

## **Minutes of CCC committee meeting 18 October 2018, 6:45pm**

The committee met upstairs in the Court House before the Thursday rehearsal. Present: Marie Brewer (MB), Adrian Davis (ASD), Kate Goodwin (KG), Kate Perera (KP), Chris Sanders (CS), Jane Wilde (JW).

The meeting was intended as a quick check and catch-up session, and it is proposed that such a session should take place about once a term.

### **Christmas concert arrangements**

Arrangements are in place and people are carrying on with their allotted tasks.

- KP will contact honorary members and make sure they have tickets.
- John Wignall has agreed to be responsible for the programme, with notes by ASD. CS suggested printing in the parish office as before. Numbers to be confirmed.
- MB will offer comp tickets to the soloists.
- It is hoped that Jeremy Biddle will coordinate setting up after the morning service, the rehearsal will start at 1:30pm. MB to check.
- It is hoped that the Biddles are happy to be in charge of wine for the after concert party. MB to check that.
- The Court House may or may not be fit for post-concert hospitality, depending on building work. A decision on this can be made nearer the time.
- More copies of the B Minor Mass will be needed for guest singers. ASD and CS will calculate numbers and acquire the necessary copies in one way or another.
- MB will handle ticket sales to the choir, Astrid will be asked to supply Brown and Merry with tickets for sale to the general public.

There was some discussion of the involvement of Cowper Society, which is currently undergoing changes to its structure. MB to discuss this with Jeremy Biddle. More to be decided nearer the time.

### **The summer concert**

ASD has no firm ideas yet, and is open to suggestions. It was felt that the format of the 2018 summer concert worked well: one substantial piece, something (modern?) to challenge the choir, and some smaller pieces from repertoire, perhaps those that might be subsequently taken on tour.

The main question is how to increase both audience and choir numbers. There is reluctance to do as other choirs do and simply give each choir member a number of tickets to sell, but summer concert numbers are poor.

Might a season ticket encourage people to come to all concerts? Should there be a "Friends of" programme similar to that run by Bridgewater Sinfonia? To be discussed further.

### **Subscriptions**

It is hoped that collecting a full year's subscription in one go will encourage people not to take a term off. KG has collected most of the subs for this year. She read out a list of those who had not yet paid.

### **Charitable status?**

At the AGM David Wilde mentioned the question of obtaining charitable status. There was some inconclusive discussion of this, mostly indicating that it is a lot of work for potentially uncertain returns. More thought to be given to this.

### **Publicity**

David Brown and JW have produced and printed a poster in various sizes for the December 23 concert. KP will laminate the A3 copies.

Tickets are available to buy via the website, through the Little Box Office. NB only part of the commission has been taken – it is thought the Little Box Office will invoice for all sales after the event. KG has had payment for four tickets so far through this method.

There are more names to add to the mailing list, and a mailshot will be going out shortly. JW asked if she had a **budget for publicity** – so far she has simply spent what was necessary to produce the usual material. No specific budget has been defined. The bookmarks are attractive and a useful tool.

**Scores for the Palm Sunday concert** of music by Zelenka: CCC already has copies of the *De Profundis*, and CS will order copies of the Mass based on the result of a Doodle Poll which MB will initiate. If necessary CS will contact Bärenreiter directly – ASD has a contact there. Cost will be c.a. £9/10. There is some urgency to get the copies, as ASD may wish to start rehearsals before Christmas.

### **Recording session**

MB bought a recording session for £75 at an auction of promises held by Herts Chorus. This would be to produce a “taster” of about 30 minutes’ length for publicity purposes (the website, or to send to prospective concert venues elsewhere). The recording engineer is Simon Stock, and Jon Lee will “curate” it when it happens. There was a suggestion that St Peter’s is not an ideal location for recording, it is too near the High Street, emergency services depot, etc. St Lawrence in Abbots Langley might be an alternative.

### **Summer Tour**

The impression is that an organised tour with operator was not a popular suggestion, but no-one has yet come forward to volunteer an alternative. ASD had a contact in Cambrai but has lost track of him; a return Nürnberg might be possible but depends on ASD’s friend there. KP is not keen to re-open negotiations for a trip to the Rhineland. The discussion was inconclusive.

The meeting finished at 7:45pm to allow members to get to the evening’s rehearsal.