

WCCC Virtual Committee Meeting 7th December 2022
Minutes

Present: Carole Oliver (CO), Kevern Oliver (KO), Lynne Reekes (LR), Helen Randall (HR) Stephen Shellard (SS), Anne Renshaw (AR), Peter Brook (PB)

minute		Action
1	Apologies Judith Aldridge (JA) Sarah Donaldson (SD) Post meeting Mark Wilson (MW) and Robin Walker (RW) sent profuse apologies for missing the meeting.	
2	Minutes Minutes of 19/10/22 meeting unanimously agreed. Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal in St. Andrews on 01/12/22 was <i>a delight</i> • Comprehensive information about Sedgley on 15/12/22 has been sent to members • Nine Lessons and Carols on 20/12/22 is a major civic event (Blue light) and WCCC will be asked to provide some readers. Information still awaited from Canon John Paul (JP) All other matters arising dealt with in the main agenda. PB thanked KO for chairing 19/10/22 Committee meeting.	
3	Financial Report CO presented the accounts for 6 months to 30/09/22 which showed a surplus of £13113. The balance at 21/11/22 was £13072. There were no questions.	CO
4	Musical Director PB reported that the administrative arrangements of Stephen continuing as the WCCC's MD, arising from his resignation as the Cathedral's senior lay clerk, are being worked on. His leaving date is 31/01/23 ¹ . There will be a valedictory service on 05/02/23.	PB, SS, CO
5	Operational Matters	
5.1	Library CO reported that all was in hand with the distribution and collection of music operating smoothly. Music for next term is being sorted ready for distribution on 05/01/23. She has discussed with JA the handing back of responsibility for the library to JA from 05/01/23.	CO, JA
5.2/3	Social Media/Publicity/Website KO reported on behalf of SD that there had been no direct response to her chat to members about the importance of interacting with our social media platforms. The fundamental point is that <i>liking</i> and <i>sharing</i> posts was a way of extending the WCCC's <i>reach</i> and thereby encouraging concert audiences. PB praised and thanked MW for his work with the website.	SD, MW
5.4	Membership Benedict Coleman (tenor) will be auditioned tomorrow night (08/12/22)	SS, KO

¹ Would be good to have this done before 25/1 committee. Could you give SH a nudge?

<p>5.5</p> <p>5.6</p>	<p>Assuming that he is successful the Committee approved his admission to the WCCC as a member. This will bring the membership up to 38: 13 sop, 10 alto, 8 tenor, 7 bass. Any further applications for membership will be on a <i>waiting list</i> basis.</p> <p>Response to WhenAvailable for spring/summer 2023 is excellent with only 1 member outstanding. .</p> <p>Concert management See 6.1.3 below</p> <p>Local Fundraising HR reported that she was having informal conversations with members, seeking ideas about fundraising and that these would continue in the new year.</p>	<p>KO</p> <p>CO</p> <p>HR</p>
<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.1.1</p> <p>6.1.2</p> <p>6.1.3</p> <p>6.1.4</p>	<p>What Next?</p> <p>Brahms' Requiem Ko reminded all that the start of promotion of the concert had sensibly moved from the original time of mid/late November to late January and that it was essential that key things were properly in place for then.</p> <p>Progress reports</p> <p>Budget & Finance CO is awaiting clarification via Sam Hudson on the Cathedral's internal charging system. n.b. Susan Macleod (SM) had referred to these at her meeting with CO and AR. Once these are clarified the budget will need to be revised if existing contingency amount (£500) proves to be insufficient Urgent action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up ticket (£15) sales via Cathedral's Eventbrite with clear understanding/agreement of incurred costs. • Establish costs (if any) of using the Cathedral's publicity systems <p>n.b. Susan Macleod (SM) retires in February.</p> <p>Social media and www KO reported that SD and MW are ready to act as and when they are provided with promotional material with main drive occurring 6 weeks before 29/04/23.</p> <p>Venue Nothing to report but SM, key liaison contact, leaves in 02/23 – See above</p> <p>Branding & launch publicity <i>Remembrance, Hope and Recovery</i> AR, having discussed design possibilities and resources with SM, will engage a designer with whom she works and will donate the cost to the project. The material will be compatible with the Cathedral's normal house style and suitable for distribution via social media, email, Cathedral's website, hard copy etc².</p> <p>AR asked for confirmation that the information (see below) which she had presented in the pre meeting briefing note could be sent to the designer.</p> <p>Worcester Cathedral</p>	<p>CO</p> <p>SD, MW</p> <p>CO</p> <p>AR</p>

² Numbers and sizes for hard copies to be agreed (25/1?)

	<p><i>Saturday 29 April 2023 at 7.30</i> BRAHMS: Ein Deutsches Requiem <i>- a concert following the pandemic.</i> <i>Remembrance - Recovery - Hope</i> Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir Stephen Shellard - conductor Nicholas Freestone - piano Robin Walker - piano <i>Cash bar in the cloister following the concert, which will run without interval.</i> <i>TICKETS: XXXXXXXXXX (relevant Worcs. Cathedral Eventbrite link details to go in here) *</i> There was unanimous agreement with the above with the addition of the names of soloists. AR warned that there was a risk that this would make the design too cluttered. PB pointed out that there was an advantage in having Jonathan Brown's name on the poster since he might bring followers from Malvern College and Malvern Festival Chorus.</p> <p>The programme (agreed at previous meeting) was confirmed as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to the concert (remembrance, hope, recovery) • a two-piano duet • Two readings (by choir members) • No interval in the Brahms', apart from a brief break for the choir. <p>*This is yet to be confirmed with the cathedral.</p>	
6.1.5	<p>Music Soloists (Jonathan Brown, Sheila Davies) and accompanists (Nick Freestone and Robin Walker) have confirmed their availability and contracts have been sorted. Music has been distributed and chorus rehearsals have started.</p>	
6.1.6	<p>Media PB's ready to implement the plan outlined in his briefing paper for previous meeting (19/10/22). He will liaise with SD and MW³.</p>	PB
6.1.7	<p>Members Nothing to report.</p>	HR
6.1.8	<p>Contacts KO reported that JA was working on the a list of people and organisations who will be contacted once promotional material is available.</p>	JA
6.1.9	<p>Fundraising CO and AR have spoken to choir members about the £80 donation scheme. Members have also been sent an explanatory email. So far there have been only two positive responses. There will be a second approach to members in mdi-January.</p>	AR, CO
6.2	<p>Elgar Festival: Venables' Requiem Scores have arrived and rehearsals will start in January.</p>	SS
6.3	<p>Anniversary celebrations Following on from the discussions at the previous meeting (19/10/22) it was agreed that</p>	

³ Do you wish me to keep an eye on distribution more widely? For discussion at pre-meeting for 25/1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Cathedral Evensong ○ A Celebratory Dinner ○ A <i>guest appearance</i> at Westminster Abbey.- KO agreed to do initial research. n.b. If that proves impossible a singing visit to another Cathedral will be pursued. ○ A Celebratory Concert: Unanimously positive reaction to SS's suggestion of Monteverdi's Vespers. AR suggested that such a performance might well attract funding from <i>Friends of cathedral Music</i>. • The idea of a commissioned work should be dropped. <p>There was lengthy discussion about resurrecting the idea of making a CD/recording. SS in favour of locally-linked Christmas Carols using the model of track-sponsorship etc. originally proposed for June 2020. Whilst the positive benefits were understood there was concern about major cost issues arising from the post pandemic culture and the financial crisis e.g rise in cost of living, business disasters, reduction in community funding.</p> <p>Costs were unknown but based on 2020/1 discussions with Chorum they were likely to be at least £6000.</p> <p>KO reported that arising from a discussion with SD about the benefit of a professionally produced short video for WCCC's YouTube channel he had contacted JDA Media to get some idea of production costs. 20" worth of high quality sound and vision would be around £2000.</p> <p>It was agreed that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB and KO will put together a schedule of approximate costs and a summary of pros and cons of the CD and video recordings in time for next Committee meeting.⁴ • PB will write to members advising them of the above ideas, on the above and any other idea which they may have. 15" of rehearsal time will be set aside in early January for a plenary discussion * • whatever was eventually decided upon should be affordable and manageable. • with £13k surplus we should consider using some of it to fund some aspects of the celebration. (CO has already confirmed with SH that using such funds to cover the cost of an event/s would not be a problem). <p>*Post the meeting PB, in lieu of a meeting, invited feedback from members via email to PB and KO.</p>	<p>KO</p> <p>PB, KO</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p>
7	The next meeting will be on Zoom on 25/01/23 at 1930.	KO

⁴ Happy to work on this jointly.