



## Committee Meeting by Video Conference 17 August 2020

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), Mark Evans, Bill Noblett, Annette Rogers, Amy Anderson, John MacDonald, Carol Omand, Christine Hunter, Philip Gaskell, Sheena Mclean

### 1. Welcome and Apologies:

Colin welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Julia Cross.

### 2a. Minutes of the meeting on 8th June 2020.

One amendment was proposed: On point 4b) where it was stated "at the moment, the account is £1,600 in credit.", this will be amended as follows: "at the moment, there is £1,600 more in the account than last year." Other than this, they were accepted as correct. (Proposed by Christine and seconded by Bill.)

### 2b. Matters arising from the meeting on 8th June 2020

The money paid for booking Killearn Church on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 has not yet been refunded. Bill proposed instead that it be used for our next concert booking. This was agreed.

### 3. Plans for September

Colin summarised the committee's previous conversation about possible plans, noting that lots of interesting ideas had been suggested such as warm-ups via video conference, guest speakers, sectional rehearsals and music stories from choir members, as well as the AGM. After discussion we agreed to meet via Zoom on Mondays at 1930 as usual, starting on 7<sup>th</sup> September, and that most sessions should be around an hour. We should keep the programme flexible, as there is still the possibility that Scottish Government rules may be relaxed to allow us to meet in a physical space sometime before Christmas. The group was reminded that the current COVID rules allow for meet-ups of 15 people from 5 different households outside and 8 people from 3 different households inside which would make any kind of in-person activity difficult.

Colin and Mark suggested it would be good to start with something more informal than the AGM. Phil suggested a quiz and offered to come up with ideas.

After further discussion the following programme for September was agreed:

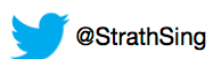
7th Sept: Mark, Colin and other members of the committee to be online between 1930 and 2030 for a casual drop-in/social session, to iron out any technical issues, and understand the rules of engagement for a successful Zoom meeting.

14th Sept: Warm-up from Mark followed by the AGM. Bill will distribute paperwork in advance.

21st Sept: Warm-up for all, followed by a sectional rehearsal for Sopranos only. Across the term we'll do sessions with all sections to keep us familiar with the '*Northern Lights*' repertoire, so singers will be reminded to keep their music available.

28th Sept: Guest speaker tbc. LATER: Colin proposed that on the nights when we have guest

AA



speakers we should invite the Friends of Strathendrick Singers to join us so that we can keep in touch with them and thank them for their support.

Mark told the committee he had contacted Ola Gjeilo about the possibility of speaking to the choir about his work, given that we are to perform *Sunrise Mass* and *Ubi Caritas*. Gjeilo was positive about doing something and Colin asked Mark to explore this further. He has also contacted the Ayoub Sisters but he has not yet heard from them. Other suggestions included Eric Whitacre with whom Mark had worked on the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony, and Phil Gault from Scottish Opera. Mark thought it would be good for some singing teachers to do workshops with the choir. Colin suggested a talk on Baltic music and its context in the world and its influence on Mark would be helpful. Mark agreed to speak to his contact in Vilnius.

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Colin asked the committee to give further thought as to which guests could be invited to speak to the choir.

Mark explained how a practice session could work: There would be a group warm-up for the whole choir then he would keep one of the sections eg the sopranos for a further 30 minutes. He shared some of the details about how he plays music over video conferencing so that it can be heard – it is currently not possible to “share” the music but works reasonably by turning the speakers towards the microphone on the player’s computer.

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Colin agreed to circulate the details to the choir.

Sheena checked whether any music was needed from the store cupboard but it was thought not.

Amy had heard from Carole Murphy that Balfron Church was not yet allowing outside groups to use the Church’s rooms although this seems to be down to individual establishments as apparently Bridge of Allan are letting out their hall.

#### **4. AGM**

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> September. The proposal to increase the annual subscription was discussed. It was agreed it should be put to the AGM to take effect from September 2020 with a review in September 2021. This is to help cover an increase in Mark’s fees, and the loss of the tea/coffee income. There are no changes to the office-bearers due this year.

#### **5. AOB**

There was no other business.

#### **6. Date of next meeting**

tbc.