MINUTES OF HRS COMMITTEE MEETING Z37

Friday March 28th 2025 at 7.30pm by Zoom

Present : Penny Smith (chair), Angela Barnes, Pippa Belas, Jean Campbell (vice chair & publicity), Andy Cordery (treasurer), Franceska Dante, Alison Raines.

Apologies : Helen Hooker (Musical Director), Angie Jones (concert manager).

1. **Minutes of Z36 November 26th 2024** were agreed

2. **Matters Arising** - none that would not be covered by the agenda.

3. **Finances**
    1. Andy reported a bank balance in excess of £5300. He will provide a more detailed report at the next meeting.
    2. Although the income from the concert in St Mary's, Portchester, was £491, outgoings were almost the same.
    3. Orchestra Tax Relief (OTR) : Penny, Jean and Andy had checked this out on the Making Music website, where there is extensive and carefully explained information about how OTR works and how to set it up. To be able to claim OTR, HRS would have to set up a production company which would take over the organisation of concerts, deal with the finances of it and make the claim to HMRC. This would be separate to the HRS Committee but with an overlap of membership, resulting in a doubling of work for several members. On balance, Penny, Jean and Andy do not recommend this as practicable for HRS.

4. **Audio system at Colden Common**
    1. We discussed this and agreed it had improved audibility considerably. Colden Common had offered an excellent deal (£50 p.a.) on use of their equipment.

5. **Conductor's podium**
    1. Penny had researched this and drew our attention to some different options she had found online. They all involved a considerable outlay.
    2. In discussion we noted there were issues around storage, transport and safe use of a podium. We also noted that venues could be asked if one was available for concerts. Also, it seemed likely that Colden Common had one to use at rehearsals, which we would investigate.

6. **Strengthening sections**
    1. We discussed the need for support in sections. Franceska suggested that the sopranino section could support the descant 2 section by additionally having that music and this was agreed.
    2. We discussed the importance of supporting sections to achieve best outcomes. We noted that descant 1 and descant 2 players regularly rehearse together and are used to playing each other's parts. Franceska suggested that the two players who share the sopranino section could support the descant 2 section by additionally having that music and it was agreed to refer this to Helen for final approval.

7. Concerts and events 2025

1. St Mary's Portchester February 16th : we agreed this had been a great success.
2. St John’s, Locks Heath was in the diary for July 6th 2025
3. The Open Playing Day was set for September 13th 10am-4pm

8. Concerts 2026

1. St James Road Methodist Church, Southampton, May 16th. An afternoon Prom concert.
2. St George’s Church Whyke, Chichester. June 26th as part of the Festival of Chichester.
3. Prospective concert July 11th in Portsmouth as part of the 100 Years of Music in Portsmouth Celebrations. [Music in Portsmouth to advise further on arrangements for participation as they are the major organiser of the musical events]
    1. We discussed various possible venues, bearing mind that parking was essential, a sizeable space was needed for players and an audience, and the costs should not be prohibitive. Some suggestions would be investigated but there was still scope for more ideas.

9. A.O.B.

1. Catering at Rehearsals : Pippa agreed to organise the morning breaks to involve more volunteer helpers.
2. Rehearsal Times : Penny clarified that extended rehearsals (ie 10am-3pm) had been dropped from the current diary.

10. Date of next meeting : to be advised by Penny in due course.

Jean Campbell

28th March 2025