

**TRINITY SINGERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT SARAH PEARSON'S HOUSE ON TUESDAY
16TH JULY 2013, 8.00pm**

Present at Meeting:

Suzie Leech (SL), Massimo Morelli (MM), Margaret Avery (MA), Jeremy Martin (JM), Sarah Pearson (SP), Katherine Hatch, Ursula Dornton, Miranda Pinder, Janet Rogers, Pauline Kemp, John Jenkins, Roy Stickland, Tony Moorby, David De Boos, Judith Taylor, Valerie Pain, Belinda May, Bob Shapland, Bill Witter, Anne Seabright, Valerie Pain, Susannah Read, Georgina Yule, Janet Wilson.

1. Apologies for absence

Clare Attrill, Chantelle Attrill, Jill Preddy, Martin West, Simon Medd, Jenni Keane, Roger Ellery, Phil Willis, Carole Venner, Judy Ashley, Margaret Leimdorfer, Lindsey Shaw-Miller, Sarah Gunn, Clare Day, Barry Day, Nick Baker, , Veronica Edwards, Heather Lee, Keith Vigus, Georgina Yule

2. Adoption of 2012 Minutes

Matters arising:

None

Minutes Proposed by Max Morelli

Minutes Seconded by Sarah Pearson

3. Chairman's report

Dear all thanks for being here and a big thank you to Sarah for hosting us again this year.

I will try to be brief to allow for a timely dinner although this does not mean by all means that we haven't done much this year because we actually did a lot of great things.

Let's start with the autumn concert: the Heavenly Severn at SMR for 2nd year in a row in Bristol: Excellent turnout, fantastic programme and amazing soloists and instrumentation. All in all a great concert for a very good cause and in memory of our founder John Abdy. Thanks again Sarah for coordinating the event and though they are not here a big thanks to Peter Leech and Andrew Tyrrell for the commissioned pieces which were in my view very well executed.

Then we swiftly moved to Christmas which was as always a fantastic event, always selling out, new music which was well received. Thanks To Margaret for coordinating the social side and to all the singers for pulling together and making it happen on and off the stage. The Carols Service at Burrington was also great and the atmosphere magical as usual.

Then the joint venture with Churchill Academy the Bristol Cathedral School – one of Giuseppe Verdi's most iconic works the Messa da Requiem! To be honest I was a bit worried for the very short time available (6 weeks) to prepare it. I was proven wrong and eventually we all did a grand job. I personally really enjoyed the performance in WSM.

In March we also had a very nice informal performance at Lenard Cheshire. It is always a pleasure to sing there.

To complete the list I am glad that this year we have managed to secure Evensongs in Wells Cathedral and loved singing there. I would also like to thank the choir members who throughout the years take time during weekends to volunteer to sing at weddings and funerals. This is very much appreciated and another vital source of income for the choir.

But as always Trinity is not just music it is also social activities and fundraising. I would like to thank Suzie and Margaret for organising the Quiz Night and Roy + Janet for putting together the plant sale. Beyond the social aspect which makes our choir pretty much unique, these events are also great opportunities to generate money for the choir in order to allow Jeremy to fulfil his orchestral wishes and projects.

Looking at the choir as a whole, sadly we have lost a few members like Richard and Anne Dent and more recently Derek. Derek has been a fantastic librarian and committee member. As regard to this key role I would like to thank Valerie for helping us during this delicate transition whilst Derek was in Australia and soon after his announcement and a special thank to Georgina for stepping into the breach and accepting to become our new librarian. Talking about departures also Chantelle will not be with us for a few years as she will start university in another part of the country in September. On the other hand, I am

pleased to announce that we have secured new choir members: Jeremy will give you the full details in his report.

As a New Year resolution – and this has been lingering for a while – I am pleased to announce that our friend Kate Lewis (who helped us for Christmas and will join us as soon as she will move to North Somerset) has kindly offered in her professional capacity as web programmer/editor to help us revamping our website. Kate will get in touch with Val to manage the transition from the old website to the new one.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Jeremy for bringing the best out of this choir, his dedication, patience, optimism, commitment and professionalism.

And now I will leave Jeremy introducing the programme for the forthcoming season. I can only anticipate that it will be rich, exciting and full of surprises!

Comments

John Jenkins – Lack of recognition for Trinity Singers or Churchill School at the Joint project when performed in Bristol Cathedral

Bob Shapland – Echoed John's comments

Bill Witter – Thought we should have recognition in a monetary value, say £150 to recognise our contribution. **Sarah Pearson** commented that we contributed £400 for the loss.

Jeremy – shared his conversation with Paul Harrison which was if we are contributing to the loss, we should have had a greater part in the planning, including the choice of soloists.

Sarah – said we need to be careful about what we contribute towards, not transport costs or music costs, but will pay for musicians

Ursula – shared the new plan for Churchill Community School, which is a greater focus on art and drama, less on music, so Trinity Singers really need to be proactive from a music perspective. The hall is being revamped with improved acoustics, it should be ready by Christmas, and could provide an opportunity for us to perform.

Max – Propose we put money into the 2015 project up front, and we have some control and say in the planning of the project.

Margaret – suggested we have a formal agreement with them

Belinda – Asked if we could have a say about the conductor. It was agreed that we should.

4. Musical Directors report

Another good year! Highlights:

Heavenly Severn – two world premieres

Wrington concert

Verdi Requiem

Wells Evensong

Review of Year

Ambitious programme but pulled it off. A couple of pieces a bit close to the wire, but generally excellent!

Two new pieces: Andrew and Peter

Enjoyed both. Both had their own challenges, but went really well. Andrew's piece lots of rhythmic difficulties, Peter – sustained singing, particularly in unaccompanied section. Enjoyed both very much and very grateful to the two composers for working with us.

Excellent audience again – good venue for us. Fitting tribute to John.

Christmas – great fun as usual. Like to see more singers taking part, particularly basses – we were very thin there. Great evening. Very successful financially again. Burrington Carols went well too.

Verdi Requiem. Another chance to perform a work we couldn't do on our own. Went extremely well on the night, particularly in Weston where I felt there was a real buzz. Children played amazingly well in the orchestra. Good partnership (with a few little issues now and then!).

Short concert in the Leonard Cheshire home in Axbridge – went down well, only one rehearsal but good result. Good outing to the Lamb afterwards.

Wells evensong – great to do an evensong again, especially after the feedback at the last AGM. Went very well – really enjoyed the Finzi in particular!

Also did our first choir trip to a concert to hear Paul Mealar and Morten Lauridsen perform their own work in Llandaff cathedral. Was a most amazing evening – very moving and inspirational. As you know I managed to have a word with Paul Mealar afterwards and he is supposed to be coming down to work with us next year – more on that later.

Membership changes

Said goodbye to Sops: Chantelle Attrill; Altos: Louisa Purcell, Ann Dent; Basses: Derek Davey and Richard Dent.

I've said before that I don't want us to grow any bigger, particularly in the sops and altos, but the people who have left have enabled us to take on our first new members for some time.

I'd like to welcome Lindsey Shaw-Miller to second sops; Fem Urquhart to the first altos and Dave Evans to the first basses, who've all passed their auditions. We hope you enjoy singing with us and look forward to working with you.

We could still do with a few more strong tenors and basses – if anyone knows anyone who may be interested then please let me know.

To sum up, another good year – our first commissions, another strong audience and performance at St Mary Redcliffe, successful Verdi Requiem and great to do evensong again at Wells.

Next Year

Open rehearsal as part of Bristol festival of song in October.

Really looking forward to the Durufle Requiem in November – an excellent, moving piece that sounds great with organ. I'm sure we'll have another great time at Christmas.

In March we'll be doing our biennial orchestral concert – this time focused around Pergolesi, including the beautiful Magnificat and Stabat Mater. This will be in Yatton again.

Would be good to do another evensong again. Beyond that will be thinking up some more exciting plans and trying some new things.

Thanks

Can't finish without thanking the committee.

Max – another year as chair. Appeared by iPad at our last committee meeting.

Sarah – excellent Treasurer, positive, facilitative approach to my requests to spend money.

Suzie – highly efficient secretary, getting minutes out within minutes often.

Margaret – another year of good events. Quiz night, Christmas, and her daughter's wedding

Katherine and Susannah – constant good humour, sound advice and excellent support.

Many thanks to Derek again as librarian, and welcome Georgina – I know she will do an excellent job.

Thanks to Keith for stepping in on several occasions to conduct when I can't be there.

Thanks to you all for continuing to make Trinity the warm, friendly and politics-free choir which it is (which is quite unusual!).

Comments

John Jenkins – No mention of the Songs of Praise. Couple of good things, the music was good, lots of sacred music.

Bill – We commissioned the music, do we own the copyright to the music, and therefore could we loan the copies out to others? We don't know the answer.

Max – said we could talk to Andrew about it and come up with an agreement.

5. Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts for Year End 2011

Total income for 2012 was £3,334, this was £500 more than 2011. Main source of additional income came from weddings and funerals. General expenses were higher in 2012, we spent a lot more on music in 2012 (see accounts report for detail). Events netted significant income which allows for orchestral concerts. Our concerts cost more than our fund raising last year. Assets at end of 2012 £3,884. Sarah said she wouldn't want the assets to go any lower than the current assets.

Comments

- **Bob** if you look at the detail, the wine contribution from Sarah is a major contributor to our fund raising, and wanted to thank Sarah for this.
- **Bill** – best societies accounts he has ever seen, thank you.

- **Bill – Q - Could we consider loaning out the Verdi Requiem?** General consensus that we could.
- **Suzie** – Post details of our available music which could be hired out on our new website

Accounts Proposed by Roy Stickland
Accounts Seconded by Bob Shapland

6. Secretaries report

Buddying system working well. SL tries to notify choir of dates as soon as we have them, but it does rely on others informing SL of dates first. SL apologised if not been as communicative as normal. SL asked for suggestions to improve communication further.

Actions

- **Suzie** ask choir members to update the contact sheet and then will circulate choir members telephone numbers to all choir members

7. Librarians report

Take care of the music, especially Durufle Requiem, there is an additional fee for no-returned copies. Rub out pencil marks.

8. Social Secretary report

Events since last AGM:

Quiz night well attended and raised £445. Bring friends to the quiz who are helping us to raise funds.

Christmas Concert – tickets didn't sell out last year

Skittles - a good evening, suggest we make it a regular annual event.

Meal in Wells

Concert trip to Wales

Flowers and cards – appreciate the flowers which were sent to MA, flowers to Carole Venner, present to Derek Davey. People don't always bring money to choir, and MA has been out of pocket. Want to make sure everyone is given the opportunity to receive flowers

Suggested that we get a scheme going for car sharing to events outside the area

Future events – Friday 4th October at Burrington – Quiz night

Christmas Concert 14th December at Wrington.

Thank you to everyone who has given their time to help support the events organised.

Choir robe organiser – please let Margaret know if you don't have a robe, perhaps we could purchase a couple of robes

Comments

- **Roy** – put forward the idea of a summer garden party, Roy happy to host,

9. Election of officers: Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, Publicity, Social Secretary,

Proposal for 2013 Committee Members

Chair: Max Morelli

Treasurer: Sarah Pearson

Secretary: Suzie Leech

Publicity: Katherine H-M

Social Secretary: Margaret Avery

E –Publicity & Concert Committee Representative: Susannah Read

Non Committee Roles

Weddings Officer: Keith Vigus
Librarian: Georgina Yule

Committee elected on mass

Officers proposed by Bob Shapland

Officers seconded by Janet Wilson

Choir unanimously voted for the committee members

10. Any other business:

- I. Musical Directors Remuneration – Sarah recommends we increase Jeremy's events fee from £100 to £150. Proposed by Bob, Seconded by Georgina. Unanimous vote.
- II. Ticket ordering for the Christmas concert – Suzie (in Jill Preddy's absence). Proposal accepted by all who attended
- III. Choral Evensongs - in both Parish Churches which have no Choir - and 'relief duty' in Wells, Exeter, or Bristol Cathedrals, and St Mary Redcliffe – John Jenkins
John J is happy to take suggestions for doing Evensongs in other venues when the cathedral choir is on holiday or we could do a weekend commitment at a Cathedral, or
Parish churches – could we visit local churches to do an Evensong
John happy to leave it with the committee to agree and John will organise
- IV. Cards and Gifts. Propose that there is an additional £5 added to the September term subs to pay for gifts and flowers.
Suggestion made by Bob – that give a card only, and this is paid for
Gift for Derek – there hasn't been a collection for him, please could everyone give £1
- V. Lord Mayors Chapel concert. Agreement in principle that it would be a nice thing to do. There isn't capacity in the 2013-14 calendar, so it won't be on our calendar for 2013-14, but could be in 2014-15.