

## **Manchester Community Choir Committee Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015**

**Present:** Chrissie Gibson (chair), Liz Powers (Musical Director), Sophie Gosling (minutes) Jo Melzak (Deputy Chair), Sandra Hunt, Arthur Burns, Ewa Barker (Treasurer), Mary O'Mahony, Maggie Seaby, Sian Richards.

### **Apologies**

Tudor Owen, Flo Bertrand, Sue Somerville

#### **1. Minutes of the last meeting**

Agreed

#### **2. Matters arising from last meeting**

Point 12: 26<sup>th</sup> July rehearsal: time and no party changed on website. NFA

Point 17: Chairs: Jo suggesting a chair team for setting up. *See later in minutes.*

Point 16: MOSI project. Liz feedback, phone call with organiser; MCC not fitting MOSI's criteria.

Drummers: collaborations: MIND gig. Liz in favour.

Sophie Cannon busking: not heard back.

Music in hospitals: already have singers.

#### **3. Membership report**

Sandra reported 2 enquiries, Liz has two others Ali Miles (tenor) Kathy Riley (?alto) who will attend next term.

#### **4. Review of past performances**

**Quarry Bank Mill:** Thanks to Tudor for organising. Tudor sent comments: enjoyed it, good numbers, flexibility re rehearsal space (!), audience small, space for singing was also too small. Choir identity could have been better, obscured banner. Thanks to CD stall helpers.

Liz's comments: photos of reh/perf space would be useful in future so can ensure can fit or where singing. Sian suggesting trying the choir standing in performance position during a rehearsal and measuring so know the space needed for different choir sizes/rows.

Liz was pleased with the performance, sound was good, people knew words. Nice feedback from people and the videos on FB. Liz would like to experiment with choosing where people stand for blending purposes. Also move people off the front row if have words.

Jo commented that she saw a choir (Beverley Community Choir) who moved places between songs. Also discussed etiquette of speaking between and before singing in a performance. Discussed balance between informality of a community choir and performance. For Whitby decided could manage lines/rows.

Sandra commented: someone talked about gaps between songs while we get notes. So someone else could do song explanations? Liz commented that there is a need to take time to make sure we all have the notes and that having someone else doing the song explanations would not shorten the time to prepare the choir with notes for each song.

Mary commented: enunciation was good. Someone else moved to tears by John Ball. Chrissie talked to a friend in a choral society who was also complimentary.

Banner: do we need a pop-up one? Asked Tudor for prices, approx. £95. Would need to be secured. Tudor suggest we ask Becky who did art-work to get costs again as previous company went bust! Could look at others' banners at Whitby.

If get invited back do a recce and find best spot.

Liked Didsbury Baptist church for rehearsal. Liz would like this space for all rehearsals. Jo said we'd need to talk to the Minster, he wasn't keen on a regular booking when she booked for the last rehearsal. Jo to investigate.

## 5. Future performances

***Victoria baths:*** NTR

***Freedom from Torture:*** still don't know date

## 6. Future repertoire

Liz reminded committee of the '5 new, 5 current, 5 old' strategy for song choices. We have done all from current. Not done yet: Peace train (old) Something inside (new) or Nana was a suffragette (new).

***New ones suggested by Liz to add:*** Feel like going on, Love call me home, Dream (Everley Brothers). Bread and Roses: medley version with a freedom song. Have arrangement, in 5 parts. A bigger song will need more rehearsal. Liz to email the link of choir singing it. New song Helen Yeomans: 'Come the time' has lovely harmonies, challenging but doable. Calder Valley Women have sung it.

Someone suggested 'Happy together' Can't do that one as Liz is singing another version with another choir.

## 7. Contingency planning

Tried out singing to a video of Liz conducting as a test; agreed to test out on the big screen at a rehearsal, suggesting bigger gestures that could help. Use the You Tube channel? Or memory sticks to carry with.

**Action:** try out and see they work first then firm up plans for dissemination.

Warm ups are fine.

Starting notes: either from an instrument or phone app.

## 8. Choir attire: update.

QBM: Hats and ribbons in bass section were good. Some jewellery was turquoise. Some scarves were yellow and blue. Discussion re colour, how much green is OK?

Colour: needs to be bright green. Balancing with the informality of the choir with 'policing'.

Chrissie will remind gently.

## 9. Banner

See above discussion in point 4.

#### **10. Rehearsal and committee dates**

Maggie reported all dates for September onwards are fine. Union Chapel have been very accommodating.

#### **11. Whitby Street Choir Festival**

Last email re partners. Not going to be many tickets for others for Friday or Saturday concerts.

Busking slots yet to be confirmed. Liz has two choirs to work with, so has contingencies if needs be for logistical purposes.

All coach tickets sold, made a profit of about £70. One registration is available. Chrissie to ask Joyce what she has done.

#### **12. Llangollen Eisteddfod**

NTR

#### **13. Helping people who are hard of hearing**

Sue raised this. For next meeting. To gather information from individuals who are affected. Jo suggesting having a link person who can gather this information.

#### **14. Workshops**

**Lester Simpson:** Jo has list of people who are interested. 20 tickets left for new term/people. Other choirs expressed an interest of anything left

**Young 'Uns:** Dates: Feb 13<sup>th</sup> offered. 10-3pm. £900 for the three of them. Would have a bigger workshop (approx. 80?). May be other choirs joining. Maggie suggesting joining for them a concert??

#### **15. Requests/correspondence**

NTR

#### **16. Treasurer's report**

Ewa reported: Food allowance for 2 people: was £40 each in Aber'th. £45 to account for inflation agreed. Subs increase? Income £5K approx. with money from gigs to come. Taking into account expenditure to come will have about £1800 left. Ewa asked if there are any other bills outstanding. Sian: website domain and email service.

Sally's money is in the Help fund. Is being used for Whitby help. Chrissie will email Matthew to let him know.

Proposing increase to £80, £60, £40. Agreed by majority.

Liz's fees: £57 per hour is current rate. Agreed to an increase £60, plus complimentary place at any workshop attended.

#### **17. Committee roles**

No-one currently fills full role as secretary as more than one person share the tasks of the role.

Sian suggesting looking at the roles and tasks for each and look at the constitution. Sue deals with suggestions, Flo deals with emails, Sandra with membership enquires, Sophie takes the minutes, Chrissie draws up the agenda.

Chairs: Jo and Alan will be doing on Sunday. Setting up is a bigger job now especially on a Sunday (small hall set up). Have some volunteers. Some people arrive early; finding ways to encourage helping.

Rota for next year??

#### **18. AOB**

Sian: membership pack needs updating. Tudor has offered to help.

Use of the opt-in list. Broadening and inviting others to post? Sometimes needs editing. After discussion agreed to keep as is.

#### ***Next meetings:***

***Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July meeting will go ahead. Maggie's house. Ewa, Jo and Sophie send apologies.***

***Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept: Mary's house***

Membership report