

# NORTH KINGSTON CHOIR COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Attendees:** Penny Hamilton (PH), Chair; Sue Manson (SM), Treasurer; Georgi Vaughn (GV), Secretary; Nello Bearzatto (NB), Events; Shira Keshet (SK), Communications; Vanessa Hartley (VH), Social; Jessica Bate (JB), Musical Director (partial attendance).

**Apologies:** Sally Winter (SW), Membership.

## 1. Finances – SM

SM updated the Committee on the choir's finances. SM stated that the concert at Southwark had been expensive and since we were not able to charge for tickets to cover costs, the choir's reserves would be depleted as a result. SM estimated that the choir's reserves are likely to stand at around £4,000 by the end of the year. SM noted that this is still an acceptable level of reserves, being higher than a term's income which is £2,500.

SM informed the Committee that she will be standing down at the AGM. Nicky Hinde has agreed to stand as Treasurer in 2022.

## 2. Membership – PH

PH passed on an update from SW on membership. There are currently four women on sabbatical and one spare women's place. There is one new man coming for a trial in January and one spare men's place. The Committee agreed that SW should contact those on sabbatical to ask whether they intend to rejoin in January.

The Committee discussed the choir's policy around sabbaticals. The Committee agreed that members should not be allowed to stay indefinitely on sabbatical when there are so many people waiting for places. The Committee agreed that from January the choir should return to its previous policy of allowing a member to take one term's paid sabbatical, or an unpaid sabbatical during which the member's place will be filled and the member will go to the top of the waiting list. If the member does not wish to rejoin the next term when a place becomes available, it will be at the discretion of the Membership Officer as to whether they stay at the top of the waiting list, taking into account extenuating circumstances. All members who are currently on sabbatical will have to follow this procedure starting from January; free sabbaticals taken during 2021 will not be counted.

GV mentioned that the sopranos had asked whether there was a possibility of splitting the women's waiting list into sopranos and altos to preserve the balance between sections. The Committee felt that this would be difficult as the choir is non-audition and does not require members to have singing experience, so new members may not know what their voice range is. The Committee noted that there is not currently a great imbalance between sopranos and altos, and patchy attendance this term may have made the imbalance seem worse than it is. There are currently 20 altos and 13 sopranos, including those on sabbatical. The Committee did not consider it necessary to split the waiting list at the current time, but will keep the position under review if numbers change.

NB informed the Committee that some progress had been made on making a recruitment video featuring NKC men. Some video clips have been filmed and need to be edited into a video. NB to organise. The Committee noted that it is not urgent now to recruit more men before January, with only one men's place available.

**Action points:**

- **SW to contact members on sabbatical to inform them of sabbatical policy and find out whether they will rejoin in January.**
- **SW to offer spare women's place to start in January.**
- **Committee to keep balance between alto and soprano sections under review going forward.**
- **NB to continue liaising to organise production of men's recruitment video.**

**3. Events – NB**

NB noted that he had been in touch with the organisers of Ham Fair and they will be considering their programme for 2022 from January. NB noted that the choir is also on the list to perform at Hampton Court Garden Festival in 2022.

The Committee noted that the choir has been invited back to Southwark Cathedral in December 2022. SM reiterated that this event entails a cost to the choir with no opportunity to recoup costs from ticket sales. The Committee will take this into account when deciding on the choir's events programme for the 2022 Christmas term.

JB had previously informed the Committee that Tom Speight (TS) had asked whether the choir would be available for a London gig in February 2022. The Committee noted that at previous gigs, the choir has been poorly positioned and not able to hear themselves sing. GV noted that TS is performing in a larger venue but is still asking the choir to pay for tickets, albeit at half-price. The Committee agreed that the choir should not take part in this event.

The Committee discussed arranging a workshop for the rehearsal on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 as JB will be away. The Committee agreed to go ahead with the Beat Goes On body percussion workshop that had been previously planned, at a cost of £245 plus travel plus VAT.

**Action points:**

- **NB to keep in touch with organisers of Ham Fair and Hampton Court Garden Festival re summer 2022 performances.**
- **Committee to consider options for Christmas 2022 performances.**
- **JB to contact Tom Speight and decline to perform at his London gig.**
- **JB to forward details of Beat Goes On workshop to Committee for booking.**

#### **4. Communications – SK**

SK reported that she had updated the website to promote the concert at the Rose Theatre on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

The Committee agreed to book a videographer for the Rose Theatre concert at a cost of £250 plus VAT to produce videos of five songs. JB had also obtained a quote of £110 plus VAT for reportage-style photography of the pre-concert rehearsal at All Saints Church. The Committee felt that this was unnecessary expenditure since the choir should have plenty of photos from Southwark Cathedral.

##### **Action points:**

- **JB to confirm arrangements with videographer for Rose Theatre.**

#### **5. Social – VH**

The Committee thanked VH for organising the post-Southwark Cathedral social at the Horniman at Hays, which was a great success and enjoyed by members.

The Committee discussed whether the Christmas meal at the Canbury Arms should go ahead if Covid infection rates increase. VH to check with Canbury Arms on cancellation policy. They have asked for menu choices to be confirmed by 10<sup>th</sup> December. The Committee agreed that the meal should go ahead as long as members still want to attend, as it is up to individual members to make their own risk assessment in the circumstances. PH to send reminder to members to select their menu choices.

The Committee discussed the possibility of holding a bandeoke night for choir members in the spring. JB reported that she had discussed this with the band and they were keen to do it. The Committee noted the Willoughby Arms as a potential venue. PH to liaise with Jem Goddard regarding appropriate venues.

##### **Action points:**

- **VH to check with Canbury Arms re cancellation policy.**
- **PH to remind members to submit their menu choices by 10<sup>th</sup> December.**
- **PH to liaise with Jem Goddard re venue for bandeoke.**

#### **6. AGM – PH**

PH noted that the AGM is scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. PH will write a Chair's report for 2021. GV will prepare an agenda for the AGM to be circulated to members no later than 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The current Committee nominations are as follows: Chair – NB; Secretary – Rachel Mahoney; Treasurer – Nicky Hinde; Communications – SK; Membership – PH. The Committee noted that there are still vacancies for Events and Social. PH will put out a call for nominations to members.

PH noted that Committee members who are stepping down will need to make handover notes and/or arrangements with their successors.

**Action points:**

- **PH to write Chair's report for 2021.**
- **GV to prepare agenda and PH to send to members.**
- **PH to call for Committee nominations.**
- **Committee members stepping down to arrange handover.**

**7. AOB**

There was no other business.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC after AGM**