

CHIPPING NORTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting held at The Music Room, Chipping Norton School on Wednesday 27th September 2006; Roger Stein in the Chair

APOLOGIES; As per those members who did not sign the register for rehearsal

Action

Minutes from Annual General Meeting held 28.9.06 and matters arising:-
No matters arising and signed with unanimous approval.

Chairman's Report:-

- Quieter season this year – saved the best ‘til last!
- October – Hospices for Choirs concert
- December – Christmastide – good fun with a younger audience
- March – The Chipping Norton Music Festival with a certificate
- April – The crucifixation – Stainer – justice was done
- June – Purcell – Dido & Aeneas –brilliant concert

Roger officially wished to record his appreciation for all the hard work Shauni had put in to the CNCS and that she will be a sad loss.

Roger welcomed Bernard West officially to CNCS

Thanks given to Peter Barber for Leading Notes and Helene Barratt and Jean Westley for taking on the raffle so brilliantly

Grateful thanks given to all those committee members willing to stay on for another year but especially those who are leaving this year

New members joining the committee this year are:- Denis Wynn as Treasurer; Helene Barratt, Caroline Johnston, Graham Pike and Joanna Rigg – with thanks to them all.

Finally, indebted thanks to Peter Hunt, our outstanding Musical Director without whom we'd all be lost.

QUESTIONS:-

- None
- Sarah Cobb thanked Roger for his brilliancy as Chairman and that he will be sorely missed in this role

Treasurer's Report:-

- Copy of accounts handed out
- Better situation this time than last year
- £3,459 surplus which is over £1,000 at this time last year
- Subscriptions – thanks for Brian Jones for his tireless work on subscriptions and sorting out Gift Aid - £1,200 has been refunded by Inland Revenue to CNCS
- Now up to date with payment for room hire - £1,300 for hire of room
- Budget setting has worked very well and the committee reviews the budget at each meeting against expenditure

QUESTIONS:-

- Is it prudent to have so much money in the Society? Could we consider having more bands, a more expensive concert or cheaper tickets? How can the Society justify the monies currently available?
- *Response – The Tippett concert made a £5,000 loss and so these necessary reserves “dipped in to”*
- *Two years ago Gift Aid contributions organised – for some reason this had not been dealt with in the past, now reclaiming £1,200 from inland revenue*
- *The Society will make a loss at the Messiah concert with the soloists and band costing £6,000. With 300 people capacity and £12.00 per ticket this will not cover the costs so we will need to dip in to these reserves – it would not be possible to have every concert like this*
- *Previous interest on Barclays deposit account only totalled £23.00 but we have now invested better, using the Caff account accruing interest of £400.00*
- *To summarise, important to have these reserves for the future and that this year has been atypical*
- *Possibility of purchasing staging – cost of this would be £18,000 and where would the Society store it?*
- *Another suggestion – could we have had 2 concerts for Purcell in June with two venues – response – with the one concert the Society lost £900.00*
- *Also pointed out that in the past officers of the society have not always charged for their expenses but this is now happening so much clearer idea of the expenditure now*
- *Should the Society explore a larger venue for concert such as The Messiah as there should be no difficulty filling seats*
- *Response – as we are a locally based group felt advisable to have the concert at Chipping Norton. Could Bloxham Church be a venue for the future – for committee meeting*
- *What about holding a Charity Concert? For committee meeting*
- *Helpful to know that there is a safety net and the Society must continue to have a high standard of soloists – the quality of soloists and band are paramount – *all agreed this must continue**
- *Maybe have an advisory sub-group regarding financial matters – response that this is the reason we have the budget now*
- *To invest for future audiences and have half price tickets for people at school and those on low incomes – for committee meeting*

ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

:-

- Proposed by Edwin Wilson
- Seconded by Brian Jones
- All unanimously in favour of accounts being signed

Chairman thanked Betsy for all her hard work whilst being on committee

CONDUCTOR'S REPORT:-

- Peter thanked everyone “behind the scenes” which makes CNCS very special and which makes Peter’s role so much easier
- Special thanks for Roger Stein for his professionalism and keeping a tight ship whilst being Chairman – as a result Peter feels more secure and very supported by the committee for their risk taking and “can do” attitude
- Musically very pleased with Christmas Concert and enjoyed the solos and readings
- Festival – certificate – good accolade but what more can we do – needs careful consideration for next year; we need to support the Festival and may be surprise the judges next year
- Easter – Crucifixion – sung extremely well and Bernard played the organ brilliantly. The unaccompanied pieces exposed our weaker areas
- Purcell – a wonderful, lovely, English occasion; chorus very stylish and good that choir had enough rehearsal time to perform so brilliantly.
- The band and soloists made the Purcell concert very special and we will not lose these good soloists as Shauni continuing with finding them.
- *Survey* – very interesting exercise to help with planning and future considerations. There were so many different responses and interesting reasons why we are in the choir and what we get out of the choir which was very humbling – not all musical reasons and the responses were a very good reminder of how fulfilling the choir is for so many different reasons
- *Peter ended by thanking all members for a wonderful year of music making and he looks forward to many more!*

COMMENTS:-

- Music Festival – important that the Society continue to take part as without it, the Festival would lose a tremendous amount and that our participation is very much appreciated
- Last performance is always the best – The soprano singing “Remember Me” at Dido was memorable and then the choir singing the piece twice – it will be a treasured piece of music
- Thanks went to Peter for staying with the choir and for the music. A plea for Peter to stay
- Thanks went to the committee for all the work they do
- With regard to repeating performances, dilemma should dates clash with other societies
- A Sunday afternoon concert would be a good idea - 4 pm start committee to consider
- The choir survey – the over-riding pleasure of why members wanted to stay in the Society was due to Peter

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:-

- Proposed by Doreen Phillips
- Seconded by Marian Stein
- All unanimously in favour
- Roger thanked everyone

AOB:-

- None
- Meeting ended at 9.20 pm