



Minutes of the Committee meeting held by Zoom on Thursday 19th May 2021

Present: Tessa Cox (in the Chair); Julia Dickens; Ian Smith; Peter Snelling; Jeremy Hopkinson; Carol Yirrell; Siân Rees

Action

1 Apologies and welcome

Vanessa Skelton sent her apologies. Tessa Cox welcomed the Committee.

2 Minutes of the last committee meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the April committee meeting were approved.

Tessa reported that the Programming Sub-Committee had met and their programming suggestions were welcomed by the committee.

The Charity Commission had been in touch with Tessa and had requested a nil return for the CIO for the 2019-2020 financial year.

Carol had not yet managed to get in touch with those choir members with whom we have had no contact either via Zoom or email. Peter said that since the last committee meeting two of those members had been in touch. **Carol** said she would telephone the remaining uncontacted choir member.

Carol

Tessa stressed the importance of keeping Zoom rehearsal registers. Ian said he needs to know who has attended regularly when selecting singers for wedding bookings etc. **Carol** said she would keep a weekly Zoom rehearsal register.

Carol

3 Summer 2021 rehearsals

There was some discussion about the implications of the DCMS update on 18th May concerning amateur singers and indoor rehearsals. Peter had been in touch with his MP who was sympathetic and had asked Peter to forward any information. It was thought that we should write to our respective MPs on the matter.

As it was considered unlikely that any change to the guidance would happen immediately, it was decided to have a Zoom rehearsal on 26th May followed by a week's break. It was hoped that by early June we might know whether it would be permissible to meet indoors in groups larger than six and if so, our first face-to-face rehearsal would be on 9th June.

All

4 Future scheduled events

- 16 July 2021 – Sarah and Jonny's wedding

There was still uncertainty about the guidance that would be in place in July regarding live choral singing at weddings. Tessa wondered if it might be possible for us to sing outside should indoor singing in groups larger than six not be permitted. It was felt that we would just have to play things by ear.

- 13 November 2021 – Woburn concert

St Mary's Woburn is booked and the programme is Vivaldi *Gloria* and *Magnificat* and McDowall *Ave Maris Stella*.

- 18 December 2021 – Christmas concert at Woburn Church

The Christmas concert programme is now in place with just one or two changes suggested by the programming sub-committee having been made. Julia asked **Ian** to let her know which new pieces had been added to the programme so that she could organise the music.

Ian

- Other December engagements

We are awaiting details of the Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service Christingle service, the Woburn Christmas lights switch-on and carol singing at the Weathercock Inn.

- 2 April 2022 – Woburn concert

The following programme was put forward by the Programming Sub-Committee and met with approval by the full committee:-

Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*; Lauridsen *Lux Aeterna*; Rheinberger *Requiem* and solo music for harp.

Ian has booked harpist Holly Lowe. He will speak to Chris Ridley, percussionist at the Royal Opera House and ask him if he would be able to organise a percussionist for the *Chichester Psalms*.

Ian

Ian will send Julia a list of the editions we will be using for this concert. Tim has the organ parts for all three pieces so **Julia** will only need to hire vocal scores.

Ian &
Julia

Peter thought we might have scores for the Rheinberger and **Julia** said she would check.

Julia

- 2 July 2022 – M Haydn *Requiem* and J Haydn *Theresa Mass*

Will Swan, chair of the MK Chorale had been in touch with Tessa. The Chorale is going ahead with its plans for a concert at the MK Theatre on Sunday 6th June 2022 as part of celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Danesborough Chorus had been asked to join them for this concert but it was decided that we would keep to our plans for a Woburn concert in July. However, **Tessa** would let Will Swan know that we were happy for the Chorale to approach our members should they wish to invite them to participate on an individual basis.

Tessa

Julia wondered whether we might consider doing an outdoor event ourselves for the Platinum Jubilee perhaps as part of any celebrations being organised in Aspley Guise or Woburn Sands.

Will Swan had informed Tessa that the Dream of Gerontius concert planned for November 2022 at the MK Theatre had been put back to sometime in 2023.

Tessa said she would talk to Will to try to ascertain precisely when in 2023 they were hoping to hold the concert. We will now need to arrange our own concert for November 2022.

Tessa

5 Recordings

Ian said he would find out the timeline for the recording we are making for Ashley Holland. Ian

Julia said it would be useful if Ian could find out the type of format that Ashley requires for the recordings.

It would also be useful to know whether there is a dress code for those singers making video recordings.

6 Press release officer

Sheila Edwards had informed Tessa that it was her intention to step down from her role as press release officer. She had kindly offered to stay on until the November 2021 concert to help guide her replacement through the process.

Siân suggested a possible replacement and would contact the person in question. Siân

Peter would advertise the post in the next newsletter. Peter

7 Treasurer's update

Peter reported no significant change to choir finances.

He was keeping an eye on Friends' donations which are currently our only real source of income. He noted that we had lost a couple of Friends this season.

There have been no more wedding bookings and as a result we will not receive the estimated revenue. However, Peter said that overall we should break even for this season.

Peter confirmed that we will pay the hire fee for Aspley Guise Village Hall from 19th May.

Peter has now set up an online ticketing service using WeGotTickets. He had spoken to Eleanor Pettigrew who was very happy with the new arrangement. Online tickets for the November concert will go on sale from 21st May.

Peter explained that WeGotTickets take ten percent of the ticket revenue and from the experience of another choir the ticket revenue is paid promptly after each concert. He said he would put a limited number of tickets for sale online, most probably twelve of the most expensive tickets and 50 of the aisle seat tickets.

Jenny had already advertised the November concert on the website and **Peter** said he would now ask her to add a link to the WeGotTickets website. Peter

Peter had not yet looked at the SumUp mobile card reader but he had received a recommendation for iZettle from someone who has used it. **Peter** said he would take a look at SumUp. Peter

NatWest had informed Peter that the new business account is being processed but it will take some time.

8 Future meeting dates

These were agreed as:

7 September 2021

6 October 2021 (AGM)

9 November 2021

11 January 2022

9 AOB

There was no other business.

N.B. The last full rehearsal of this season will be on 30 June. There will be two wedding rehearsals on 7 July and 14 July. The first rehearsal of the 2021-2022 season will take place on 8 September.

Final