



Committee Meeting 22 February, 7.30pm

Venue: 28 Ryecroft Road, SW16 3EG

MINUTES

Present

Russell Ashley-Smith (chair), Jeremy Crump (secretary), Caroline Annesley, Emma Gant, Ishani O'Connor, Garham Vernon (Treasurer).

Apologies were received from Chris Burns and Charles Mackworth-Young

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the December meeting were accepted for signature.

It was noted that two actions remained to be completed - the annual calendar to be produced by the **secretary** and arrangements to be made by the **treasurer** for the inspection of the accounts by a qualified person. Jeremy Crump suggested that the best way to get the calendar completed would be to share a spreadsheet in Google Docs so that committee members could enter events in it.

2. Finances

Graham Vernon gave a summary of the current state of the finances. It was evident that the projected deficit, based on prudent assumptions, was much reduced compared with the previous year. It was agreed that we should continue to drive to reduce expenditure and increase revenue from ticket sales. The major threat to balancing the budget was the requirement from All Saints to pay half the hire of the church a year in advance.

It was agreed that we should continue to look for ways of reducing the cost of our concert venue.

3. Fixing

It was agreed that Brian Clarke should be hired to augment the viola section at the concert on 10 March. For the future, it was essential that sections continued to identify ways of finding extra players which minimised expense.

4. Cello soloist for 2013

The committee endorsed Tom's recommendation that the cello soloist for the Schumann cello

concerto in the 2013-14 season should be Matthew Sharp, subject to the fee being within our usual range.

5. Outreach

Ishani reported on the first session at Elm Green, which went very well. It was agreed that Ishani should draft a letter to send to Michael O'Neill (Philip McKenna's partner) about the progress of the work. Timing of this was not urgent but should be at a time such that we had a good story to report.

The budget for the remainder of this term's outreach was approved. This amounts to £128 per session for 8 sessions. Ishani would submit a bid for further funding each term in advance.

It was also agreed that Tom should be asked at a future date to make a proposal to the committee for the future sustainability of the outreach programme.

6. Marketing and publicity

The proposals in Ishani's paper were welcomed. The committee thought that it was necessary to prioritise according to which suggestions were most likely to yield the best return, and to identify members of the orchestra to take responsibility for each initiative.

It was also noted that consideration needed to be given to publicity for concerts with a view to raising revenue from bigger audiences. There was agreement that we should make a particular effort for the Summer concert, given the two soloists who were due to appear.

Specific action points were:

JC to see whether We Got Tickets permitted voluntary donations.
JC to put the Amazon link on 'secretary@dso' emails.
JC to send links to the flyers for the 10 March concert to the soloists.
GV to take over management of the DSO Twitter account from JC.

7. Arrangements for concert on 10 March

The chair understood from Charles Mackworth-Young that all was in order. Caroline Annesley had made arrangements for interval refreshments during the concert to be managed by Roland McCabe. The chair would agree with Tom how best to arrange seating, given the committee's wish to provide more space in the church for the audience.

8. Correspondence received (discussion by exception only)

No actions called for.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting will be in mid-June planned by Doodle.

Jeremy Crump (Secretary)

Russell Ashley-Smith (Chair)