



Committee Meeting

Wednesday 20 March at 7.00pm

Venue: 28 Ryecroft Road, SW16 3EG

Minutes

Attending: Russell Ashley-Smith (chair), Jeremy Crump (secretary), Liz Cleary (treasurer), Caroline Annesley, Chris Burns, Charles Mackworth-Young, Ishani O'Connor, Max Sainsbury

1. Welcome and apologies

All members of the committee were in attendance

2. Matters arising and agreement of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11 December 2012 were approved, subject only to 'Annesley' being spelled correctly.

3. Renewal of conductor's contract January 2014.

The committee unanimously agreed that they would recommend the renewal of Tom's contract once it became due for renewal on 1 January 2014. The secretary would write to members in April seeking comments on the committee's recommendation to that effect.

There was also discussion of the continuing desirability to put the leader's relationship with the orchestra on a contractual basis, but this was not a pressing matter.

4. Treasurer's report

i) independent audit

The treasurer has made preliminary enquiries. The item should be discussed again at the next meeting.

ii) update on financial position after March concert

The Treasurer reported that the financial position continued to improve. The costs of the previous concert had been managed carefully and the income from ticket sales was relatively high (£1090). The balance in the bank account was £1231 with £2420 to come in addition from Gift Aid. There were only small outstanding debts. It was agreed that it was desirable for the orchestra to maintain a balance which would cover it against foreseeable risks such as loss of income from a poorly attended concert.

The Treasurer suggested that, as a guideline, concert budgets should on average allow c£1750 for the combined cost of extras, music and soloists.

5. Repertoire 2013-14

The secretary reported on the recent survey about repertoire for 2013-14. 38 members had voted and a clear choice had emerged. The element of membership participation was welcomed and should be continued. It was noted that the structure of the choices this time may have mitigated against the choice of challenging or lesser known works. It was agreed that, in next year's exercise, thought should be given to including such works in each of the options.

The conductor's suggestions for the order of programmes, included in an email to the secretary, was agreed. On soloists, it was agreed that:

- Matthew Sharp should be invited to play the Dvorak concerto
- We should otherwise continue to identify soloists who are recent graduates (or possibly students of) music colleges. With this in mind, Amanda Lake should be invited to play either of the violin concertos if she is available.

6. Outreach

i) TONES

The chair thanked Ishani for her continuing work, and noted that she had also edited and produced the programme for the March concert. The chair also noted the very valuable contribution of Alan Taylor to the work with TONES. It had been a very successful term's work. Ishani attributed this to better continuity of attendance by the programmes, managing the students by ability, the excellent contribution from Matthew Sharp (which it was hoped would be repeated in future).

Ishani circulated a letter from the head of Elmgreen School . This would be published on the web site. Work continued to agree financial contribution from the school. The chair would write to the head thanking him for his letter and drawing attention to the need to build financial sustainability into the arrangements.

ii) YCA

Tom Hammond was shortly to meet last year's winner to discuss reorchestration of her piece for performance. The competition for 2013 would close on 30 April. It was agreed that it was for Tom to determine when the winning pieces from both years' competitions should be performed.

7. Future committee membership and roles

Russell said that he would not seek reelection in October. All members should consider possible new members for the committee.

It was agreed that the secretary would provide a list of the duties of the secretary's post.

8. Correspondence received

Consideration of the applications to join led to further discussion about the need to manage new string players so that they were made to feel as welcome as possible, and to follow up with those who left the reasons for their not choosing to stay with DSO. It was agreed that there should be a new violin 'buddy' to succeed Robin White. Chris Burns would discuss this with Paul Tysall.

9. Any other business

It was agreed that the secretary would ask the librarians to ensure that string parts were passed to Paula Tysall as soon as possible after they were received so that she had more time to complete the bowings.

It was agreed that the secretary should email committee members with the results of the rehearsal times survey after it closed on 24 March with a view to getting agreement to any changes that needed to be made in the arrangements with the school in advance of the next term.

Some issues were noted about the practical arrangements at the March concert. Charles and Fiona had been left to move furniture on their own following the last concert. Leading up to next concert, chair will emphasise need of others to help. The secretary would contact David Lawes about the whereabouts of the conductor's stand.

Date of next meeting to be planned by Doodle.