

**DRAFT Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Queens Park Singers
held at the Church of St Anne and St Andrew, Brondesbury 12th October 2008**

Present : Monica Healy (Chair), David Till (Musical director) Simon Judge (Treasurer) Maggie Turp (Membership Secretary), Liz Till (Librarian), Glyn Jones (Publicity Officer) Marion Paul (Secretary) Peter Burt-Jones, Frances Freeman, Catherine Fried, Jenny Garrett, Hinda Golding, Gillian Hallifax, Mark Hine, Margaret Jackson-Roberts, Katherine Lawson, Mario Mansilla, Anna Mumford, Mary Phillips, Tom Rainbow, Rachel Robbins, Peter Walter

1. Monica welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced members of the committee and explained that all members resign their positions at the Annual General Meeting. She thanked the Committee members for increased responsibilities taken on during the year.
2. **Minutes of the AGM** of 7th October 2007 were read, agreed and signed as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

No matters were raised.

4. Treasurer's Report and accounts for 2007/08.

- Simon presented the audited accounts, which had been filed in the required form with the Charity Commissioners.
- Subscriptions had increased over the year, in part due to the additional members who joined the Messiah concert. Ticket sales were also higher than last year, reflecting the full house for Messiah. As a registered charity, the choir had been able to reclaim £301 from HM Revenue and Customs. There was a healthy surplus of almost £3,500, which placed the choir in a strong position.
- Thanks were expressed to Simon for his report and for his excellent management of the choir's finances and the accounts were accepted.
- The Choir was delivering public benefit, as required by the Charities Commission.

5. Musical Director's report

David reviewed the events of the past year.

- On 7th October 2007, the AGM was followed by a Gospel Workshop, ably led by Andrea Encinas of British Gospel Arts. This was a new experience for the Choir and the event was much enjoyed by participants.
- Messiah, on 25th November 2007, was a major enterprise, in which the Junior Singers particularly enjoyed taking part. David's first experience of conducting this work gave him a new and exciting perspective.
- The Opera workshop, conducted over two Sundays, 24th February and 2nd March 2008 by Peter Burt-Jones, focused on sections of Gluck's Orpheus and Euridice. This involved acting as well as singing and was very satisfying, thanks to Peter.
- At the Spring concert on 18th May, 2008, Geoff Dancer played a Mozart concerto on the new piano, and Haydn's Spring from The Seasons was performed with orchestral accompaniment.
- There had been capacity audiences for both Messiah and the Spring concert.
- The Junior Singers, under the direction of Mary Phillips, had gone from strength to strength. Mary had 20 new members for the forthcoming Schutz Christmas Story, and the Juniors were sight-reading and singing well and had been very quick to pick up new ideas. Eight members had performed at the Queens Park Open Gardens. Thanks were also due to Katherine Lawson, who had taken over organization of the Junior Singers.

- David announced that he proposed to stand down from the position of Musical Director at the AGM in 2009. He hoped that people would come forward so that the Choir would continue. He thanked those who had supported him and the Choir, including the Church.

Comments from members

- Peter Burt-Jones informed the meeting that there had been a request for the Choir to sing at Queens Park Day but it was felt this would need to be held over for later.
- Liz Till informed the meeting that Queens Park Singers had been established as the charity under which the street carol-singing was allowed. The dates for 2008 were to be 18th and 21st December. Peter suggested that the carol-singing should be included in the Musical director's report.
- Liz felt that singers should have a say as to which charities were to be supported by the collection. The 2007 collection was equally shared between The Special Yoga Centre and Salusbury World, each receiving £331.
- Monica proposed a vote of thanks and a round of applause to Mary and David.

6. Elections to the Committee

No nominations had been received before the meeting and the following members were re-elected, unopposed:

- Chair: Monica Healy. Nominated by Frances Freeman and seconded by Gill Hallifax.
- Treasurer: Simon Judge. Nominated by Mark Hine and seconded by Tom Rainbow..
- Choir Secretary: Marion Paul. Nominated by Jenny Garrett and seconded by Hinda Golding.
- Membership Secretary: Maggie Turp. Nominated by Peter Burt-Jones and seconded by Hinda Golding..
- Musical Director: David Till. Nominated by Gill Hallifax and seconded by Peter Burt-Jones.
- Publicity Officer: Glyn Jones. Nominated by Mary Phillips and seconded by Katherine Lawson.
- Librarian: Liz Till. Nominated by Glyn Jones and seconded by Simon Judge.

7. Music planned for the coming season

- Heinrich Schutz' Christmas Story on 12th December 2008. this would involve close collaboration between Queens Park Singers and Queens Park Junior Singers. Following the last workshop, the majority of choir members had indicated that they would welcome further dramatic activities. Peter Burt-Jones would direct the performance with dramatic action, simply staged, as it would originally, on some occasions, have been presented. The music itself would ensure a successful event. There would also be opportunities for those members less inclined to acting to take part in a more conventional concert manner. Responses for singers would be required by 15th October with rehearsals commencing on 9th November.
- David proposed a concert in May to celebrate the anniversaries of several composers in 2009. The programme would include a piano concerto.
- There might also be a concert of polyphonic music in February. Katherine mentioned that there had been a request for young musicians to join in a concert organized by the church.
- It was observed that the on-line response form for signing up to sing was generally working well.
- Peter pointed out that the choir needed more male singers and that efforts should be made to recruit young people to the choir. Mary was endeavouring to engage teenagers.
- It was also noted that the choir was becoming larger and might need an alternative venue. The possibility of Salusbury School was suggested.

8. Any Other business.

Maggie had kindly prepared name labels for members to wear during the workshop.