

**Scottish Chamber Choir**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting**

**21/11/16**

**79 Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh**

1. Present: Pauline McClellan, Iain McLarty, Julie Morrice, Steve Rooney, Milda Zinkus.
2. Apologies: Adrienne Burgess, Bridget Beagan, Guen Innes, Sue Shoosmith
3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising – all addressed in agenda items.
4. November concert: main points from discussion -
  - venue right size
  - good for collaborative venture
  - acoustically not the best
  - positive comments from audience
  - choir not perfect but lots of good moments, did well getting into different styles
  - soloists very good, pianist very good
  - audience numbers disappointing.
5. Christmas Charity Concert:
  - MZ to send out list of carols to choir.
  - Brass players will be involved.
  - Performers invited to reception afterwards.
  - JM meeting with Karen and Brian (representing charities) next Monday.
  - SR to email Karen again to determine how IM will be paid for the two rehearsals.
  - JM to contact MT concerning the programme to include words for audience carols, running order, list of musicians, future dates at the back.
  - Rehearsal Saturday 3pm-5.30pm then concert 7.30pm.
6. March concert:
  - Old St Paul's 25<sup>th</sup> March.
  - Brahms requiem with piano duet, Brahms Neue Liebeslieder, Chris Gardner Waltzsongs.
  - Two pianists - Stuart and Chris – GI to offer Stuart £200 for concert and Chris £300 for concert plus one rehearsal and a half day accompanying at the workshop in March.
7. Workshop:
  - Scott Inglis-Kidger will lead our annual workshop on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.
  - Will rehearse some of the Brahms – particularly focusing on line, colour and language.
  - Pianist - GI to ask Chris
  - Cost will depend on numbers. GI to firm up numbers as soon as possible.
8. Summer concerts:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> June 3pm Kelvinside, 10<sup>th</sup> June South Queensferry
  - Music - European Sacred Music – choir members will need to have their own copy.
9. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - The choir's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is approaching in 2018-19 season.

- SR has emailed Making Music's 'Adopt a Composer' regarding funding. Brian Kerr volunteered to help. SR and BK are contacting composers regarding likely costs of a commission.
- Once funding secured could explore various composers.

#### 10. Meadows Project

- Option of IM conducting the whole concert, prefers mid Nov or mid to late March.
- Mozart Requiem, Bach passion/B minor mass, Hadyn Creation are possible pieces.
- Queens Hall (if anniversary year) or St Serfs are suggested venues.
- Soloists – local, good, hand picked students would be appropriate.

#### 11. Publicity

- Publicity – JM asked if leaflets/ posters are having any impact. SR noted that costs for producing these are not great.
- JM suggesting asking choir members to hand leaflets out at the end of concerts being held in Edinburgh prior to our March concert.
- It would be a good idea to publicise the success of the November concert on Facebook/Twitter.
- A big thanks to Martin Tarr for all his work on publicity materials.
- SS to follow up advertising for next programme.

#### 12. Treasurer

- Subscriptions – agreed an increase to £14 for this season with effect from January. SR will contact MZ to tell choir of the need to change direct debits.
- SR to organise new members to sign gift aid forms.
- Agreed that occasional members should pay the standard monthly fee.

#### 13. Membership

- Choral scholarships – MZ to put out advert for male voices for March concert.
- Soprano and alto health checks will be carried out over the spring term before or after rehearsals. Singers will be expected to sing a prepared piece, do some sight-reading, and sing something that we have already worked on. These are informal auditions and not intended to weed people out of the choir, instead they are a way for IM to see if people are singing the right part and to give some advice about how to improve technique.

#### 14. Rehearsal space for next session

- GI unhappy about dealing with person responsible for accommodation at Stewart Melville's and asked committee to consider looking for an alternative venue.
- Committee felt that Stewart Melville's was a convenient and affordable rehearsal space and would be reluctant to give it up.
- It was agreed that MZ would work with GI to compose a letter to Stewarts Melville's to raise GI's concerns and how can we make this work better in the future.

#### 15. A.O.C.B.

- Jeremy would like to speak to committee about recordings. It was agreed that PM would email him to suggest using the interval at our next rehearsal to discuss this issue.
- SR to fix google search for choirs for Edinburgh.
- It was agreed that ticket prices for concerts from March would increase to £12 and £6, this price would include a programme. PM to inform GI and MT.
- BB to contact National Galleries/National Trust properties about possible singing opportunities.

16. Date of next meeting: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February