

Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir

Notes of the meeting of Thursday 14th July 2022, 8pm by Zoom

Present: Andrew Woodburn- Drayton, Geoff Mason, Jenny Mason, Martyn Rawles, Tina Shakeshaft, Wendy Shepperson, Vicki Shirtliff

Apologies, Jenny Arthur, Megan Barr

1: Covid

- Current adjustments are felt to be enough and should continue, but can be reviewed if necessary

2: Rehearsals September 22

- Martyn requested that rehearsals end at 9.30pm – all present agreed. Rehearsals will be 7.45- 9.30pm from September 2022
- The Cathedral shop will be situated in the South Transept so Martyn will choose another area to rehearse in. He is not keen on the crossing because of sound, but he will try different configurations

3: AGM

- Martyn requested a move of the AGM date to 25th April 2023 as he is unable to attend on the date agreed previously (18th). Those present did not see a problem with this.

4: Commissioned Work

- Kerensa Briggs has been suggested by MR. She is an up - and - coming composer and has just released first CD of her works
- MR thanked those who had responded with feedback. He outlined his thoughts about why her work would suit the choir well.
- TS also suggested we look at the website of Charlotte Baskerville and has sent a link to her work. Feedback is requested by return regarding this composer
- It was agreed that a work of about 3 - 4 minutes length would be attractive
- As there is no other major expenditure for the choir for this year it was felt that £2k - £2.5k from the current bank account of £5k could be allocated
- It was suggested that past members and current members might like to contribute towards the cost anyway and feel even more part of the activity. Several committee members present said they would want to contribute.
- The style of piece has yet to be determined – MR felt that a Christmas piece was less attractive but that maybe something for Easter or other festival might work.
- MR was asked to further the project with Karenza and get more details of the sort of piece she might produce for the budget, discuss voice ranges and parts, before we commit
- JM to send a BBC recording of the Choir so that she can hear the group.
- It was agreed that the project needs progressing soon to give the chosen composer enough time to produce the work for 2023

5: 40th Anniversary Concert

- Discussions have taken place between Helen and Ollie at the Cathedral regarding a concert in the Cathedral in 2023. The most suitable date available is Friday 9th June
- A concert linked to the Cathedral Fundraising campaign would be strategic for the choir and this opportunity to link to one of the major exhibitions in this period is exciting.
- The exhibition focus is on the books of the Duchess of Somerset – part of the Cathedral library - and organised by Cathedral Librarian Clare
- Marketing and publicity would be organised by the Cathedral.
- An audience of 150 – 250 in a creative format in the Cathedral would be achievable
- MR is discussing this further with the Cathedral and is also starting to think about related repertoire. The concert could also possibly include readings from some of the works where appropriate.
- MR will report back to the committee as soon as

6: Sunday 17th June

- It was agreed that ties and jackets need not be worn. Flexibility in shirt/blouse sleeves lengths is fine!
- We will perform the Bach split sides as normal for Evensong
- Richard Bateman will be invited to sing as we are short of 2nd basses

7: Website/ Media

- Photos have been added to the new site
- MR will contact Chris Lockwood about taking some up - to - date photos in September
- AW to remind MR about the write up for the site
- TS mentioned getting permission from member to us photos

8. AOB (added on 17th July)

- MB has liaised with the NMA regarding poppy scarves for the ladies for NMA events. They are £13 each and the NMA will do them for £10.
- MB is still researching badges for the ladies to wear for services.

Martyn thanked all Committee members for the huge amount of work they do and the support they give him.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm