

**TRINITY SINGERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT SARAH PEARSON'S HOUSE ON TUESDAY 15th JULY
2014, 8.00pm**

Present at Meeting:

Suzie Leech (SL), Massimo Morelli (MM), Margaret Avery (MA), Jeremy Martin (JM), Sarah Pearson (SP), Katherine Hatch, Janet Rogers, John Jenkins, Roy Stickland, David De Boos, Valerie Pain, Belinda May, Bill Witter, Valerie Pain, Susannah Read, Georgina Yule, Janet Wilson. Simon Medd, Roger Ellery, Barry Day, Chantelle Attrill, Clare Attrill, Louisa Purcell, Jenni Keane, Clare Day, Sarah Joskey, Georgina Yule.

1. Apologies for absence

Ann Seabright, Martin West, Judith Taylor, Nick Baker, Heather Lee, Carol Taylor, Ursula Dornton, Judy Ashley, Pauline Kemp, Margaret Leimdorfer, Jill Preddy, Tony Moorby, Fern Urquart

2. Adoption of 2013 Minutes

Matters arising:

None

Minutes Proposed by Roy Stickland

Minutes Seconded by Bob Shapland

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 very brief since this year of music and social activities speaks for itself.

A brilliant concert in Bristol in the Autumn followed by another magic Christmas Concert and Carol Service. Then an amazing baroque music concert in Yatton in spring followed by a Jolly concert for our friends of Leonard Cheshire in Axbridge. And now we are just back from a terrific although logistically and musically challenging weekend of services in Wells Cathedral.

This has been a great year for Trinity singers and I am really proud that the choir is going from strength to strength. It is also worth mentioning the good work done by each member pulling together to make sure concert organisation is spot on, our social events are memorable and things get done.

Thanks to the committee members for the hard work in organising musical and social events, keeping the momentum going. A special thanks to Georgina for stepping into the librarian's role and hitting the ground running. Last but not least a big thank you to our director Jeremy for believing in us and raising the bar up a notch or two every time!

Gosh this is my 4th year as Chair of Trinity Singers and I have enjoyed every second of it. Having said that, I need to be open, honest and transparent with all of you and I feel that this AGM is the opportunity for me to let you know about what is going on in the near future.

Katherine is currently planning a career change and she has recently successfully secured a place for a 1 year course in counselling. The only downside is that the classes will be on Tuesday evening.

Now this year we have somehow managed to alternate childcare (bearing in mind we have no grandparents or relatives support at all) and rehearsals but next year is going to be even more challenging.

We are more than happy to continue to be paying members of Trinity, singing at the concerts and help around but we are unable to attend the rehearsals.

Katherine and myself have already spoken to Jeremy and the committee to find a way forward. I love this job and would be very happy to continue with this role but I am conscious that perhaps the choir may not be equally pleased with an absentee Chair.

For this reasons, I am here to propose three possible solutions.

1. I continue to be the chair but my attendance to rehearsals will be very limited (last rehearsal, concerts, committee meetings)
2. I take a sabbatical from chairmanship for one year and we appoint an acting up chair (I am more than happy to help around mentoring the acting up chair for this period) and then we review the situation at the next AGM with a view to a appoint another chair or vote for my return.
3. Nominate a new Chairman tonight

By all means I have no intention to influence this decision because I feel the best way is to let the choir decide what is the most appropriate course of action and I will be happy for any decision you will take.

I think we can have a discussion and then a vote process in relation to the three options by show of hands.

After the vote:

During this sabbatical I will have the opportunity to do some work on the TS website which is very much needed at this moment in time.

Comments

No comments

4. Musical Directors report

Best year so far. Year number 14 of Trinity Singers! Each year we try to do new things so that we don't get stale. We've done new things this year, the Durufle Requiem in a new venue in Bristol (St Monicas), our 2nd period instrument concert, 1st Wells Cathedral weekend, and our 1st outing to Lllandaff to listen to Paul Mealor. We did a great job with the Durufle. Average age of audience was quite high, largely due to venue. The chapel acoustic was very good, but there were some challenges with the venue such as parking, location of the chapel from the car park. It was good to revisit some of the Jenkins again.

Christmas concert – concert still a bit long, and we need to trim the middle section. Generally the format works well, but we need more time to eat and spend less time singing. We had our smallest choir for the performance we've ever had for the Christmas concert, why is that? Interested in feedback on this. That said, we did a good performance with the people we had.

Christmas carol service – best ever yet. Tavener's 'The Lamb' went very well

Magnificat concert with Frideswide ensemble in March where we preformed Vivaldi's and Pergolesi's Magnificats. Thanks to Peter Leech for Pre Concert Talk.

Good soloists from choir were excellent, the audience smaller but we're not sure why this was. Abba etc at Axbridge was enjoyed by residents plus a fun skittles evening after the concert. Bill Witter won and kindly donated winnings to choir funds. It is great that the choir can switch repertoire, but wouldn't want to do this too often..

Wells w/e was hard work but fantastic. It was tiring and there were lots of logistics to manage. JM a bit stressed on Tuesday but thanks to the extras singers who made the w/e possible as only 1 T/S bass able to sing. Vergers would be pleased to have us back were at top end of visiting choir spectrum, (feedback given via Eric).

Each year sounding better, Wells sounded good. Choir school acoustic good but a little hot, our rehearsal room is bad but we also sound better at performances. The tuning at Wells was good, but generally we are not consistent enough with our tuning. As a choir we are not yet quite self sufficient Need More Men!!! Very grateful to our regular support e.g. Peter.

Thanks to committee , Max for his support, Kat for publicity, Suzie for her efficiency (JM's fault that there was a delay in sending out 2013 AGM minutes), Susannah, Margaret for social activities, Sarah for managing the money & Georgina coping with JM inefficiency re music, Bob the staging and you all for various help

Next year, Autumn concert with Wrington Primary, usual Xmas, invited to do an evensong in May at Burrington, March Spem in Allium with schools!!! Date 26/27 Feb, as well Tippet's spiritual Child in our Time. Harris' Fair is the Heaven Harris and Tyrell's Canticle of the Sun Tyrrell

Thank to choir for delivering on the day, maybe less stress at the last rehearsal would be nice!

Comments

Susannah R Wells - Momentum gathered, well used voices but think it helped singing lots,

John J - Will organise more evensong opportunities eg other Cathedrals

5. Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts for Year End 2012

Year end accounts provided by SP, and also provided information right up to June 2014.

Sarah explained policy that subs and donations should cover basic expenses such as JM, rehearsal venue, music purchases and organist fees. Events should cover themselves as a whole.

Restored our finances in the year – increased from just below £4000 to just over £5000.

Sarah had brought the accounts up to date as the financial year finished at the end of December. Currently have in the bank £3,200. £3,400 on the Italian Vespers, and received £900 (plus £40 from the newsagents in Yatton – handed in by Claire).

Comments

Roy – can we look at publicity for plant sale? Suggest emails to other choirs and ask them to circulate.

Discussed the contribution to the Verdi concert – we were asked for a contribution afterwards, but were not involved in the organisation. We agreed but said that we would like to be equal partners in the organisation as well as the finance.

Discussed venue fees and whether people were happy with the venue. **Margaret** said it was a difficult acoustic to sing in, especially for sopranos. **Janet Rogers** asked if there were other venues in the school we could use, such as the main hall. **John Jenkins** said that the next door room was better as larger, lighting better and acoustics slightly better. **Sarah J** suggested requesting a better room for the same amount because of the support that the choir gives to the school.

Susannah R agreed to discuss the issues with Stephanie at the Academy due the existing relationship which Churchill Music! have with her.

Accounts Proposed by Georgina Yule Accounts Seconded by Susannah Read

6. Secretaries report

Thanked the choir for their patience if any delays in getting things out. Will circulate contact sheet and asked choir members to check and update their details.

Roy S asked if the buddy system was working well. Suzie said it seemed to be – had had comments from non-email members for the AGM.

7. Librarians report

Georgina: got all copies of the Durufle back, although took some chasing, but got there in the end. Three boxes quite heavy to carry from the car park.

Would like choir to give back the music from the Wells Weekend. Derek left the music in very good order so many thanks to him.

Suggested hiring out our music to other choirs. JM suggested using the Gerontius website for this purpose – had used it for some music we hired for the Magnificat concert.

8. Social Secretary report

Quiz Night very successful, but still a few spaces so Margaret asked if members could make teams up with their friends to boost numbers.

Christmas very successful again – got it down to a good formula, but a bit long.

Spring Skittles Evening will become an annual event. Woodborough a good venue and very accommodating to people with special dietary requirements.

Welcomed the new members: Fern Urquart, Joanna Mills and Sarah Joskey.

Asked for ideas for other social events. Margaret very happy to organise new events now that “fully retired”!

Margaret has a list of who has which robes, but will be doing a choir robe audit this year.

Comments

Big thank you to Margaret. The choir is very special because of the social aspect (Susannah said this!). Thanks to Jill for revolutionising the ticketing for the Christmas concert.

9. The Chair role Sept 2014 onwards. Agree on one of 3 options:

Vote for what to do while Max is on a year's sabbatical:

Three options to choose from:

- 1) Max continues as chair (if elected) despite not being present for any rehearsals and only being present for dress rehearsals and concerts
- 2) Max formally continues as chair (if elected), but takes a sabbatical for 1 year, and someone else in the choir acts up as chair (with Massimo providing support to the acting chair where needed)
- 3) Max stands down as chair, and we elect a new chair.

Suzie reported the following votes by email:

5 votes

Bob put himself forward as an acting chair if option 2 was chosen
Margaret reminded members that it didn't need to be a man!

Votes in the actual meeting were (email votes shown as a +):

Option 1: 2+1
Option 2: 20+4
Option 3: 2+0
Option 2 was carried.

Votes for Bob as acting chair: unanimous

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

Proposal for 2014 Committee Members

Acting Chair: Bob
Treasurer: Sarah
Secretary: Suzie
Publicity: Kat
Social Secretary: Margaret
E -Publicity & Concert Committee Representative: Susannah

Non Committee Roles

Weddings Officer: Vacant
Librarian: Georgina

Committee elected on mass

Officers proposed by

**Officers seconded by
Choir unanimously voted for the committee members**

11. Any other business:

Feedback via email from choir members not present at the meeting regarding AOB

Margaret L - I would also like to take this opportunity of saying how much I have enjoyed singing with Trinity Singers and honoured to do so. Also how much I enjoyed singing on Saturday.

Pauline Kemp - I really enjoyed the weekend singing

Jill Preddy - I am also happy to deal with managing the ticket sales and seating for the Christmas banquet if everyone is happy for me to do this.

AOB in the meeting

Susannah talked about social media. Choir has Facebook and Twitter account. Susannah happy to maintain the Facebook page, but needs other people to like and share the pages.

Max is planning to do the website on his free Tuesday evenings using Wordpress. Will cost about \$40 to get an ad free site, and will post links to Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare etc.

Rov asked what happened to the Paul Mealor workshop. JM explained that he had tried very hard, but could not get a response from his agent. He had contacted Paul Mealor himself again who confirmed that he would do a workshop, but asked JM to work through the agent. JM tried but could not get a response.

Margaret suggested Nigel Perrin as an alternative for running a workshop. His day rate £600. Roy backed this. Committee to consider. Margaret suggested focussing on a particular work in 2015.

Meeting closed at 21.29.