

Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on Thursday 19th January 2023, 8.00pm by Zoom

- 1. Present:** Jenny Arthur, Megan Barr, Geoff Mason, Jenny Mason, Martyn Rawles, Wendy Shepperson, Vicki Shirtliff

Apologies: Andrew Woodburn-Drayton, Tina Shakeshaft

- 2. Minutes of previous meeting:** These were agreed and approved.

Matters arising: Item 7a: New recruitment is ongoing, partly through website contacts, and another bass may be joining us. Hetty, the new alto, will only be short term at present as a new baby is on the way.

Item 4: MB asked for clarification on who would be informing the NMA of our increased fees. It was agreed that MB would draft a letter and confer with GM and VS before sending.

Item 7b: The matter of accompanists for services and their pay was discussed. Payment will need to be made for accompanists when cathedral staff are not available, and MR will talk to Andrew about the balance of responsibility between LCCC and Cathedral for this.

Item 7d: Safeguarding: Choir members will be reminded in the near future of their responsibility to fulfil this obligation.

- 3. Finance and Commissioned Work:**

VS: the account currently stands at about £6500.

Commission: a contract is being formulated, but MR has had recent communication with the composer who has almost finished writing the work already. The work is unaccompanied, occasionally in 8 parts, and after careful thought it was agreed that it might be best to perform this at the Festival service in July, as the Ubi Caritas text doesn't fit the Book Exhibition format of our concert, and there would be more time for preparation. MR will discuss with Damian, (Festival Director) and hopes to have it featured in the Festival brochure.

- 4. Calendar of events:**

- a) Dates for the year:

No discussion so far with Simon re possible visit to Chester. MR to follow up.

Upcoming dates: MR reported that the Ascension Day service is no longer on our calendar, owing to another Cathedral double-booking. After the summer holidays, our service commitments are: 22nd October, 2nd November (All Souls), 17th December, "Midnight" on 24th December

There is also the possibility of a service on 23rd September, at either 12.00 or 6.30, on the Anniversary of the Prayer Book, but this is yet to be confirmed.

With regard to rehearsal dates, there was considerable discussion about how to manage the surfeit of bank holidays in May, especially with our June 9th concert in mind, and it was decided we would rehearse on 17th and 24th April (but with an alternative conductor on 17th as Martyn will be on holiday), not rehearse on May 1st but we will rehearse on the May 8th bank holiday. This may need to be amended once the city's plans for celebrating the Coronation are announced.

b) Anniversary Concert planning:

Martyn has developed a programme based on texts from the 17th century, the period covered by the concurrent Book Exhibition. It will include Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs, with Fran Ambrose as soloist, and a piece by Henry Lawes which has been edited by Richard Shakeshaft. There has been discussion with Ollie Birch (Cathedral Development Manager). Currently the plan is that any excess profit after expenses will go to the Cathedral, who will deal with publicity, ticket sales and refreshments. Tickets will be priced at £18. It is the intention that our expenses will be covered: We need to book an organist, and consider that a fee of approximately £200 would be in order. A conductor's fee will also be paid to Martyn.

Martyn will produce programme notes, and programmes will be produced by the Cathedral.

Some of these matters need further clarification, and Martyn will arrange a meeting with Ollie Birch, Helen Geary (Director of Fundraising Lichfield Cathedral), Jenny M and himself. JM has put a list of points together for committee to comment on before this meeting.

c) AGM planning:

The AGM has now been confirmed as being on **Tuesday 25th April** by Zoom. The required notice will be sent out by April 11th.

There will be a quick post-rehearsal committee meeting on Monday April 3rd to finalise AGM.

5. Website

Wendy and Andrew were complimented on the website, which is looking good, and it is being kept up to date with latest information and photos. It will be used to help advertise the concert.

6. Members' questions:

A query has been raised about the lack of choir stalls in the nave over the Christmas period, which made handling our music difficult and looked untidy. MR explained that the vergers were extremely stretched at that time with the number and variety of events. The matter was noted and it is hoped that this problem will be addressed by next Christmas.

7. Format and Dates of future Committee meetings

Committee meetings will be continuing on line, but it was felt that one live meeting a year would be beneficial. Dates of April meetings were confirmed as in 4c above.

8. AOB

- MB asked about income from Amazon. It appears that Amazon has changed the conditions of this scheme, and we now have virtually no income from it. VS will monitor the situation.
- MR asked about the card and gift of a photograph for Ros Carter, and JA confirmed that she had personally delivered both, and they had been very well received.

The meeting closed at 9.31. Date of next meeting: Monday April 3rd (post rehearsal)