

Minutes of Trustee Meeting on Thursday 9 March 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), Heather Gay (HG)

		Action
1.	Apologies for absence: None	
2.	Minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2023: agreed	
3.	Actions and matters arising from the minutes See below	
4.	Decisions taken since the last meeting PB noted that the date of 27 April had been chosen for Come and Sing 2024.	
5.	<p>Concert on 1 April 2023</p> <p>CG reported that the choir would have access to St Paul’s from noon, for a rehearsal starting at 13.00. She will need helpers for setting up the staging and chairs. JS and KC offered to help on the door. Other “volunteers” will be required.</p> <p>There will be no interval drinks, just a “comfort break”. The extra second bass (who will sing the Deacon’s chants) has agreed to perform for expenses only. He will invoice PH. EC has accepted the proofs for the programme, which, as before, will be circulated to the choir in electronic form. It was agreed that an extra 50 printed programmes should be ordered, to avoid running out. HG reported that 108 tickets had already been sold, which is very healthy three weeks before the concert. PH reported that we had reached break-even already but that choir members should be encouraged to keep selling.</p> <p>PS asked BH to send a firm reminder to the choir of the importance of 100% attendance and punctuality in the rehearsals leading up to the concert. HB reported that she had booked several reviewers, including Chris Morley and a new, experienced reviewer.</p> <p>PB will contact Gisela Stuart to invite her and KC will offer two complimentary seats to the S&D Lloyd Trust.</p>	<p>CG JS, KC</p> <p>EC</p> <p>BH</p> <p>PB, KC</p>
6.	<p>Finance update:</p> <p>PB thanked PH for the finance report (attached), circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>Concerning income from advertisers in the programmes, HB said that there was a need to find someone from the choir to follow this up. She noted that advertisers pay for the production of the programmes. PB said that a person needed to be identified, then “persuaded” to do this job, rather than simply asking for volunteers, which never works.</p>	PB

	<p>Concerning ticket agencies, HG said that PayPal had become a big problem, creating a lot of work. She proposed looking at EventBrite again, which was agreed. PS suggested looking at TryBooking, which he used for Come and Sing events and had proved straightforward.</p> <p>For the St Matthew Passion concert in March 2024, PH reported that she could not get extra insurance, so the contracts will have to be made more robust. CG replied that new contracts, based on Making Music contracts were being finalised. PB noted that these would need to be examined later.</p> <p>On the loss of the CCTV equipment, PH said that she had made no progress with an insurance claim, in particular as no police report had been made, and proposed dropping the matter. This was agreed to.</p> <p>She proposed a separate discussion with a small committee sub-group on other outstanding finance issues – funds and cash deposits, increases to fees, etc.</p>	<p>HG</p> <p>PB, PH</p>
7.	<p>Fundraising update:</p> <p>KC had presented a written update (attached). She noted that St Mary’s, Warwick has been booked for the summer 2024 concert.</p>	
8.	<p>Marketing update:</p> <p>HB had presented a written update (attached). PB thanked her for the excellent results so far on the April concert. HB noted that she had not had much luck contacting the local Russian community. BH has contacted the Serbian Orthodox Church.</p> <p>HB asked if the April concert would be recorded. GS agreed to do this.</p>	GS
9.	<p>Rest of 2022/23 schedule:</p> <p>a. June concerts</p> <p>BH reported that there were problems with some scores that it was intended to buy, as they don’t include the piano parts. After some deliberation, it had been decided to prepare a booklet of all the pieces using Public Domain versions. This would save choir members money and mean that all are singing from the same versions. PB thanked BH, EC and Peter Boszko for organising this.</p> <p>KC asked for a decision on the choir green room in Bridgnorth. It was agreed to use the Shakespeare pub, subject to a reasonable number of choir members agreeing to eat there.</p> <p>b. November concert</p> <p>HB asked for suggestions for a theme for the concert, to go on posters and programmes. PS noted that there will be no soloists needed.</p> <p>c. Nine lessons and carols</p> <p>CG reported that St Paul’s had been booked. As it is a religious service, there will be no charge. PS will prepare a compendium of all his descants to carols, so that a booklet can be prepared for sopranos.</p> <p>PB informed the committee that he had received a friendly reply from St Alban’s to his email informing them that we would not be singing there this year.</p>	<p>BH, EC, Peter Boszko</p> <p>KC</p> <p>All</p> <p>PS</p>
10.	<p>St Matthew Passion, March 2024: Update</p> <p>PS noted that when a proper schedule for the day of the concert has been fixed, it needs to be contracted. CG replied that the orchestra and soloists are well aware that it will be a full day’s rehearsal on concert day.</p> <p>PS asked the committee to agree to an enhanced fee, given the huge workload he will have on the concert day. PB agreed and said that the committee would discuss this separately. CG asked</p>	PB, PH

	whether Martyn Rawles and Martin Perkins should also be offered an enhanced fee. To be discussed.	
11.	<p>Results of Planning Group Meeting:</p> <p>PB asked whether the note on the Planning Group meeting (attached) could be accepted. CG reported that Lichfield cathedral was not available on 24 November 2024 and several committee members said that postponing the B minor Mass concert to March 2025 had been discussed. CG will check whether this is possible and HB will liaise with the BFCS to check whether they will be performing at Lichfield again before Easter 2025.</p> <p>KC noted that St Paul's will carry forward our deposit (originally for March 2024) only within 2024. It was felt that we may have to forfeit the deposit.</p> <p>PS suggested performing the Nordic programme at Malvern priory in November 2024.</p> <p>CG will investigate possibilities and do a tentative orchestra booking for the B minor Mass. Preferred venues are Lichfield Cathedral and Birmingham Town Hall (in that order).</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>CG, HB</p> <p>CG</p>
12.	<p>Social events</p> <p>a. Fish and chip supper, Autumn 2023</p> <p>It was agreed to go ahead with the suggested supper at the Dad's Lane Fish Bar on 25 November 2023. GS will check with them that this date is possible (maximum attendance 60).</p> <p>b. Fundraising organ recital and buffet supper</p> <p>It was agreed to aim for two possible dates – 20 and 21 October 2025 – both at 18.30.</p> <p>PB thanked PS for his kind offer and the use of his house.</p>	GS
13.	<p>Tour:</p> <p>PB will arrange a meeting of the tour subgroup. PH asked that the current thinking be communicated to members at a rehearsal, as some people are wondering when this might take place. PB noted that it would not be until 2025 at the earliest.</p>	PB
14.	<p>Correspondence received:</p> <p>PB reported that he had received an email from Merryn Lloyd concerning the choir archive, as the Palmer family are looking to pass this on to the choir. As we don't know the extent and volume of the archive, he felt that a scoping meeting was first required. He would get back to Merryn suggesting this.</p>	PB
15.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>HG asked that the piece for the Come and Sing in 2024 be decided. PS proposed the Puccini Messa di Gloria.</p> <p>PH noted that it had been decided to give a small donation to the MND Association in memory of Michael Palmer. PB suggested £50.</p>	PB, PH
16.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Thursday, 25 May 2023 at 17:30 by Zoom.</p>	GS/EC