

WCCC Virtual Committee Meeting 23rd February 2022
Minutes

Present: Judith Aldridge (JA), Carole Oliver (CO), Kevern Oliver (KO), Mark Wilson (MW), Peter Brook (PB), Eileen Roberts ER (advisory capacity), Sarah Donaldson (SD), Anne Renshaw (ARn), John Paul Hoskins (JPH)

minute		Action
1	Welcome and apologies Apologies: Sam Hudson (SH) Robin Walker (RW), Helen Randall (HR), Rebecca Fryer (RF), Stephen Shellard (SS)	
2	Minutes of meeting on 03/11/21 and Matters Arising Minutes unanimously agreed. PB welcomed JPH to his first committee meeting Matters Arising All matters arising were dealt with in the main agenda.	
3	Covid-19 Update ER joined the meeting (ER is the Committee's volunteer, principal advisor on Covid-19 matters). She reported on the Government's latest guidance (published on 24/02/22) which did away with legal self isolation and testing requirements. Free testing for all but vulnerable groups will end on 01/04/22. In the ensuing discussion the Committee's duty of care for members was paramount: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that there was still a need for caution and that the overriding message for members will be <i>If you feel unwell don't come to choir</i>. Social distancing should continue. The requirement to sign in, hand cleansing and mask wearing will follow the Cathedral's requirements. JPH will let KO know if there are any changes. In the event that the Cathedral ceases the above, mask wearing will be an individual's choice. Ventilation of rehearsal space remains important. College Hall will be the principal rehearsal venue for the remainder of this term with the Cathedral being used on 17/03 and 24/03. KO will liaise with SH about the use of College Hall in the summer term. ER and KO will prepare and distribute a briefing note to the choir and will brief the choir on changes in arrangements at the next rehearsal on 03//03/22. The weekly raffle will restart on 03/03/22. KO will contact Linda Ayres. Briefing note will include advice on maintain sensible distances, with similar arrangements for music distribution. Arrangements will reviewed at a special committee meeting on 14/04/22, prior to restart of rehearsals on 28/04/22. 	JPH *KO ER, KO KO KO
4	Financial Report CO confirmed that the balance in the WCCC's Cathedral Account is approximately £11730 and is waiting for latest figures from Cathedral finance department.	
5	Operational Matters 5.1 Library Nothing to report 5.2 Social Media/Publicity Nothing to report	

<p>5.3 Website Nothing to report</p> <p>5.4 Membership Attendance continues to be good with few exceptions and morale and motivation are high. Majority of absences are due to illness (one case of Covid) and unforeseen problems. Prospective tenor Rob Poulson will be auditioned on 03/03/22 There is an urgent need to recruit at least one more tenor and therefore need to widen our search. KO will seek advice from Nic Freestone.</p> <p>5.5 Concert Management Nothing to report.</p> <p>5.6 Local Fundraising Nothing to report.</p>		KO
<p>6</p>	<p>Committee Membership PB explained that following RF decision to retire as treasurer at the AGM (09/06/22) there was an urgent need to find a successor. CO has agreed to take on the role once again but there was an urgent need to find a longer term successor. After considerable discussion it was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A potential successor should be sought from members who would be co-opted on to the Committee (as per approach set out at 20/21 AGM) to shadow CO for a period before taking over from CO. • A general appeal would be made to members, outlining the problem, the role and the suggested way ahead. KO agreed to do this at 03/03/22 rehearsal. • CO would produce a suitable job specification.* <p>*from WCCC Committee Roles and Responsibilities – January 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing the budget and operation of financial procedures - Management accounts - Financial updates for Committee meetings - Preparation of end-of-year accounts and presentation of same to AGM - Annual budgets and forecasts and budgets for individual concerts and other enterprises e.g., CD production - Organising receipts and payments to and from designated fund through Director of Music and Cathedral finance systems - Collecting annual subscriptions and revisions to subscription (advice to Committee and AGM) 	KO CO
<p>7</p> <p>7.1 Cathedral Services</p>	<p>What Next? KO reported on the outcome of the Music Department's Autumn 2022 planning meeting which he had attended on behalf of the WCCC. 7 services had been allocated to the WCCC. In subsequent email and text exchanges SS explained that the combination of required rehearsal time, workload, standards and the need to develop repertoire meant that more than 5 services was impractical. In SS's unavoidable absence the following points arose from discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimous agreement that SS's role and judgment as MD is paramount and understanding of his position that WCCC should not take on more than is possible and subsequently sacrifice high quality for quantity. • Some concern that refusing an increase in number of services when we are now an integral part of the Music Department gives the wrong impression. • Do we not already have a big enough repertoire to sing the 2 extra services? • If there are any plans for an autumn event, 7 services would be too many. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How easy is it for the Music Department to fill the gaps? • It was important that the Committee has a clear understanding of SS's reasoning and decisions. PB suggested that he, SS and KO meet to clarify things. KO will set this up. • JPH understood both points of view and that the WCCC should not take on more than was realistically possible. He would await the outcome of discussion. 	KO, PB, SS
7.2	<p>Other Events</p> <p>There was a wide-ranging discussion about the viability and appropriateness of the three events tabled in the briefing notes (Venables' Requiem, Christmas Carol recording, Brahms' Requiem) as a basis for future, post Covid programme for the WCCC.</p> <p>Points covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the end of Covid in sight it was important that plans for future concerts were developed. • The Venables' Requiem was a magnificent work and the WCCC had the opportunity to premiere it in Worcestershire. It could be a comparatively low-cost event if performed in the Cathedral with an organ accompaniment. SS is very keen. • The Brahms' Requiem is familiar to the choir and could be performed in the Cathedral. costs would include the hire of a second piano. There was suggestion that it could be recorded. • Christmas Carol recording has long been suggested and SS is keen. It is a high cost event which will need significant finances and sophisticated fund-raising and promotion. • Three events is perhaps too ambitious and should be reduced to two; Venables and one other. <p>It was agreed that the next step would be a preliminary viability study of all three with a report back to the next Committee meeting on 27/04/22. KO will organise.</p>	KO
	<p>The meeting ended at 2110</p> <p>Next meetings: Covid update 14/04/22, full meeting 27/04/22</p>	