should not have taken a fee for singing at the BHF Christmas event. It was pointed out that this was not a fundraising function and the choir had been contracted to participate on a professional basis. He then accepted the position.

Brian Kerr moved a vote of thanks to the committee for their work.

The meeting closed.