



Committee Meeting by video conference 10th December 2020

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), Mark Evans, Bill Noblett, Amy Anderson, Sheena McLean, Annette Rogers, John MacDonald, Carol Omand, Christine Hunter, Julia Cross.

1. Welcome and apologies: Colin welcomed everyone. Phil Gaskell sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 17th August 2020 were accepted as correct. (Proposed by Christine and seconded by Bill.)

3. What have we learned from this term?

Colin said there had been many positive comments from choir members about this term. Bill felt it had been a remarkably positive term. The nights with Ola Gjeilo and the Ayoub sisters were excellent. The Sixteen workshops were also positive. Eamonn's tuition was very good and his tutorials on Youtube are excellent too. The breakout sessions in the workshop were seen as particularly good. Sheena would like to see The Sixteen workshop pieces continued in our repertoire. John enjoyed the variety of activities through the term. Mark noted that Zoom is challenging and you can only do so much. Mark enjoyed the interviews with composers/musicians and also The Sixteen workshops, particularly hearing that Eamonn's points were often similar to his comments to the choir and also enjoyed being able to sing. Mark suggested we could look at doing a Soprano and Alto evening or a Tenor and Bass so that people don't have too long doing nothing.

Colin noted that attendance had been solid throughout the term. The committee had tried to contact folk at the beginning of the session to encourage participation. Colin noted that Elspeth Smith and Catherine Frew would not be attending after Christmas.

4. What should we plan for next term?

It was agreed that rehearsals would start again on 11th January. Colin invited discussion as to whether we continue with the Baltic music or work on fresh music. This might depend on whether we would be doing a spring concert or not. There were varying opinions on this. Amy, Julia and Christine all wanted to perform the Baltic music at some point if possible. Christine felt there would definitely not be a concert in March and that life might have some degree of normality in September. Mark worried that if the Baltic music were kept ticking over too long, it would become stale. There was general discussion on what we might work on next term. John commented that with the Italian choir, they've been going back through their repertoire over the past 10-15 years. They are not tackling fresh music because that would require a lot of note bashing so they are bringing old music back to a state of readiness. Sheena thought maybe we should revisit the Ken Johnstone material and more



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general, lighter music. Bill commented that while he loved the Baltic music, he'd like a break from it to do something else, even if it was something we'd done before. Carol enjoyed the Northern Lights music and is hopeful that there might be a September concert but would also like Scottish music perhaps around Burns time. Mark questioned starting new repertoire on a platform like Zoom but Bill said this could just be one piece. Colin said that it was surprising that we had a new piece every week with The Sixteen workshops. Mark said that we could look at shorter pieces and also commented that there was a difference between preparing for a performance and keeping things bubbling over. Colin agreed we probably won't be having a March concert but an autumn concert might be a possibility. So in this immediate term, it might be worth focusing on slightly lighter repertoire. Mark said that after Easter – May or June time - we could possibly get smaller groups of people together in person.

Colin asked Mark to think of a varied repertoire which allows the Baltic music to stay in our minds but gives us something fresh to work on. Mark asked about tutti versus sectional rehearsals. Which would keep people more engaged? A brief discussion followed but nothing definite was decided.

Colin asked about guests for next term. Mark mentioned Wilma McDougall and also Kim Andre Arnesen with whom he'd been in contact and that he would follow up.

6. Christmas quiz

Colin said that he would talk to Phil about the format and organization for the quiz on Monday.

7. AOB

Colin mentioned the COP26 environmental concert and wondered whether we might want to get involved in that.

Bill asked whether there was a catalogue of what music is in the archives and Sheena said that she had this and Colin asked for it to be sent out to the committee.

Regarding the choir's finances, Bill said that the only payment we would be making other than to Mark was to The Sixteen for the workshops. We currently have 41 subscriptions, down from 46 last year and from 53 fairly recently. Colin commented that we would need to stay alert to opportunities to draw people in.

8. Date of next meeting tbc

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CC

SM