

Minutes of the AGM of the Anton Bruckner Choir 2009

Held at the Interfaith Centre, Salusbury Rd, London

5.15pm on Saturday 21 February 2009

30 members were present.

1. Minutes of 2008 AGM

Approved nem con (Laura Corner proposed, Will Hale seconded).

2. Financial report (Chris Sherlaw-Johnson)

In 2008 we had 3 “normal-sized” concerts, which made small profits. These can go towards the costs of occasional larger concerts.

We took £600 from Friends, and £60 from GiftAid reclaim.

“Misc donations” in the report include items such as overpayments on subscriptions.

Why did we have good ticket sales this year? Good venues (we have been settling on Temple and St Clement Danes, which seem to be popular with audiences); also doing a Christmas concert is good for the finance.

Each concert brings in a few more friends – the Vaughan Williams society was a good source for that concert.

Accounts were accepted: Richard Hubbard proposed, Carolyn Steele seconded.

3. Chairman's report (Alex Churchill)

Alex was pleased to report another successful year, and thanked everyone – all choir members for attending (and selling tickets!)

He thanked various people who have helped, both inside and outside the committee:

Pauline Thompson for being librarian and arranging scores in time for the 1st rehearsal each time;

Victoria Roberts for concert and venue arrangements;

Chris Sherlaw-Johnson for the accounts;

Gordon Banner for minutes etc;

Lulu Chivers for her common sense and general organising;

Georgia Lowe for marketing, Friends and tickets (sadly she'll be stepping down shortly);

Will Hale for GiftAid;

Richard Hubbard for the website;

...and a host of others who have helped in various ways.

He was looking forward to the next week's concert and rest of 2009.

Finally he thanked Chris Dawe for challenging and inspiring us as ever.

4. Musical Director's report (Chris Dawe)

Chris thanked Alex for another year as Chairman, and having done an efficient job of it!

As Music Director, he also wanted to thank Pauline for sorting out scores for complex concerts, and for putting up with his indecision; likewise Georgia and Victoria.

2008 had been a "low-key" year giving us a chance to recover after the Christmas Oratorio [in Dec 2007] – it also helped us to become more financially sound. Nonetheless, there had been a real "sense of occasion" in the smaller concerts.

Our first concert had been partly a repeat of an earlier programme, which led to an excellent performance and good audience comments. It sounded good in St Clement Danes – we will return there for the Rachmaninov *Vespers* in 2009.

Next we had the Vaughan Williams-themed concert. It was our third performance of the Mass in G minor, and our best yet, with excellent intonation and atmosphere. We also sang Carter *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere* – a good addition to our repertoire – the VW *Shakespeare Songs*, and Finzi *Lo the Full Final Sacrifice* – all of which worked well. The programme was slightly too long if anything – thanks to everyone for the effort!

Our last concert was at Christmas. It seems that at Christmas you can get a good audience and make a profit, but it's hard to get a choir. We had very few people signing up at first, then suddenly a lot more, but then we lost several, which was scary. We also lost money on music orders as a result. We need to consider if an Xmas concert is really viable.

There's a good outlook for 2009, including a trip away to Aldeburgh and the Rachmaninov *Vespers*. In 2010 we will be returning to St John's Smith Square in December for *Messiah*.

We would like to go on a tour – maybe in 2010 – perhaps every 2 years? Another option: we've stopped doing a summer concert, but perhaps we could have a summer soirée? It's good to do things with a social side – and it helps the singing.

5. Adoption of the 2009 Committee

Alex appealed for volunteers to take on marketing and/or Friends from October 2009, when Georgia moves on.

For the time being the same committee was reappointed:

- Alex Churchill, Chairman*
- Chris Dawe, Musical Director*
- Chris Sherlaw-Johnson, Treasurer*
- Gordon Banner, Secretary*
- Pauline Thompson, Librarian
- Georgia Lowe, Marketing
- Victoria Roberts, Concert Management
- Lulu Chivers, general support
- * trustees

Rosemary Hadfield proposed, Graham King seconded; passed nem con.

6. AOB

Aldeburgh:

Annie Wildman: would we get a fee for doing Aldeburgh?

Lulu: no, but they provide accommodation and a donation towards travel.

Christmas concerts:

Rosemary Hadfield: loves the Christmas concert, but perhaps we could do it earlier – perhaps in the first 4 or 5 days of December.

Richard Hubbard: but people aren't in the mood for carols in the first week of December (which is different from doing the Christmas Oratorio or Messiah).

Marcus Marr: looks forward to the Christmas concert – he enjoys carols done well. Closer to Christmas is important – 1 week before for preference.

Claire Bennie: this concert brings in people who aren't normally classical fans.

Chris Dawe: Should it be earlier in the week – say Tues or Weds? The story of last year was that no singers signed up and we were on the brink of cancelling it, then suddenly we had 45 on the roll, but then we were down to under 30 due to illness.

Izzie King: Christmas concert is difficult to arrange, but appreciated. Can we absorb potential loss of singers with flexibility in the programme? ...Accept there will be some level of dropout.

Helen Cox: but last year was exceptional for illness.

Carolyn Steele: our concert is when Christmas begins for her friends. But there is scope for a less carol-ly one earlier – you could have a big rehearsal in November.

Georgia Lowe & Izzie King: enjoyed listening last time, in the audience for once.

Ruth Harris: you could have more audience carols to cover for losses?

Lulu: it was a big sing, especially for ladies – maybe we could have an item or two sung by a smaller group?

Chris Dawe: the timing is based around a later start, hence no interval.

Emma Anderson: thought there could be more audience singalong ... as another one who was in the audience last time.

Touring:

Rosemary Hadfield: liked the idea, suggested we could also consider a day trip out of London.