

GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.30pm, MONDAY 20th MAY 1991

at

St Joseph's Church Hall, Guildford

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Guildford Philharmonic Choir will be held after rehearsal, at 8.30pm on Monday 20th May 1991 at St. Joseph's Church Hall, Guildford.

The business will be as follows:-

- 1 Agreement of Minutes of the AGM held 30th May 1990 (copy of minutes attached to this notice).
- 2 Matters arising from Minutes of last year's AGM.
- 3 Chorus Master's Report.
- 4 Treasurer's Report for the Year to 30 April 1991 (see unaudited financial statement of 11 months to 31 March 1991 issued with this Notice).
- 5 Chairman's Report
- 6 Appointment of Chorus Master & Assistant Chorus Master.
- 7 Election of Chairman and seven other Members of Committee to serve for the year beginning 1 June 1991 (Nomination Paper for nomination of committee members attached. Further papers available at rehearsals. Note they must be returned to the Philharmonic Office by Friday 3rd May 1990).
- 8 Any other business.

Following the business of the meeting Choir members are invited to relax with a glass of wine to discuss another enjoyable and successful year with the Guildford Philharmonic.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR held on WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 1990

PRESENT: Rita Horton (Chair) and 76 members

APOLOGIES: Neville Creed, Lynette Newman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 15 May 1989

Having been previously circulated, the Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. Proposed from the Chair, seconded by Michael Longford and carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3. CHORUSMASTER'S REPORT

Peter White read the Report in Neville's absence (copy attached).

4. CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PUBLICITY AND RECRUITMENT'S REPORT

Jenny Hakim reported that Choir members now numbered 160 but reminded the meeting that continuing publicity was essential to keep the numbers up. The Choir is fortunate in being so closely associated with the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra and having the support of Kathy Atkins in all sorts of ways. We must not become complacent just because we have Borough Council backing; the success of the Choir is judged by numbers of people attending concerts.

Publicity continued through recruitment advertisements, critics' reports after concerts and choir leaflets. A reduced budget meant it was not possible to use radio or national press. The Committee had been searching for sponsorship and it was hoped that a large food chain were interested in sponsoring The Dream of Gerontius. If anyone had ideas about sponsors, they should contact Kathy Atkins or John Yeomans. The Report concluded with warm thanks to Rita for her help and support.

The ensuing questions and comments from the floor, raised the following points:

Choir members had to be responsible for circulating leaflets and it would be helpful if people could give in their names for particular areas.

Publicity for choral concerts was requested further in advance. Would it be possible to have publicity for choral concerts only? Tickets for the summer concert would be available from the Undercroft and Michael Jeffery would also bring some to rehearsal.

Rita thanked Jenny for her untiring efforts and her successful results.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

John Yeomans presented the accounts (copy attached) and highlighted a number of items. The Choir's serious financial position made it essential for everyone to think of ways of raising money. Sponsorship is the single biggest potential for improving the position.

Questions and comments from the floor included the possibility of raising the subscription (this would be for the new Committee to decide); costing and support for the summer concert - some members felt they would like to finish singing in the spring as had once been the case but it was pointed out that the summer concert and the carol concert offered special opportunities for Neville and it was beneficial for people's voices to continue singing through the summer.

Rita thanked John for the clarity of his presentation and for his management of the accounts.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

See attached.

Appointment of Auditor: Henry Carew

7. APPOINTMENT OF CHORUSMASTER

Proposed by Rita Horton, seconded by Michael Longford and unanimously carried, it was agreed to recommend Neville Creed be reappointed as Chorusmaster for the ensuing year.

Rita informed the meeting that Neville had proposed Peter White be appointed as assistant chorusmaster. After considerable discussion the recommendation was put to the vote which resulted in:

For: 59 Against: 7 Abstentions: 7

At this point, Jean Radley proposed a warm vote of thanks to Rita Horton for her outstanding Chairmanship and presented her with a token for £70 for Forest Art Gallery, a bouquet and a card signed by members of the Choir.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) The question of the advisability of the summer concert was raised again together with some dissatisfaction about the length of the rehearsals and the number of extra rehearsals. The morale of the Choir was high but many members were amateur singers who wanted to make music with commitment to a weekly rehearsal preferably finishing by 9.30.p.m.
- (b) Extra rehearsals were always scheduled for Wednesdays, a night which some people could never manage because of other commitments. It was noted that usually only about half the Choir turned up and it was suggested that nights be staggered.
- (c) Extra rehearsals should be exceptional; the programme should be within the competence of the Choir on the basis of one rehearsal. This would mean that members must do a lot more individual work and more time spent on sectional rehearsals at the beginning of a work would be of benefit.

- (d) A tape for each voice part would greatly aid some members who found keyboard learning impractical.
- (e) There was some concern about scaling down as this would inhibit the Choir's potential.
- (f) There was discussion about the choice of programmes for the Choir and it was stated that Sir Charles always studied the programme.
- (g) Some people felt next year's programme was disappointing having sung all three works before but newer members to the Choir were delighted at having three major choral works. Kathy said that Sir Charles had chosen the programme to highlight the Choir in the coming year. It was commented that it was regrettable that the Choir had approached two concerts with Sir Charles under-rehearsed and perhaps this had given him a wrong impression of the Choir's capabilities.
- (h) Guildford Philharmonic Choir is the chorus of an orchestra and therefore different from the majority of choral societies but the programme for the coming year was almost identical with the normal up and down the country. Could the Choir's previous history be taken into account when programmes were being planned?
- (i) Suggestions for programmes were always welcomed.
- (j) Regarding attendance at Wednesday rehearsals: this fluctuated whereas attendance on Mondays was pretty stable. It could be that when two rehearsals occurred in the same week, members chose which to attend.
- (k) Questions were raised about the number of compulsory rehearsals for each concert and whether extra rehearsals were counted in the number.
- (l) In reply to a question about auditions for existing members of the Choir, it was stated that these normally took place every three years but were sometimes on a yearly or two-yearly basis.
- (m) Geoff Forster raised the matter of the summer event. Date and activity to be discussed at the next rehearsal.

9. **VOTING FOR CHAIRMAN AND SEVEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING 1 JUNE 1990**

Chairman: Maxwell New

Committee: Helen Archibald, Geoff Forster, Jenny Hakim, Joy Hunter,
Michael Jeffery, Jean Radley, John Yeomans
(list of nominations attached).

The Annual General Meeting closed at 10.00.pm.

GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

Accounts for the year 1 May 1990 to 30 April 1991 will be circulated at the AGM. The unaudited financial statement below, sent out in accordance with the Choir's rules, shows the position for 11 months, with approximate estimates for other items relating to the full year. The figures below reflect money paid and received during the financial year 1990/91. Details of other items relating to 1990/91, but paid before or after the financial year will be given at the AGM.

| <u>Receipts</u> | £ | p | <u>Payments</u> | £ | p |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Funds at 1/5/90: | | | | | |
| Current Account | | 781.02 | | | |
| Business Premium Account | | <u>4810.70</u> | | | |
| | | 5591.72 | | | |
| Subscriptions | 5668.00 | | Rehearsal expenses | | 6243.85 |
| Ticket sales | 499.50 | | | | |
| Fund raising | 444.62 | | | | |
| Folders | 41.25 | | Philharmonic Society | | 250.00 |
| Library | 396.85 | | Library | | 223.85 |
| Freiburg excluding rehearsal | 250.00 | | Freiburg excluding rehearsal | | 100.00 |
| Summer Concert | 114.75 | | Summer Concert excluding rehearsal | | 734.75 |
| Choral workshop | 44.00 | | | | |
| Missa Solemnis Party | 1325.02 | | Missa Solemnis Party | | 1471.77 |
| Other social activities | 152.15 | | Other social activities | | 135.00 |
| One hundred club | 532.00 | | One hundred club | | 225.00 |
| Bank Interest | 339.40 | | Bank charges | | 1.10 |
| Unallocated credits | 231.50 | | Administrative | | <u>10.87</u> |
| | | | | | 9396.19 |
| | | | Cash in bank at 1/3/91 | 8091.57 | |
| | | | Less uncashed cheques | <u>1951.00</u> | |
| | | | | 6140.57 | |
| | | | Plus credits in March 91 | <u>94.00</u> | |
| | | | | | <u>6234.57</u> |
| | | <u>15630.76</u> | | | <u>15630.76</u> |
| Estimates for April 91: | | | | | |
| Library | 50.00 | | Rehearsal costs due | | 2000.00 |
| Bank Interest | 100.00 | | Choral Workshop | | 450.00 |
| Tickets | 100.00 | | | | |
| Fund Raising | 100.00 | | | | |
| | <u>350.00</u> | | | | <u>2450.00</u> |

Prepared by:

John Yeans

Hon Treasurer.

Chromaster's (1) Report

1991

Introduction

- Thanks to all singers, without whom nothing possible.
- Hope you've enjoyed the selection of music ~~performed~~ in the last year which has involved 2 large Baroque works, 2 large Romantic works and 2 smaller-scale contemporary works as well as working on Patterson & Parry.
- Thanks also to Peter White & Lynette who've made my job much easier.
- The choir committee has worked tirelessly on our behalf & we owe them a great debt.
- The professional office staff have also been most helpful & our thanks go to them.
- Particular thanks to Max for his work in the Freiburg Town.

Review of our activities since the last AGM.

4 July - Beethoven Ch. Psalm Broken Rapture in the Cant. etc

The choir coped well with this difficult music & produced some good performances.

We were ably assisted by soloists from the cathedral, a splendid harpist, and David Swinson from the Grammar School on the organ.

Holy ~~Trinity Church~~ ~~venue~~ suited the size of our audience but I think our aspirations should be higher for a choir of this size we really need to be thinking of larger venues for our summer concert.

29 Aug - 2 Sep - Freiburg trip: Handel Messiah / Beethoven

I'm sure that all those who went on this trip had a splendid time - I've certainly not heard from anyone who didn't. Even the travel problems had a beneficial effect in bringing everyone closer together & provided Michael Longford with the excellent material for his German speech.

The choir was hosted magnificently by the Freiburgians & gave a marvellous ~~can~~ perf. of Messiah partly as a result of their hospitality but largely due to Herr Beethoven's lively direction. This is a relationship we ~~will~~ will be developing

3 Nov Verdi Requiem / Graves
that was a part

The choir performed particularly well & I
know Sir Charles was pleased with your
singing.

9 Dec Carols

We managed to use a full orchestra
& celebrity presenter for the first time, and
although the presenter wasn't to everyone's taste
the format of the event seemed to meet
with approval. The audience was almost
to capacity - were nearly there! Once we
turning people away we can consider 2 performances
in order to raise more for charity.

2 Feb Bach St John Passion / Creed

Bach's sustained and complex part ~~with~~ writing
is difficult to master but ~~the choir~~ worked
hard & produced a good performance.
We must tackle the St Matthew and B minor in
the future.

13 April Choral workshop Patterson Kyrie

Kyrie from Missa Brevis,
Pavly Blest Pair of Saints

I really do not understand why this event
was so inadequately supported. Those who did
come benefitted from 2 visiting instructors who
covered; ~~the~~ contrasting works by one of our
leading ~~organ~~ composers - Paul Patterson and
offered some tuition in aspects of vocal
technique.

Judging by the reaction of those who
attended by the amount of interest there seems
to be in another 'technique' session.
I hope that the level work that I & the
committee put in to organizing such a
IS rewarded with a much ~~larger~~ larger
proportion of the choir attending.

If we are to stage such events in the future I hope that the hard work that I & the committee put in to organizing ~~them~~ is rewarded with a much larger proportion of the choir attending. Judging by the reaction of those who went & by the amount of interest there seems to be in another 'technique' session, I anticipate greater success next time. ~~See~~

Somey University proved an excellent, if expensive, venue.

Ideas on time of year, venue and content would be ~~great~~ gratefully received. I understand from several quarters that this style of event is preferred to a "Come & Sing". Comments are welcome.

27 April Elgar / Dream of Gerontius

The Choral writing is particularly exposed in this piece - particularly for the Semi-chorus. They coped very well & a fine performance was given. The Kingdom & The Apostles spring to mind as further ~~other~~ programme ideas.

Future events

Sunday 30 June Opera Spectacular with the RPO's in Pkworth Park

- don't forget to organize a picnic!
sadly the ~~opportunity~~ opportunity to repeat this concert in the Guildford Festival was not possible due to ~~the~~ a lack of sponsorship

The last rehearsal will be on 29th July (July rehearsals will be spent on "Israel in Egypt")

The first rehearsal of the new season will be on 2nd September.

Saturday 9 Nov Handel / Israel in Egypt / Creed.

- This is unusual in that it relies principally on the chorus & is in a different mould from most of Handel's oratorios. ~~Because of~~ The ~~good~~ quantity & quality of chorus work make it a challenging choice.

(4)

A Saturday in February Choral Workshop

~~Bach Cantata 146 "Wachet Auf"~~

-details yet to be decided.

Saturday 7th March Blake / Benedictus / Groves

written 1980

commissioned to celebrate 1500th anniversary of St Benedict

→ ~~well prepared~~ A dramatic oratorio for

inspired by teachings of St Benedict contained in his book 'The Rule of St Benedict'

tenor solo

speaker

Chorus

Treble choir

Orchestra

Tenor = a Novice who seeks admission to the monastic Order & whose spiritual journey becomes a metaphor for every man's search for truth & spiritual fulfillment.

Howard Blake found fame with his children's piece 'The Snowman'

Style & owes something to Br. choral tradition -

Britten, Vaughan Williams, Walton etc

'not "modern" in one sense but it is taxing!

Saturday 2nd May RVW / Sea Symphony / Groves

written 1910

text: Walt Whitman

set for sop & baritone soli

chorus & orchestra

- a milestone in Br. Choral Music.

Saturday 27th June Summer Cantata

-details yet to be decided

Plans for the '92-'93 Season

October 31st - a visit by Bamberk & Freiburg Bach Choir / give a joint performance of Brahms Requiem in the Civic Hall (standing)

(5)

April (the Saturday after Easter) - a visit by us to Freiburg - programme yet to be decided.

A few points arising from AOB at last year's meeting:

- i) advisability of summer concert: it has been agreed that we should remain together as a choir for the whole year ~~etc~~ & therefore undertake a performance in June or July. The benefits of staying together are both musical & social.
- ii) length of rehearsals: rehearsals are scheduled to end at around 9.30 - if the pressure is on they may be extended to 9.45.
- iii) extra rehearsals: these are only included if considered necessary. This season, 7 were placed on the schedule, and so far 3 out of 6 have been used. The suggestion that differing nights be used has been taken up. Part of the reason for 'extra' rehearsals is that we are fortunate enough to be attached to a 'pro' orchestra and we need to respond to ~~these demands~~ the greater demands of such a position. I feel that the choir should respond to the demands of an interesting programme rather than the programme responding to the demands of a reluctant choir.
- iv) sectional rehearsals: their benefit is acknowledged by most singers & I will continue to use them as appropriate.
- v) provision of tapes for each voice part: I am prepared to do a lot - but I draw the line at this. I would hope that we are beyond that

(6)

level. However, if ~~any~~ ^{as a} member of the choir is prepared to make tapes ~~these~~ - there may be a lucrative market!

vi) "Scaling down"

I am always looking for ways of improving the standard of the choir and one of them is by recruiting good new singers.

Since I have been chosen master the numbers in the choir have almost doubled - I could be accused of 'scaling up'! I am always ~~not that boastful~~ for looking for ways of improving the standard of the choir & one of them is by recruiting good new singers - please encourage your musical friends to come along for an audition.

vii) Programme selection for the subscription series

Programme ideas are discussed each September by the programming committee of the Guildford Philharmonic. The Chorus Master represents the Chorus point of view when discussing the Choral element. ~~The~~ Programme ideas for other concerts, events and tours are formulated by the Choir committee and Chorus Master in ~~agreement~~ liaison with the Guildford Philharmonic Office. We always hope to feature 20 British Choral Music, ~~as this is our~~

viii) Under-rehearsed

Someone commented that ~~all~~ the choir was under-rehearsed for 2 concerts with Sir Charles & that \therefore he might have a wrong impression of the choir's capabilities. I only recall the *Missa Solemnis* causing problems (Sir Charles only conducted one concert last season) & it was unfortunate that such a taxing work followed very closely after the previous concert. I know the work to be particularly hard and the choir generally coped well with it. It may have been that

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a few more extra rehearsals should have been scheduled! - ~~but than these would have been~~
~~deplan~~ Judging from Sir Charles' comments after the Verdi Requiem I think that the balance has been redressed. As I have said, I am always looking for ways of improving the standard of the choir so that works such as Missa Solenne can be handled with greater ease.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is my first report as chairman and thanks to the great help from the Committee and the fact that 'Rita' your past Chairman leaving everything so tidy, life has been quite easy.

What a year it has been?

In spite of the recession we have had record attendances at all the concerts and in particular our choral concerts, finishing with *Gemhtws* under *Tod* (thanks to Michael and Helen selling tickets.)

This year was, I think, the first time that our Chorus Master has been permitted to take the baton at a major concert and "Didn't he do well". I think that we all felt a particular urge to make that performance a success, I hope this was a help to Neville!

We had our visit to Freiburg, last September, something that few of us will ever forget for the warmth of the welcome and the fun of making music with them. We hope to invite them back here in late 1992 and we are to go over to them in early '93 with a different Bus Company! *Tape available. Laurie James.*

We now have Petworth to work for, this is a chance to show what we can do and will also be a chance to re-pay Neville in a small way for all the hard work he puts in on our behalf, we must make him proud of us, so work hard at the music in the next few weeks!

What can I say about Lynette, other than 'Brilliant'. The only problem is that I find myself listening and marvelling at her fantastic runs and then I forget that I am supposed to be singing too. (We are all very proud of you Lynette, particularly when we see our eminent visiting conductors and in particular, Sir Charles look your way in a very difficult passage with a smile of admiration on ~~their~~ faces.)

We must not forget Peter White who drives us hard but gives us a feeling of confidence in ourselves at the end of the evening.

I do hope that our link with the Philharmonic Society and the G.P.O. can be strengthened, I think we are becoming more supportive but I sometimes feel we have a long way to go to creating a really close support. We have a very fine Orchestra and it seems so sad that some Guilfordians do not seem to know they exist let alone how good they are.

We have a new Publicity group now divided into two sections, as Jenny Hakin found that the growing work load was too great to handle alone, she has now been joined by a co-opted member of the Committee - Margaret Parry, an ex senior B.B.C. member who will if elected by you tonight, continue to take on the radio and paper publicity, ~~leaving~~ Jenny to concentrate on the Sponsorship side. They make a great team, thank you Jenny and Margaret.

Jean Rodley - Membership and Joy Hunter, our Secretary, have been vital to our success and growing membership and will be playing a leading part in the auditions now under way.

Michael Davis our Philharmonic Society representative and organiser of the 100 club wants more of you to WIN but this means you must first join.

Geoff Forster - Social Secretary is regretfully ^{IN HOSPITAL BUT IS} retiring due to pressure of work.

If I mentioned all who have seen jobs that needed doing and done them, we would be here all night, but I must make one exception. Have you ever wondered how much effort goes into getting the Hire Music from the various Libraries in order to keep costs down? Christine Medlow does this without fuss and we owe her a great vote of thanks, please show your gratitude by getting your copies back to her, cleaned up, on time after the concert. Thank You Christine.

Last but not least, our Treasurer John Yeoman with Fiona, his

very able wife and assistant who keeps us on the edge of bankruptcy but not over it.

I am pleased to say that this year his task has been made easier thanks to the efforts of our Queen Bee Kathy Atkins who has persuaded the Borough to find some more financial support for us £3,000 to be exact. Thank You Kathy! We do appreciate all you do for us, forgive me if I grumble sometimes!

I am very sad to tell you that the hard working Concert Manager of the G.P.O. Alan Farrow, who does everything from setting out the stage to writing music notes for concerts, programmes, is moving away to Norfolk after 23 years as G.P.O. Concert Manager.

Finally, Thank You for all your support and I am sure you will continue to give it to who ever takes over tonight.

My best wishes for the summer break.