



THE CHICHESTER SINGERS

Minutes of Virtual Committee Meeting held on Zoom on Monday 11th January 2021 at 6.00pm

Present: Carolyn Shaw (Chairman)
David Swayne (Hon. Treasurer)
Izabela Mayne (Hon. Secretary)
Annie Barnes
Wendy Bray
David Curran
Maggie Pugh
Jill Selwood
Jonathan Willcocks

| | | ACTION |
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| 1.0 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 1.1 | No apologies were received. | |
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| 2.0 | MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 9TH NOVEMBER 2020 | |
| 2.1 | The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meetings and will be signed by the Chairman with other minutes in due course, when it becomes possible. | |
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| 3.0 | MATTERS ARISING | |
| 3.1 | There were no matters arising. | |
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| 4.0 | HON. TREASURER'S REPORT | |
| 4.1 | DS reported that not much had changed in the year's forecast since we last met on 11 th November 2020. | |
| 4.2 | 58% of our 127 members have paid their subs to date, 59% of whom have made donations totalling £1,585. DS is to give a reminder during the next rehearsal about the approaching deadline for payments. | DS |
| 4.3 | So far 12 people are using <i>Amazon Smile</i> for their orders, contributing small sums to the Chichester Singers' budget. DS expressed his hope that this will grow in the future. | |
| 4.4 | DS has looked at the possibility of acquiring a mobile card reader for ticket sales at the door and other purposes (eg. music sales) to reduce the amount of cash and | |

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| | cheques currently being handled. The readers cost £29 and the supplier (eg. iZettle) charges 1.75% per transaction. The reader operates with an app on a mobile phone. DS suggested that this could be a way forward to reducing offline transactions and the Committee agreed to this purchase. | DS |
| 5.0 | CHAIRMAN'S REPORT | |
| 5.1 | CS reminded the Committee about all preparations needed to be done in readiness for the AGM, which is to be held on Wednesday, 17 th February. | |
| 6.0 | FUTURE PROGRAMME | |
| 6.1 | JW said that due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions we would need to continue with holding our rehearsals via Zoom. The Committee thanked JW for making these sessions so varied by adding sight reading exercises and interesting information about the music we are performing. | |
| 6.2 | The Committee is grateful to Sue for agreeing to continue socially-distanced visits to JW's house in order to provide accompaniment for our rehearsals. | |
| 6.3 | The Committee expressed thanks and gratitude to Peter Lunt for the efficient way in which the scores were distributed via postal services to ensure that members received them in time for the first rehearsal on 11 th January. | |
| 6.4 | From January 2021 we are to rehearse Rossini – 'Petite Messe Solennelle' (last performed by The Chichester Singers in 2012), which has lots of attractive choruses and goes well with just piano accompaniment. We would again bring this series of rehearsals to an 'end point' in March 2021, with whatever form of informal 'performance' is by then realistic. | |
| 6.5 | Performing Will Todd – 'Mass in Blue' / L'Estrange – 'Songs of a Rainbow Nation' concert informally or virtually (planned for the Cathedral on 19 th June 2021) would however be more difficult. If live performances are still not permitted by then, we shall need to move this to a future season. As Will Todd and his jazz quartet are due to be joining us to provide the accompaniment for this concert, we would have to revise our contract for this. A final decision on us proceeding with this performance will need to be taken c. April 2021. WB is to flag this up to the Cathedral as a potential booking cancellation. | WB |
| 6.6 | JW mentioned that he really would not want to delay our two concerts on 13 th November 2021 - Elgar – 'The Dream of Gerontius' and 15 th January 2022 – Handel – 'Messiah'. | |
| 6.7 | Our last rehearsal before Easter will be on 17 th March, with the new term restarting on 14 th April. | |
| 6.8 | David Curran is to respond to the organisers of Festival of Chichester in 2021 to provisionally confirm our entry with the concert scheduled for 19 th June. Depending on the circumstances at the time, this may need to be cancelled or postponed. The Committee however felt that it was important for The Chichester Singers to maintain our links with the Festival and to support its organisers. | DC |
| 6.9 | WB advised that our bookings with the Cathedral were confirmed until the end of 2022, with just the final engagement for November 2022 awaiting a written confirmation. | |
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| 7.0 | CHOIR TOUR | |
| 7.1 | The Choir Tour Organisers have submitted a detailed status report to the Committee, which assessed the current position of the tour, given that the present Covid conditions make it impossible for it to go ahead in May 2021. | |
| 7.2 | The Committee unanimously agreed to the further postponement of the current arrangements to May 2022. | |
| 7.3 | A letter is to be sent to members by the Organisers to ascertain if they are also willing to support the tour in 2022. CS is to mention this during the rehearsal, prior to it being sent. | CS |
| 7.4 | A brief Committee meeting will be organised to discuss members' responses once these have been collated. | CS |
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| 8.0 | WEBSITE | |
| 8.1 | The Committee has been informed that IM would take on the additional responsibility and replace CS in liaising with Chrissy Harbroe-Bush on all matters relating to the running of the choir's website. | IM |
| 8.2 | Members of the Committee, including CS and WB, have recently reported issues with not receiving e-mails via the Contact Form on the website, or with the said e-mails being delivered to their Spam folders. Valerie (CHB's IT support) has investigated this and made minor amends to the current form, which now appears to be working. Members have been advised to check their Spam/Junk folders and to add the sending address (wordpress@chichestersingers.co.uk) to their Contacts List. The Committee has agreed on this being an acceptable workaround, not requiring any further expenditure. | |
| 8.3 | IM has recently approached CHB about a possibility of creating a dedicated space within our website, where links to events/advertisements (which in the past have been shared with members via e-mails) could be posted. Having explored the technical and cost implications, as well as the time required in maintaining this, the idea has not been deemed logistically viable at this point. An alternative solution, allowing members to share and promote other musical activities, is to post them on Facebook. This can be facilitated by DS and JS, who are both the administrators for the site. | |
| 8.4 | The Committee felt that some additional work might be required on the Members Area of our website, to allow a better visibility, whilst maintaining its security. This task will be dealt with at a later date. | |
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| 9.0 | MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS | |
| 9.1 | There were no matters raised by members. | |
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| 10.0 | ANY OTHER BUSINESS | |
| 10.1 | There was no other business to discuss. | |
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| 11.0 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | |
| 11.1 | Our scheduled quarterly Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, 29 th March (postponed from 15 th March) at 6pm on Zoom. | |
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| | CS thanked the Committee and the meeting ended at 7.07pm. | |
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