



**Annual General Meeting
Friday February 25th 2011 at University Physics Department**

MINUTES

Present: Musical Director, Chorus Members, Office Bearers and the Committee

Apologies: Students appearing in G&S production

Minutes of the 2010 AGM: Accepted as a true record

President's Report:

1. The choir is thriving and enjoying making music with 175 members, 75 who have joined this season. Eric paid tribute to the support for the choir under the inspiring directorship of Michael Downes with the talented Marilyn at the keyboard as our accompanist. We are enjoying singing in our new venue – the Physics lecture theatre – and have been kindly gifted a piano for rehearsals. Thanks go also to Margaret Macgregor who made a cover to protect the piano.
A small sub choir is to be formed to assist with singing at a variety of fundraising events. To date 39 people have signed up and the choir will be conducted by Stephen Gillespie, with his wife Janet acting as secretary for the group. Anyone willing to assist this venture by investigating possible singing engagements is welcomed.
2. The choir is in a healthy financial state, thanks to the strong leadership of Angus Peters as Treasurer and Deidre Mansbridge as Assistant Treasurer. Together they manage an income of £21,000 which comes from three sources – subscriptions, concert revenue and fundraising. Fundraising this year has centred on our 2 coffee mornings, and our thanks go to Mima Clark and Elizabeth Sinclair, who have both supported the running of the coffee morning for many years. This year we had an amazing hat stall run by Penny Uprichard, and were entertained by a group from the G&S society. Our next coffee morning is on Saturday 12th March in the Town Hall.
3. We performed the Mass in C Minor last season and our concert in December was highly memorable with a performance of the Stabat Mater by Paul Mealor followed by Haydn's

Nelson Mass. In May this year we are digging deep into our finances, by hosting named soloists and a large orchestra, when we shall be performing Elgar's Dream of Gerontius. Next season in December 2011 we will be performing Samson by Handel, which was written the year after the Messiah. Plans are currently being finalised for March 2012 when we shall be singing Puccini's Messe di Gloria in Aberdeen in an exciting collaboration with the Aberdeen Sinfonietta. We shall repeat the Puccini in our concert in April when we will also be singing Verdi's Four Sacred pieces.

4. Eric thanked the committee for their support, and intimated that a number of members are retiring from the committee. Donald Phimister has resigned as Publicity Officer. Eric paid warm tribute to Donald who has been the backbone of the publicity team for many years. He will be greatly missed for his unfailing commitment, enthusiasm and loyalty to the choir. Peteke Feijten also resigned from the publicity team before having her second child last year, and Joanne Moorhead and Camille Bilger are resigning as student. All were thanked for their hard work and dedication.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Angus Peters referred to the financial statements:
St Andrews Chorus Income and Expenditure Account: 1 September 2009 – 31 August 2010
He drew attention to the choir's income of £26,759 with expenditure totalling £21,216. This compares favourably with the previous year's income of £23,351 and expenditure of £17,362.
2. He made reference to some areas of increased income – subscriptions have increased with some increase from gift aid, grants from Making Music (Music societies in England do not receive a grant unlike those although this is now likely to cease), and a small grant from Fife Council. Concert income is up and this may be due in part to each member receiving 4 tickets to sell, and our fundraising efforts have increased. The past year saw over £1000 raised from each of our 2 coffee mornings, and Christmas carol singing at the Balmoral and Fairmont hotels.
3. The expenditure is within budget to date and so, because of this healthy position, it is now possible to fund a large orchestra and high-profile soloists for the Dream of Gerontius. Expenditure covers our Director and accompanist fees, soloists, hall hire and orchestral costs. We are fortunate now that this year we will have no charge for rehearsal venue, nor do we have to pay travel expenses for our Director. Our publicity costs are up, with increased charges for printing of poster and tickets etc.
4. Angus responded to a question about charitable expenses by informing the meeting that we fund 5 student choral scholarships which pay for singing lessons.
5. The finance team of Angus Peters and Deirdre Mansbridge was warmly congratulated on their efforts. The preparation of the accounts was accepted by the meeting and Eric informed the meeting that the committee examines the budget statements every month.

Election of Office Bearers:

1. It was noted that all office bearers – President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and ordinary members are required to stand for re-election annually. President, Vice

President, Treasurer and Secretary were all willing to stand again, and these nominations were unanimously accepted by members. At this point Angus took the chair in order to elect the President.

Before handing the chair back Angus took the opportunity to voice the gratitude that is owed to Eric who works tirelessly on behalf of the chorus.

2. All existing committee members wishing to continue were also re-elected by the meeting. Liz Burns was elected on to the publicity team and Charlotta Hill, Demi Allan and Ronan Kearney were voted on to the committee as student representatives.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 21.10.

Sheila Blair, SECRETARY

February 25th 2011