

Canton Chorus Planning Group Meeting Record

Canton Chorus is a registered charity: No 1166663. We hold Planning Group meetings on Zoom at least four times a year. The planning group routinely consists of Trustees (Five elected annually at our AGM) Part Reps, Librarian, Communications Lead, Web Site Lead, co-opted choir members, and our Musical Director. Choir members are asked to raise items with Part Reps or if they wish, ask the Chair to arrange attendance at a meeting. Meeting records are posted on our web site cantonchorus.org.uk

Meeting Date: 17/07/2024

Present: Steve Bowkett Chair/Trustee, Anna Brazier Secretary/Trustee, John Abraham Musical Director, Neil Schofield Treasurer/Trustee, Margot Henry Trustee/ Part Rep, Sara Hayes Part Rep, Gareth Jones Part Rep.

Apologies: Richard Tebboth Vice Chair/Trustee, Lesley Jones Communications lead, Jane Tooby Part Rep, Jane Brown Librarian.

Record of previous meeting: Record from 21st June agreed.

Matters arising not on Agenda: None

Reflections on Summer Concert.

- Thanks expressed for all the behind the scenes work, especially Jane B for looking after the scores returns.
- Thanks to Ben T also for all his support and energy re organising bumpers / soloists and for his lovely playing.
- We had some good feedback re the Goodall piece, we agreed the harp and the organ really added to everyone's experience of the music.
- There was a discussion of 'bumpers' as we had two for this concert and a question was raised by a choir member about how they are chosen. It was clarified that Ben invited bumpers through his contacts. They were chosen if they were proficient sight readers and available (and willing) to rehearse and perform with us. Choir members have in general really appreciated the additional support, others have been less sure. It was agreed that if our numbers drop prior to a concert, as sometimes happens with illness etc and that a few extra voices will enhance everyone's enjoyment, that we will invite bumpers in the future. The Part Rep will feed back to the choir member that the need for bumpers is ultimately decided by John A in consultation, and that Ben T would continue to invite suitable people from his contacts as required. It was agreed that all things considered any other process would be too cumbersome.

Winter Concert 2025

- John A explained his choice of repertoire: Brahms Requiem and Britten, Rejoice in the Lamb, both with organ. If sung with organ the concert will meet our requirements for fantastic music and be within our budget as previously discussed with the planning group and with the choir. Anna had found an arrangement with 7 instruments and piano which everyone liked the sound of, but it was agreed that this, albeit reduced orchestration, could still prove too expensive just now, particularly as we would need to

hire a concert piano on top of players and costly hire scores. Ben T has found an organ setting he likes and this will require we use the Peters edition of the Brahms. [Repertoire was agreed and Jane will be asked to source scores.](#)

- Venue was discussed, pros and cons explored re various venues that have a suitable organ. [St John's was agreed \(Steve to see if we can book last Sat Jan or first Sat in Feb 2025 \)](#) as our choice because: The organ has been refurbished and although not perfect is workable, there is plenty of space for all, St John's team look after refreshments, the hire charge is less than elsewhere, and there is good access to loos.
- We agreed we may need to explore undertaking more formal risk assessments for our concerts. Our previous less formal review (see meeting records) has led to us having St John's ambulance in attendance at our last two concerts. We may need in future to check with venues more formally about eg. numbers at concerts etc. [We noted what may have been an outdated notice re numbers at St Catherine's, Margot to check for future reference.](#)

Initial Feedback from Choir Survey

- Neil will provide more detail in due course for group and the choir however the headlines are:-
- Members happy for increase in subs - this will be proposed at AGM 2024.
- General support for 'Angels' if needed for special projects.
- Little love expressed for the Raffle.
- People like the current structure of two concerts a year.

Communications: Recruitment and Web site

- Thanks to Lesley for all her work in this new role of leading on communications. It was fed back in her absence that work is ongoing with meetings planned re recruitment with Steve and the Sub Group, and re the web site with Phil Ben T and Margot. [It was agreed that Anna would send out details to the choir of the repertoire and the new term start date - 18th September ASAP.](#)

AGM

- Date agreed for AGM October 23rd 2024. To be held during rehearsal break.

Local Composer.

- [John will make contact with the composer who is interested in working with us. Contact details with Sara.](#)

Meetings

- Next meeting Friday 20th September 2024 at 3.30pm.
- Further meeting dates will be sent out prior to next meeting.

Anna Brazier
Secretary Canton Chorus
25/08/2024