



BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

MINUTES OF THE AGM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY
4th NOVEMBER 2015 AT
VARNDEAN SCHOOL,
BRIGHTON, at 7.00 pm

Registered Charity 260887

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Annette Bell thanked those present for coming, especially Michael Barley. The AGM gives members the opportunity to become involved in the running of the choir.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Gavin Henderson, Ruth Bosworth, Sylvia Reed, Sue Ewbank, Catherine Anscombe, Peter Wells, Linda Wheatcroft, Josie Brains.

3. Minutes of the last AGM (22 October 2014)

These had been circulated in advance and taken as read. They were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Valerie Bolton queried the note in the minutes regarding a possible SGM to set the fees for 2015/16. Richard Jayawant replied that the committee had considered this, but decided against it.

5. Chairman's report

Annette Bell recorded her sadness at the demise of Christopher Jones, a longstanding member of the choir who had faithfully served on the committee for many years.

George Bowles has resigned as a Vice-President due to his health.

Annette thanked those involved in the running of the choir, including Stella Hull, Muriel Hart, Richard Jayawant, Elizabeth Hughes, the committee (especially the marketing committee). She also thanked those members involved in fund-raising, organising the refreshments and concert organisation. Particular gratitude was expressed for Cat Stead who is handling marketing and Rachel Goode who has taken on responsibility for the web site. Annette encouraged members to think how they could help with the development of the choir and recruitment of new members.

Annette announced that this will be her last year as chair after ten years in the post, since she will be standing down in Oct 2016.

6. Treasurer's report

The financial statements and Trustee Report had been made available electronically prior to the meeting.

Elizabeth highlighted that we had finished the year with a small surplus (£152) and this is considered a healthy position. The surplus is lower than the previous year due to the choice of works sung during the last year.

Valerie Bolton queried the £300 spent on the Orpheus Young Singers. Elizabeth reported that the committee has allocated up to £5000 for the first year of the OYS project. This is consistent with our charitable status and will alleviate the excess reserves that we have been holding.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

There were two vacancies for Committee members. The vacancies arise from; the resignation by rotation of Murray Park and Jane Wrin. The outgoing committee members were thanked for their service to the choir.

The following nominations had been received: Annette Bell (Chair), Richard Jayawant (Secretary) and Elizabeth Hughes (Treasurer).

Richard Jayawant expressed disappointment that no one was prepared to stand for the 2 vacant committee posts.

Full details of proposers and those seconding can be found in the secretary's AGM file. All 3 nominees were elected unopposed.

8. Musical Director's report and programme for 2015/16

Stella Hull reported that last year was a highly successful and enjoyable one with the choir. The 2014 season began with a timely performance of Karl Jenkins' The Peacemakers.

In the spring term we performed Brahms' beautiful German Requiem. It was with great sadness that many choir members were to sing the Requiem's *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen* a month later at the funeral service of Chris Jones.

The two summer concerts entitled *Summertime* were very enjoyable to rehearse and perform. Unfortunately a proportion of the choir was unable to benefit as numerically the summer choir was smaller than in previous years; combined with other conflicting musical events in the locality, this led to a smaller than usual audience in Lewes.

This new season we are preparing Vaughan Williams' *Hodie* and the Christmas music from Handel's *Messiah* with the Mozart orchestration for our winter concert. In the spring term we will perform Bach's *St John Passion*. Next summer we shall hold just one summer concert on the earlier date of June 18th.

Stella reported on the Orpheus Young Singers project. This has come about through our reserves being substantial and a desire to have a children's choir which can perform with us in those works in which a children's choir is required. Our 2015-16 programme will involve children's voices - Vaughan Williams' *Hodie* and we hope in the near future to perform Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

When the committee was discussing good and appropriate use of our financial reserves, Stella began to wonder if this would be a good time to launch a children's choir directly linked with us which would be accessible to children in the area who enjoyed singing. So that's how the idea of the ORPHEUS YOUNG SINGERS came about. The bulk of our advertising is to primary years 5-6 (aged 9-11) although anyone older is welcome to join and we hope that these young members will stay with us as they grow older. [So far 4 members are aged 11-13 and 5 are 9-11] OYS will sing with the BOC and give short cameo concerts on their own. The plan is to make OYS accessible to children regardless of their financial means: to fund this project for one year and review thereafter. This is a highly appropriate use of BOC's charitable status. Stella thanked those members of the committee who have worked to put in place an unbelievable quantity of procedures necessary to working with children.

Stella thanked all those who contribute to the life of the choir.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Thanks were expressed to Reg Squire for carrying out this year's examination. It was proposed (by Elizabeth Hughes & seconded by Richard Jayawant) that Reg Squire act as examiner for 2015/16

10. Any other business

Nicola Grunberg queried the OYS publicity which indicated that the first rehearsal is free but the fees are £10 / term.

NOTE: the reports of the Chairman, Treasurer and Musical Director have been summarised. The full text is retained in the Secretary's AGM file.

RJ / 7-nov-2015 / draft