



Committee Meeting

Tuesday 11 December 2012 at 7.00pm

Venue: 28 Ryecroft Road, SW16 3EG

Minutes

Present: Russell Ashley-Smith (chair), Jeremy Crump (secretary), Liz Cleary (treasurer), Max Sainsbury, Ishani O'Connor.

Apologies: Caroline Annersley

Tom Hammond attended throughout the meeting.

1. Welcome

RA-S welcomed Max Sainsbury and Liz Cleary to their first meeting following their election by the AGM.

2. Matters arising and agreement of minutes

The record of the September meeting, which was inquorate, was accepted without amendment. RA-S noted that the issues which were referred to in it and which required committee approval had subsequently been adopted in correspondence with the remaining committee members.

3. Treasurer's report

- independent audit

LC undertook to discuss with a contact with suitable expertise a review of our financial management approach. It was agreed that this was an examination of our procedures and practices, not an auditing of the accounts. Such an audit is not a requirement for a charity of our size.

- update on financial position

LC reported that work was still underway on the handover from the previous Treasurer. Once that was done, it would be possible to create an indicative budget for the remainder of this financial year (i.e. to end August 2013) as a basis for planning and monitoring DSO's finances.

LC reported that the cash flow position would be healthy once outstanding bills were paid. There would be c £750 to carry forward to the beginning of next term. It was noted that the money transferred from the education fund had now been repaid.

4. November Concert: lessons learned

RA-S noted the extensive discussion amongst members following the November concert, and that there was a general feeling that steps should be taken to maintain the high standards of performance to which we aspired. The two main issues which had been discussed were complexity of the repertoire and insufficient rehearsal time. There was also discussion about the management of sectional rehearsals.

The meeting considered analysis by the secretary of the relative costs of a number of options for extending rehearsal time. This suggested that, in terms of minutes per pound, extension of existing sessions represented better value for money than inserting an additional session at a venue other than TES at half term.

Following discussion, and taking into account the views of the conductor, the meeting agreed the following:

- in the coming term, we should extend the last 4 sessions at TES by half an hour each.
- members should be invited to vote on the success of the experiment at the end of the term.
- the repertoire for the spring term should be changed, replacing Sibelius 7 with the Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan.
- RA-S would communicate the change in music requirements to Nicky Jackson
- JC would discuss the changed requirement for extra musicians with sectional leads and Chris Burns
- there should continue to be sectional rehearsals, with a whole evening for strings.
- JC to check with TES whether it would be possible to use the dance studio for a whole evening and not just until 8.30, enabling longer split rehearsals.

5. Repertoire 2013-14

TH undertook to deliver options by the end of January 2013.

6. Fixing and recruitment

On recruitment, it was noted that continued attention needed to be given to welcoming new members, particularly in the violins.

Options were discussed for actively recruiting a new bass trombone. This was an issue on which Charles's views would be sought. RA-S had a contact who knew how to access a network used by trombonists. the London Amateur Musicians Network was also a possible channel.

7. Outreach

i) Herne Hill Festival 2012

The success of the venture was again noted. The committee confirmed that DSO would not be making a payment to John Holland in respect of the event.

ii) Herne Hill Festival 2013

The committee agreed that DSO should support a further collaboration with the festival next year, and would additionally support Alan Taylor by taking responsibility for recruiting the required musicians from DSO's regular members and, where they were not available, its list of deps. JC would write to Alan confirming this.

iii) education programme: future plans

The committee noted the excellent work done with TES. It was agreed that TH and IO'C should enter into discussion with TES with a clear view to what we wanted the school to provide in terms of staff support and student commitment. The committee was supportive of the proposals which were put forward for developing the content of the sessions in the coming term, when Matthew Sharp would also be involved.

It was agreed that there should be a further review of the programme at the start of the summer term, at which point DSO should consider the need for further matched funding.

8. Correspondence received

No matters were raised.

9. Any other business

The Committee considered the point raised by a member that, were the conductor to be unable to attend two or more rehearsals in a term, then a deputy should take over for the whole term and the concert. TH pointed out that this situation was likely to arise in the summer term in

2013. The committee noted that this provision was not included in the conductor's contract, but that in any case seemed unlikely to be in the interests of DSO. The proposal was therefore not adopted.

10. Date of next meeting

JC to doodle for a meeting shortly after the spring concert.