



Committee Meeting 13 June, 7.30pm

Venue: 28 Ryecroft Road, SW16 3EG

MINUTES

Present

Russell Ashley-Smith (chair), Jeremy Crump (secretary), Caroline Annesley, Ishani O'Connor.

Tom Hammond attended for items 3, 6 and 8

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris Burns, Charles Mackworth-Young, Emma Gant, Graham Vernon (treasurer).

2. Matters arising and agreement of minutes

Jeremy had set up a calendar on Google Drive (formerly Google Docs). All committee members had edit rights. They were invited to have a look at it and add items as they thought necessary. The secretary would tidy the calendar up from time to time.

(Secretary's note: Nicky Jackson reported about St Barnabas as a possible venue after the meeting. Details have been shared with the committee).

3. Conductor's comments

Tom noted the general progress of the orchestra. He raised only a small number of issues which he had noticed. He noted continued healthy recruitment in the strings and the stability of the wind section. The major issue in terms of the strength was the horn section. The Chair would discuss this with Graham Vernon.

It was agreed that there would be an all wind and brass sectional rehearsal with Tom as well as a strings only rehearsal in the autumn schedule. Tom said he would not be available in the half term week (30 October), and it was agreed not to seek an alternative venue for a rehearsal for that week. Tom said that he would need to find deps for two of the rehearsals in the autumn. This was noted and agreed in accordance with the terms of the conductor's contract.

It was agreed that Matt Sharp should be invited to perform as soloist in the Schumann Cello Concerto, and to do work as part of the outreach programme in the spring 2012 term, to coincide with the days when he would attend rehearsals with DSO.

Tom asked for confirmation that attendance by members at rehearsals was consistent. It was agreed that it was.

In further discussion it was agreed that there should be a new category of associate member for people who played infrequently required instruments - e.g. tuba, keyboard, contrabassoon. They would not be required to pay subscriptions.[Secretary's note: this will require formal inclusion in the constitution. Presumably such associates do not have voting rights].

6. Fixing (this item was taken out of order)

In Chris Burns' absence, it was not possible to confirm that arrangements had been made for the remaining players for the forthcoming concert. the Chair undertook to confirm this with Chris Burns.

Tom confirmed that Chris now had details of what was required for the next term.

8. Outreach (this was taken out of order)

Ishani's very full report was accepted by the committee. Russell thanked Ishani on behalf of the committee and the orchestra for her excellent work on outreach.

In speaking to the report, Ishani said that there was now agreement with the Elmgreen School for a further programme. One of the indicators of success of the initial programme was that the school was now setting up GCSE music for the first time, and the outreach programme would be a vehicle for elements of the compositional and performance work, as well as musical appreciation. This opened up the possibility of matched funding from the school. Ishani and Tom were also in the process of applying for matched funding from charitable trusts that supported music in schools.

It was agreed that a programme should be funded for 2 years and that £1500 should be available from the DSO education fund for the next three terms' work, on the condition that matched funding was forthcoming from the school and from charitable sources.

Ishani was asked to draft a letter which could be sent to Michael O'Neill reporting in how we were using the education fund, including both outreach and the young composer award.

There was then discussion about the outreach activity connected with the Herne Hill festival. Alan Taylor was to fix the necessary musicians, and Ishani would manage applying for funding for the piece to be composed by John Holland.

[Tom Hammond left at this point]

4. Finance

The secretary read a note from the Treasurer about the projected state of the Society's finances at the end of the present season.

With prudent assumptions about the take from the forthcoming concert and expenses for the soloists , and not taking into account outstanding subs for this term, the Treasurer's forecast was an outturn of £1440 balance of income over expenditure for the year. A significant part of this represented income from Gift Aid, which the Treasurer had yet to claim. Hence there may still be cash flow issues at the time of the forthcoming concert.

The note also included a statement that Graham does not intend to stand as Treasurer next year.

Summing up, the chair said that this was on the whole a positive picture. The first call on any surplus would be to repay money borrowed from the education fund to cover this year's cash flow. The chair noted Graham's intention not to continue as Treasurer. The following points were agreed:

- the Chair would ask the Treasurer to seek to recover the Gift Aid money. In future, we should seek to recover it on a quarterly basis.
- committee members were identified to ask members with outstanding subs to make the necessary payments before the end of term.
- the officers should meet as soon as possible after the concert to support the Treasurer in preparing the statement of accounts for 2011-12.

5. AGM

It was agreed that the AGM should be held at 7.30 on Tuesday 9 October. Notice would be given formally at the beginning of next term.

The chair asked committee members to indicate to him outside the meeting whether they intended to stand again for next year.

It was agreed that the secretary should prepare a template for an annual report which would cover all the orchestra's activity and allow members to have reports on the musical, organisational and financial aspects of the past year in a single document.

7. Paula's contract

This item was held over as there was no progress to report. Action lies with the chair.

8. Marketing and publicity

It was agreed that there was insufficient time to discuss this important topic at this meeting. It should be a substantive meeting for the next committee meeting,

9. Arrangements for concert on 23 June

It was understood that all was in order for the concert. The committee agreed to provide complimentary tickets to the soloists, who were playing without a fee.

It was noted that refreshments during the interval in the rehearsal would need to take into account the children's party which was to be held in the crypt.

10. Correspondence received (discussion by exception only)

No items of correspondence were raised for discussion.

11. Any other business

Date of next meeting will be in September . to be planned by the secretary using Doodle.

Jeremy Crump (Secretary)

Russell Ashley-Smith (Chair)