

Notes from Informal WCCC Zoom Committee meetings held on 06/06/20 and 04/07/2020.

Anne Renshaw listed issues and key community dates/events for 2021 which she thought would shape the scale and nature of the choir's restart which, she thought, would be January 2021.

1. The need for a rehearsal space which allowed for social-distance- the nave of the Cathedral for example.
2. A joint memorial, fund raising concert with the Cathedral.
3. 2021 was the 400th anniversary of the city's charter and the 300th anniversary of the Guildhall
4. The CD recording could be revisited and reshaped to reflect either or both of the above.

Our conversation focused on 2 above.

Michael B reported that with 2m. social distancing the Cathedral's capacity was just 100 people.

We speculated that with 1m. spacing the capacity might be 300 people.

After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that we should propose to the Cathedral a joint post-Covid memorial and fund-raising performance of Brahms' Requiem (previously suggested by Helen R). Speculatively the performance would most likely be sometime in the spring /summer of 2021. Michael Brierley advised that in the first instance we should contact the Cathedral's Operations Manager (Susan Macleod). Carole O will do this.

Stephen S has made progress with the development of on-line rehearsal material for the choir. He and Robin W have been working together and the first (a Palestrina acapella piece) should be ready for distribution by the end of the coming week.

There are sufficient voices to form a choir for the proposed wedding booking at Lichfield on 23/04/2021. Kevorn O has written to the bride confirming our availability, subject to Covid-restrictions. The fee will be £650 all-in, plus an additional allowance of up to £150 for basic car-sharing costs.

We unanimously agreed that the two Vivaldi con Vino concerts in October 2020 should be cancelled. Carole O will contact St. Martins and St. Mary Magdalene's Himbleton to let them know. This means that our next events might be Christmas services in the Cathedral, Kempsey and Dudley and a wedding on 21/12/20.

Approximately 50% of members have paid their subscriptions.

Eileen R suggested that since the current arrangements for subscription payment were agreed in March 2020 (100% where possible 33% (termly) if members wished to stagger payment) timescales had lengthened with little prospect of a restart before early 2021, members who had paid should be offered a refund.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that:

- We are grateful to those who have paid all or part of their subscription and recognise that the change of circumstances is such that they should be offered either a refund or the option of allowing their subscription to become a donation with a commitment, if possible, to a reduction for the year 2021/22.
- We are very aware that personal circumstances for some members were such that paying a subscriptions cannot be a priority. Nevertheless, we should ask those who have not paid to pay whatever they can (in accordance with the March 2020 rules) as a donation with the commitment, if possible to a reduction for the year 2021/22.

I hope all the above made sense. Please let me know if there is anything, especially the stuff about subscriptions, that needs amending. I intend to write an update note to all members later this week.

Rebecca: Please confirm that this is ok so that I can include it as a message from you

- Rob Cleal has resigned. I have written to him thanking him for time with the choir.
- Last evening, I heard that our Lichfield bride has accepted our quote. 23/04/2021 is therefore a firm date in our calendar 😊
- Post the meeting both Helen R and Sue S apologised for not being with us.
- Nanny is away until at least 11/07/20. He has fled to the far, eastern lands of North Walsham and beyond. If you need to circulate anything to members please send it to me and I will send it on.

Notes from Informal WCCC Zoom Committee meeting held on 06/06/2020

Recognising that it was most unlikely that the choir would be able physically to come together to rehearse and sing services in the Cathedral and give concerts for the foreseeable future, we concentrated on finding, simple, practical ways in which we can keep the WCCC a coherent community, maintain our voices and sing, to a greater or lesser extent, together.

We came up with the following plan of action.

1. Set up a register of online resources e.g. virtual choirs, singing workshops and lessons, which members can use in order to maintain some direct contact with the world of singing. In the first instance Committee members will forward information on websites which they have found useful, to Stephen who will then collate and recommend. The list will be published in the members' section of our website.
2. Rehearsal tracks of music which we will eventually be singing will be put on the members' section of our website, for individual members to use. For each piece of music, a package will be put together which will consist of a complete accompaniment, individual parts, a commentary by Stephen and a recommended recording. Robin Walker and Stephen will work together to put the packages together.
3. In due course sectional rehearsals will be held for the above using Zoom.
4. In time we will attempt whole choir rehearsals of the above using Zoom.
5. Mark Wilson will take over the role of Zoom host from Sarah Donaldson whom we unanimously thanked for her help. She will continue to host the quiz sessions which are already scheduled.

We agreed that we would have another informal meeting on Saturday 04/07/20 at 1100. Anne Renshaw would like to discuss post-Covid engagement with the community and explore ways to help the Cathedral.

I will write to all choir members over the weekend to tell them what we plan to have.

Best wishes and continue to keep safe and well.