

## Minutes of Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir Committee Meeting Thursday 28 April 2022, 8.00pm, held on Zoom

- 1. Present:** Jenny Arthur, Megan Barr, Jenny Mason, Geoff Mason, Martyn Rawles, Wendy Shepperson, Vicki Shirliff, Andrew Woodburn-Drayton

**Apologies:** Tina Shakeshaft

- 2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.** All matters on the previous minutes and matters arising were to be discussed on the current agenda, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

- 3. Finance**

VS informed us that two charitable donations had been made recently, one of £100 for the Cathedral-Castle run to raise funds for refugees and one of £30 for our Ukrainian badges. The former idea of booking a Christmas Tree this year was also approved in principle.

The invoice for the Weston Park wedding on May 14<sup>th</sup> will be sent shortly. We have also been booked for the NMA Naming Ceremony in July, and VS will send that invoice once she receives the purchase order number. There is approximately £4600 in the bank account.

- 4. Recruitment and auditions**

It was noted that Jemima has left the choir. MR is auditioning Luke (tenor) next Sunday. MR will also approach Hettie (alto), who is experienced and a strong sight-reader. There are currently no obvious young candidates from local schools.

The suggestion was made that we could put out a message focussed on recruiting tenors both on our website and on Facebook.

Attendance: Members have been very good recently in responding to the Doodlepoll and completing their availability information, but the new form of Doodlepoll was proving less user-friendly. JM and GM will decide on the best way to acquire this information from members in future.

It was also noted that, as requested, members are now generally informing GM if they are likely to be absent or late at rehearsals .

- 5. Calendar - review and dates for the next year**

MR has been considering working on a Bach Motet for July, possibly Jesu Meine Freude, as we have a little more rehearsal time available for the next few months.

MR also suggested keeping to the current rehearsal plan of starting at 7.45 and having no break, but adding a 15 minute sectional for relevant parts at the end of each rehearsal, to maximise potential rehearsal time. This was considered a sensible idea.

There may need to be use of depts in the men's parts depending on availability of members, and MR will think about depts who might be asked in principle, in preparation for this.

Autumn term: we will be following the usual pattern of the October half term Sunday, All Souls, a Sunday in Advent and 10.00pm "Midnight" Mass.

Our involvement in Holy Week this year was a big commitment, with the addition of the Easter Vigil, but MR felt it was a good experience and the Vigil gave the relief of performing some joyous music.

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans

There was considerable discussion over potential ideas for celebrating our 40 years of existence, and five possibilities were identified. It was felt that the choir needed the opportunity for some social time, particularly getting to know the newer members. The possibilities will be put to the membership, who will be asked to rank them in their preferred order, so that planning can progress based on what people would like to do.

The five are

- a) An evening dinner at a local restaurant, possibly the School House at Weeford.
- b) Cream Tea or similar after Evensong on July 17<sup>th</sup> (last day of Festival, when we are singing), perhaps in a garden in the Close.
- c) Giving a concert in the Cathedral (where we have an option of one free concert a year), probably in February 2023. This might involve some instrumentalists.
- d) A visit to sing at a different Cathedral involving an overnight stay. This would probably be some time into the future.
- e) A work commissioned specifically for us by a respected composer...MR has several ideas of potential composers to be asked.

MB will devise a poll to be sent to members for feedback as quickly as possible.

## 6. Social-Media update

AWD said that the website could become more attractive for members to visit if there were a regular article about or by members of the choir. It was suggested that MR might start the ball rolling with a "Meet the Conductor" column or similar.

WS explained that there is currently not much in the members' area, as there are concerns over personal data being inadvertently shared. The members' area will contain general information eg future bookings and dates, but sensitive information such as choir lists will be sent to members by email and not put on the website.

WS also explained that because of a change in Google's services our enquiry email may in future become [enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries@gmail.com). This was not considered a problem for us.

## 7. AOB

- a) May 14<sup>th</sup>, 12.30, wedding at Weston. We now have the music requirements, which are Rutter Lord Bless You, Schubert Ave Maria and Geoffrey Burgon Nunc Dimittis . We are told by the wedding planner that we can use the church in the morning, so MR is aiming for choir to rehearse 11.00 till 11.45. Liam will be there an hour earlier. As we have a maximum of 12 choir spaces, Martyn will be selecting the choir very soon.
- b) Music purchase budget: JM asked if she might have a small budget allocation for replacing damaged or missing copies, to avoid having to seek permission for such matters. A £200 budget was approved.
- c) MR is considering buying some new Masses, to fill a mid-standard gap in our current library.
- d) There was a suggestion that we might be able to hire out some of our music to other choirs, as another means of income. This will be visited again after consideration of all that would be involved.
- e) MR felt that the recent vocal workshops had been very valuable, and it was thought that an annual workshop of this nature would be beneficial for us in the future. MR will follow this up.

## 8. Future meeting dates.

Now that post-Covid relative normality has resumed, committee meetings will in future be held on a more regular and pre-planned basis, with occasional additional short meetings after a rehearsal as required.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June , 8.00 – 9.30

The meeting closed at 10.19pm.