

MINUTES

Chipping Norton Choral Society

Annual General Meeting held Wednesday 10th October 2007

Apologies:-

Elma Marshall, Elizabeth Burroughs, Wendy Barber, Vicki Pike, Andrew Vaile and Ian Charles

Matters arising from AGM 2006:-

- Venues - feedback with regard to trying to balance the right sound/organ and distance as well as having different venues - Stow appeared to be a popular venue for a summer concert
- Charity Concert for fund-raising - the committee have discussed this and we may be able to do something for Churchill Church which has been damaged by fire - ongoing discussions
- Reduced tickets - the committee have considered and agreed on free tickets for children and free programmes have also been introduced
- Spelling mistakes rectified
- Minutes proposed by Roger Stein, seconded by Wendy Guest and signed by Sarah Cobb, Chairman

Chairman's Report:-

- i. December 2006 - Messiah - absolutely fantastic with the Cotswold Baroque players and great soloists, especially Catherine Bott. Huge thanks to Toby, Concert Manager, for organising such a fantastic evening - 100 choir members; 4 soloists; 18 orchestral members and 365 members of the audience! - It was the second highest volume of people seen in St Mary's Church! As Peter stated it was a rather special evening.
- ii. Chipping Norton Music Festival - awarded distinction which is excellent!
- iii. March 2007 - Durufle/Faure at Witney Methodist Church - a very diverse repertoire which went well on the night - Bernard was fabulous!
- iv. June 2007 - Elgar/Pope at Stow on the Wold - a lovely venue in which to celebrate Elgar's 150th anniversary. Roger Pope, the composer's brother came to the concert and he said how much his late brother would have enjoyed the lovely evening.

2007/2008:-

- a. Karl Jenkins - The Armed Man - 10th December - St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton
- b. Puccini - Messa di Gloria - Saturday 17th May 2008 St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton
- c. There are no plans for an additional summer concert due to these two big orchestral concerts as well as the drop off of choir numbers into the summer. Hopefully, these two concerts will both bring big audience numbers, but we do need to find a way to increase audience numbers generally so as not to eat in to our healthy financial reserves.

Music Committee:-

Members include Peter, Bernard, Toby, Vicki and Sarah plus the voice reps of Wendy Guest from sopranos; Roger Stein from the tenors and Dennis Mowbray from the Basses - there is an alto vacancy following the retirement of Jill Greer - with many thanks to her for her time spent on the committee. The music committee are due to meet soon to plan future programmes and venues - *the committee will take into account the feedback received from choir members during the year.*

Choir Committee:-

All eleven members have agreed to continue being on the committee which is fantastic! They are Sarah Cobb, Chairman; Denis Wynn, Treasurer; Beth Sinclair, secretary; Toby Blundell, Deputy Chairman; Andrew Vaile, Ticket Manager; Helene Barratt, Publicity Manager; Graham Pike, Assistant Concert Manager and Friends; Vicki Pike, Caroline Johnston and Jo Rigg who are all librarians and Brian Jones, Subscriptions and Membership Manager.

This has been my first year as Chairman and we started the year with quite a few new members as well - for the first few weeks we wondered what we needed to do - and what we had forgotten. "What did Roger used to do" we wondered? We found out soon enough - an awful lot - aided of course by Marian. You have both been a hard act to follow - but this team has been great. One announcement we would like to make is that we are going to offer a very small number of honorary memberships to the society as a thank you to the people who have worked so hard for a number of years - Howard and Shauni are already life members and today we would like to offer this to Roger and Marian as well.

On behalf of all of us on the committee we would like to thank everyone else who helps on the day of concerts and throughout the term - we really couldn't do it without you.

We started the year with nearly 100 members on the database. There have been a few retirements including some long-serving members - Peggy Adams from the sopranos after 33 years; Joyce Sparling from the altos after at least 20 years and Mike Terry from the basses - we look forward to seeing them in the audience and among the Friends in years to come. It is also pleasing to see a good influx of new members - ten this term alone including two tenors, almost outnumbering the basses!

We like to think we are a friendly society and welcome everyone and hope that every member enjoys a long and happy time with the Society - encourage your friends to come and join us.

As I conclude my first annual report to you as Chairman I have to comment that being Chairman of CNCS involves saying "thank you" to a lot of people - today I am going to single out two more - of course to Bernard and especially to Peter for their musical direction.

I am so pleased that we have so many people involved in the running of the society and its concerts and to whom I can say "thank you" to! - it certainly makes my life a lot easier - *thank you all for listening!*

Questions for the Chairman - none!

Treasurer's Report:-

- Handouts given to all members present
- It has been Denis' first year as Treasurer and the finances are in a very healthy state £23,131.74 as at 31.8.07
- With the wonderful Messiah Concert, the loss came to just £1K which was much better than expected
- With the involvement of an orchestra for the next two concerts there will be high costs - the funding for the orchestra at the concert this Christmas is £4K
- Denis very grateful to Ian Charles as "auditor" of the accounts - under the Society's Constitution the auditor is described as "examiner"

Questions:-

- Why the stopped cheque with a charge of £8.00? - the Witney Methodist Church had asked for an invoice to be paid even though we felt it had already been paid - we sent another cheque and they then found the original cheque, hence the cheque being stopped
- What is legal position re: the auditor - should it be someone independent? Is it OK for Ian to do as he is not on the committee
- Answer - if profits exceed over £10K the auditor then needs to be independent to the Society - Denis will speak to Mike Howes regarding this

Accounts proposed by Toby Blundell and seconded by Doreen Phillips

Thanks went to Denis for all his hard work related to the accounts

Conductor's Report:-

- Another successful year
- Messiah was very special and absolutely fabulous - we received a standing ovation - Catherine Bott was amazing and the orchestra was brilliant - *thanks went to Shauni for organising such professional soloists - Catherine Bott loves singing with us!*
- Spring Concert - Witney - very difficult and challenging piece in respect of harmony, language and motets - thanks to Bernard who was brilliant - we all did as well as we could

- Summer Concert - Stow - David Pope - thanks to Roger Stein who found this piece of music! - a delightful piece and it was special that David's brother was able to be at the concert.
- The concert worked very well in the church with a smaller choir
- Music Festival - Distinction - very good turn out. Next year the Competition will be held on a Saturday to encourage more members to join in - ? sing parts from the Armed Man and Puccini - there will also be more time to rehearse as the festival is in late March
- Thanks to Bernard who is a very supportive Assistant Conductor and who is always able to take over at short notice. Bernard was brilliant at all the concerts, especially at Stow and it's great to have him as part of the Society
- It has been a good year reflected by a varied programme and it has been great performing at different venues
- Attendance patterns need a little attention - there is a balance needed e.g. if not able to sing at a concert perhaps the member should not sing for the last few weeks - this is so important to ensure everyone knows who will be singing at concerts and that the balance between all the parts is accurate - committee to discuss
- Peter thanked everyone on the committee and to all the members of the Society!

Questions:-

No questions

Election of Officers on to the Committee:-

- Proposed by Peter Barber and seconded by Roger Stein - unanimously proposed!

AOB:-

1. Peter - thinks the audience for the Armed Man could be huge - very popular piece and singing in St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton will make it more special
2. Reminder of website - CNCS.org.uk - can download poster for concert
3. Orchestra also performing Schubert's Unfinished Symphony at December Concert; there will be no soloists
4. Peter requesting new box to stand on - yes, no problem. ? have a "rostra fund" for buying staging and equipment - difficulty re: storage - Committee to discuss
5. Elizabeth Allen - does the staging belong to the Society? Answer from Roger Stein = no
6. Graham Canning - thanks to the Committee who do a tremendous job - keep it up!
7. Elizabeth Allen - Carima Burama in 2009 - worried about singing the words in a church - Peter Hunt suggests a working party to consider this - it will not just be CNCS singing this concert but it will be a singing project with other choirs
8. Roger Stein - honoured and delighted to be offered life membership - thanks to Howard who encouraged Roger and Marian to join the choir!

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm