

CCC Committee Meeting - Thursday 16 January 2020 - Minutes

Present: Marie Brewer, Adrian Davis, Chris Sanders, Kate Goodwin, Jane Wilde.

Also present: Mary McCarthy Harris to discuss Lyon and CCC's relationship with La Chambre Symphonique

Monteverdi concert

Had been very successful in terms of ticket sales (over 100 online) Kate Goodwin was not yet able to give the final financial figures, but it looked as if the event would break even - no mean feat, given the special instruments and seven soloists!

There had been a small glitch in communication over tickets to Brown & Merry - Jane to ask Astrid gives them a telephone number to contact her when tickets run low.

Approx 160 programmes had been sold.

Front of House was a potential issue at the Christmas concert because of the size of the audience and the possible health and safety risks of over-filling the church/not having an upper limit on numbers. Marie undertook to find out maximum seating so that in future we could have a cap on numbers admitted and avoid the possibility of selling tickets to people without being able to provide a seat.

Front of House in future

Tim Harris had kindly volunteered to be in charge. Marie will brief Tim on what is required.

Palm Sunday concert

Jane will arrange posters, flyers and tickets as usual.

Marie is looking into potential alto and tenor soloists for the Rachmaninov.

Lyon and La Chambre Symphonique at Summer Concert on 4 July

Mary summarised the correspondence she had had with the orchestra following the Lyon concert. She had asked the orchestra to consider waiving their fee in view of the financial loss we sustained - the audience was about half the size we had been led to believe. Loic Emmelin had been upset by this request and was not keen to reduce the fee. Despite this, both parties felt the concert had gone very well and the visit had been a musical and cultural success.

It was agreed that the balance of the fee (totalling 3000 Euros) would be paid to the orchestra (they have already had 1100 Euros in ticket receipts) to settle the debt, as per contract.

However, the loss we incurred makes it difficult to go along with the orchestra's request to play 2 concerts in the summer and to bring over 50 members of the orchestra at CCC's expense. This would not be financially or logistically possible. It was agreed that Mary would write back to the orchestra, offering 30 members accommodation and just one concert at St. Peter's. We would not make over any potential receipts from ticket sales to the orchestra until our costs had been covered.

The orchestra was unlikely to want to go ahead on that basis, but we would offer this, asking for an urgent response, so that the programme of music for the summer concert on 4 July could be finalised. We are keen to maintain good relations with the orchestra and hope that future co-operation on a basis that suits both sides will be possible at some stage.

Mary was thanked for her incredible work in putting the tour together and communicating so ably with the orchestra.

Future tours

Adrian said that Maguelone would be happy for us to do a concert here again, provided the financial arrangements were watertight. Ruth Bardou had offered Agde and Chris Sanders had had a look at churches in the area that hold concerts. Mary would be willing to help organise another tour to France, though was unsure whether or not she would be able to participate in person. It was agreed that interest in another tour would be sounded out with the choir (and after the rehearsal that evening) Marie agreed to send out a doodle poll to determine what time of year and where people would like to go.

Recruitment of younger singers

Marie asked for ideas about how to recruit younger singers into the choir. Jane said that Tring Choral Society often has a young soloist performing an interlude in their choral concerts and this attracted younger people to the concerts. Perhaps a choral scholarship with no subs could be offered to church choristers or other young people on a gap year.

Marie would ask choir members to join a small task force to look into recruitment.

With thanks to Mary for hosting the meeting at her house.

Minutes taken by Jane Wilde