

## Minutes of Trustee Meeting on Thursday 12 January 2023 by Zoom

**Present:** Philip Bellshaw (PB) (chair), Paul Spicer (PS), Graham Stroud (GS), Barbara Hathaway (BH), Hilary Boszko (HB), Pauline Hygate (PH), Corinna Gregory (CG), Julia Sadler (JS), Eike Ritter (ER), Ela Claridge (EC), Kate Crocker (KC)

		Action
1.	<b>Apologies for absence</b> were received from Heather Gay	
2.	<b>Minutes of meeting held on 1 December 2022:</b> agreed	
3.	<p><b>Actions and matters arising from the minutes</b></p> <p>HB reported that she had contacted the agents of Claire Barnett-Jones regarding the invitation to be a patron, but had still received no answer. PS wondered whether it was worth pursuing the matter, given the seemingly low level of interest shown.</p> <p>PS reported that he had contacted a possible bass soloist for the April concert, but had not yet had feedback.</p>	<p>HB</p> <p>PS</p>
4.	<p><b>Decisions taken since the last meeting</b></p> <p>PB noted that there had been an agreement on ticket pricing for the April concert.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Proposal for St Matthew Passion concert, 9 March 2024</b></p> <p>PB had circulated brief details of the proposed concert before the meeting. In general, the committee members were very enthusiastic about the proposal, subject to the following matters being taken into consideration.</p> <p>PS noted that the costs would be higher than the recent Christmas Oratorio for several reasons. The orchestra(s) is bigger, two extra soloists would be required as well as a ripieno choir. An extra rehearsal with orchestra and soloists will be required. PB replied that the person proposing to sponsor the concert is aware of the extra costs and may be willing to defray them. PS will speak to the orchestra manager shortly. PH proposed looking at enhanced insurance cover for the event, due to the higher budget.</p> <p>CG reported that she has submitted the booking form to Lichfield Cathedral. A deposit is due within two weeks of the booking being accepted. KC said that, once the booking is accepted, she will immediately cancel the booking of St Paul's church. She would press them to hold over the choir's deposit for a future event.</p> <p>BH reported that a minority of the choir members have sung the St Matthew Passion with the choir in the past. Given the complexities of the work, she felt that an extra two Saturday rehearsals would be required and probably the cancellation of Come and Sing in 2024. 20 January and 3 February were proposed as dates for the extra sessions.</p> <p>PB said that there was sufficient enthusiasm to go ahead with the project and that he would</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>PH</p> <p>CG</p> <p>KC</p>

	announce it to the choir straight away.	PB
6.	<p><b>Finance update:</b> PH had circulated a finance report (attached) before the meeting, with a further breakdown of ticket sales from the Christmas Oratorio concert. Concerning the loss of the CCTV equipment, she would introduce an insurance claim, based on the replacement cost, as reported by Merryn Lloyd, backed up by an expert's estimate from Tony Wass. She proposed a separate discussion with a small committee sub-group on other outstanding finance issues – funds and cash deposits, increases to fees and ticket prices for the summer concert.</p>	PH  PB/GS
7.	<p><b>Fundraising update:</b> KC had presented a written update (attached). She has applied to all the usual sponsors. It was agreed to prime the Feeney Trust for a possible application to support a recording next year.</p>	KC
8.	<p><b>Marketing update:</b> HB had presented a written update (attached). She is actively looking at contacting the local Russian community about the April concert. BH offered to approach the Serbian Orthodox Church. EC noted that the University of Birmingham has a Department of Central and Eastern European Studies who may be able to help in publicising the concert in the appropriate communities.</p>	HB BH HB
9.	<p><b>Come and Sing:</b> PB reported that bookings were still on the low side (79 on 11 January). Offers of help would be sought through the regular emails to the choir. HB noted that extra copies of the scores were being sourced.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Rest of 2022/23 schedule:</b> <b>a. April concert</b> PS was asked to provide the details of the bass soloist as soon as possible. He suggested that he should also come for the last Wednesday rehearsal before the concert. He would reflect on the question of an interval in the concert. <b>b. June concerts</b> KC and HB will check out the Bridgnorth venue to see about interval refreshments and marketing opportunities in the area. KC will apply for a drinks licence in due course.</p>	PS  HB, KC
11.	<p><b>Planning Group Meeting:</b> PB proposed to organise a face-to-face meeting with a smaller sub-group to brainstorm planning issues. He will contact PS for possible dates and then issue invitations for sometime in February.</p>	PB
12.	<p><b>CCTV</b> See 6 above</p>	
13.	<p><b>Tour:</b> PB will arrange a Zoom meeting of the tour subgroup when HG returns.</p>	PB
14.	<p><b>Choir dinner</b> With a view to organising a less formal occasion later in the year, HB suggested getting some other choir members (particularly younger ones) involved. PB wondered whether there was much appetite for this any more. PS suggested that something akin to the Strouds' informal</p>	

	<p>Christmas gatherings (tapas bar with a fixed menu) could be a possible solution. It was suggested that late-September/early-October would be a good time to hold such an event. PS kindly offered to host a summer garden party once again on 9 July 2023. PB thanked him on behalf of the choir and asked that committee members reflect on possibilities for the later event.</p>	All
15.	<p><b>Correspondence received:</b> Nothing to report</p>	
16.	<p><b>Archives</b> PB noted with sorrow the passing of Michael Palmer. The funeral will be held on 1 February. He proposed that the choir should make a small donation in his memory to the MND Association. EC had prepared a summary on the archives and on possibilities before the meeting (attached). In particular, she noted that the Library of Birmingham might well be interested in hosting the archives. It was agreed that, after the funeral, EC, BH and Merryn Lloyd should meet with the family to assess the extent of the archive held by MP. PS reminded the committee that, in particular, there was a complete Bach-Gesellschaft edition belonging to the choir that should be recovered. PB proposed a further discussion at the next meeting.</p>	EC, BH
17.	<p><b>Any other business:</b> PB asked whether St Alban's were aware that the choir will not be singing Nine Lessons again in 2023. He proposed contacting them to let them know (and informing them that we would be returning at a later date). BH remarked that some choir members felt that they did not yet know the recent intake of new members well and that it could be a good idea to produce a sheet of photos of all members to help with their integration. HB asked that the recording of the recent Nine Lessons be sent to all committee members to see if there were any extracts that could be posted on the website</p>	<p>PB, GS</p> <p>HB?</p> <p>GS</p>
18.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> Thursday, 9 March 2023 at 17:30 by Zoom.</p>	GS/EC