

*Brothering
The E. H. Gardner
M. H. H. H.*

GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.30pm, Monday 8th June 1992

at

St. Joseph's Church Hall, Guildford

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Guildford Philharmonic Choir will be held after rehearsal at 8.30pm on Monday 8th June 1992 at St. Joseph's Church Hall, Guildford.

The business to be transacted will be as follows:-

- 1 Agreement of the Minutes of the AGM held 20th May 1991 (copy of minutes attached to this notice).
- 2 Matters arising from the Minutes of last year's AGM.
- 3 Chairman's Report.
- 4 Treasurer's Report for the year to 30th April 1992.
- 5 Report by Publicity representative.
- 6 Election of Chairman and seven other members of the Committee for the coming season.
- 7 Chorus Master's Report. ***
- 8 Recommendation to Guildford Borough Council on appointment of Chorus Master for the coming season. *Heath R. 1991*
- 9 Appointment of Assistant Chorus Master. *Peter White R. 1991*
- 10 Appointment of Auditor. *Chorus Master R. 1991*
- 11 Any other business. *Henry J. 1991 R. 1991*

On concluding the business of the meeting Choir members are invited to relax with a glass of wine and get to know each other a little better.

*Open to all members & guests
Amical conference*

*Max Nave
Jan Redley
John King
M. P. P. P.
Garry Makin
Dilly Bradshaw
M. P. P. P.
M. P. P. P.
M. P. P. P.*

Talks about what a Choral Workshop

*Baldassarri's Feast - get
Parkinson's - what to do to release*

Open to all next summer

G U I L D F O R D P H I L H A R M O N I C C H O I R

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held at 8.30pm on Monday 8th June 1992 in St. Joseph's Church Hall, Guildford.

PRESENT: Maxwell New (Chairman), members of the Committee and 65 members of the Choir.

IN ATTENDANCE: Neville Creed (Chorus Master), Lynette Newman (Accompanist) and Kathy Atkins (General Manager, Guildford Philharmonic Choir)
The Chairman welcomed Kathy Atkins and said how much the Choir valued her help and support.

APOLOGIES: Fiona Davis, Alison Youell.

1 - MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th May 1991 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Les Hargreaves
Seconded: Andrew Reid.

2 - MATTERS ARISING: The Chairman welcomed Geoff Forster and Rita Horton after their recent illnesses.

3 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (copy available on request): The Chairman presented his report on the year's activities and achievements, and looked forward to the return visit of the Freiburger Bachcor from 28th October to 1st November. The Reception will be in the Guildhall, and a list would be available for offers of hospitality.

4 - TREASURER'S REPORT for the year to 30th April 1992 (copy available on request): John Yeomans commented that it had been a reasonably good year. Each rehearsal cost £160 and a good financial basis was needed for the Choir to function. Thanks were proffered to Jean Radley, Fiona Yeomans and John Trigg for their assistance as well as to the Auditor, Chris Robinson.

Acceptance of the Statement was proposed by Michael Longford, seconded by Nigel Pollock.

The Chairman thanked John Yeomans for his work in getting the Choir's finances onto a secure footing. Due to pressure of work, John Yeomans will not be standing for re-election.

5 - PUBLICITY REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS:

(a) Jenny Hakim referred to the impact of the recession on sponsorship. The Summer Concert would be sponsored by National Grid and by Gordon Hakim. Tesco were considering the Carol Concert. Personal contacts were most important in pursuing sponsorship.

(b) Margaret Parry summarised the publicity situation. Advertisements had gone to various music magazines in the area and a new leaflet describing the Choir and its programme for the year was in preparation. The Choir had been promoted as singing wonderful music and Borough leaflets had been redesigned. The Choral Workshop had produced no new members. New contacts would be most welcome.

6 - ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Maxwell New was re-appointed as Chairman by unanimous agreement.

The Committee members elected were: Jilly Bradshaw, Michael Dawe,
Jenny Hakim, Michael Jeffery, Christine Medlow, Margaret Parry,
Jean Radley, John Trigg.

6a As votes were being counted Michael Jeffery reported on the revision of the constitution. The Rules introduced in 1985 and amended in 1987 and 1988 were being completely revised with the following aims:

(a) Simplification of the original largely procedural rules.

(b) Alignment with the recommended standard constitution of the National Federation of Music Societies, membership of which could have some advantages.

(c) Achieving acceptability for registration as a Charity. The Guildford Borough Council is commenting on the Draft Constitution to ensure it recognises the Choir's position in the Borough Music Scheme, as the choir for the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra. Charitable status would enable the Choir to receive covenanted subscriptions and claim tax back from the Inland Revenue. A subscription of £40 per year and a membership of 170 would mean additional income between £1000 and £2000 a year

(d) A smaller committee is proposed. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary would each be elected to that office, with four other committee members. The Committee will have power to co-opt as necessary to fulfil its function. Part Representatives will not be committee posts, but will report to the Membership Secretary. There will be a three-year retirement rule.

Members were urged to look carefully through the draft Constitution (circulated) and submit their comments.

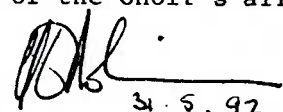
- 7 - CHORUS MASTER'S REPORT:** The year was reviewed. In June the Choir sang at Petworth House with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The overall need there was to develop a more operatic and focused singing tone. There followed the summer barbeque. "Israel in Egypt" mostly in eight parts made great demands. The High Street carols and the Carol Concert went well. Prunella Scales was booked for the 1992 Carol Concert. The Choral Workshop was very successful, much enjoyed by those who attended. Blake's "Benedictus" went very well although Sir David Willcocks had to work far too hard. The "Sea Symphony" found Tod Handley in a similar situation having to work hard for the result. Members often ask "what do you really think of the Choir?" - basically we do well, but the standard is not yet commensurate with that of the Orchestra. There is a need to achieve greater musical confidence, a better tone and more varied colour spectrum. We need to recruit new good singers.
- Looking ahead there are Fauré's "Requiem" etc. in Holy Trinity, Brahms' "German Requiem" with the Freiburger Bachcor whose visit we must make as enjoyable as ours to them. Carols at Christmas will be followed by the Choral Workshop when we tackle Tallis' 40-part "Motet". In the spring will be "Belshazzar's Feast" and a return visit to Freiburg for those who know the music, to sing "Israel in Egypt" which will need extra rehearsals. Then will come the Haydn "Paukenmesse", and a summer Opera Hits concert for which sponsorship will be required.
- Neville Creed concluded with a very big "thank-you" to Lynette Newman, to the Philharmonic Office and to the Committee.
- 8 - RECOMMENDATION TO THE GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL ON THE APPOINTMENT OF CHORUS MASTER FOR THE COMING SEASON:** The meeting voted unanimously to recommend the appointment of Neville Creed. The Chairman expressed warmest thanks and appreciation on behalf of all members for all that Neville has done for the Choir.
- 9 - APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHORUS MASTER:** It was noted with regret that Peter White was unavoidably absent from the Meeting and unanimously agreed on the Chorus Master's recommendation that he be re-appointed Assistant Chorus Master.
- 10 - APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:** Proposed by John Yeomans, seconded, and unanimously agreed that Chris Robinson be asked to continue as Auditor.
- 11 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The Chairman was asked to convey the good wishes of the Choir to Sir Charles Groves.
- Kathy Atkins asked that the Borough's thanks to the Choir be recorded.
- The Meeting passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Maxwell New for his work as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR - Accounts for the year 1 May 1991 to 30 April 1992

<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>		1991/92		1990/91		
	£	p	£	p	£	p
INCOME						
Subscriptions			5,269.20		5,475.40	
Grants			3,000.00		2,350.00	
Fund Raising:						
Tea towels			556.78			
Pencils			(144.54)			
Ticket sales			395.50		555.80	
Folders			67.50		23.00	
100 Club			158.00		44.00	
Other			<u>330.50</u>		<u>582.62</u>	
			1,363.74		1,205.42	
Music Hire			1.21		95.00	
Social:1991 Summer Party			114.50			
1990 Missa Solemnis Party					53.25	
Other			<u>3.57</u>		<u>17.15</u>	
			118.07		70.40	
Choral Events: Freiburg 1991					150.00	
Workshop 1991			(80.53)		(657.00)	
Workshop 1992			<u>122.71</u>			
			42.18		(507.00)	
Bank Interest			244.20		503.68	
TOTAL INCOME			<u>£10,038.60</u>		<u>£9,192.90</u>	
EXPENDITURE						
Rehearsals: Summer Concert			1,368.00		1,320.00	
Borough Series			7,090.80		5,455.85	
Freiburg					662.00	
Christmas Concert			<u>608.00</u>		<u>508.00</u>	
			9,066.80		7,945.85	
Summer Concert (91-Petworth; 90-Trinity)			(583.75)		20.00	
Subscriptions: Philharmonic Society			300.00		250.00	
Nat.Federation of Musical Socs.			<u>129.50</u>			
			429.50		250.00	
Donations			48.49		(2.00)	
Administration			24.65		11.97	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			<u>£8,985.69</u>		<u>£8,225.82</u>	
EXCESS of INCOME over EXPENDITURE			£1,052.91		£967.08	
BALANCE SHEET						
ASSETS	30.4.92	30.4.91	LIABILITIES	30.4.92	30.4.91	
Premium Account	7,358.58	3,814.38	Allocations:			
Current Account	989.83	3,391.77	Subs - summer rehearsals	1,700.00	1,159.20	
Cash	173.50		Future draws - 100 Club	471.00	448.00	
	<u>8,521.91</u>	<u>7,206.15</u>				
Debtors		32.00	Creditors (bills due):			
			Spring rehearsals (est)	1,959.00	1,702.00	
			Choral Workshop		1,001.00	
			Summer party 1991 (est)	400.00		
			Administration	11.05		
Current assets	<u>8,521.91</u>	<u>7,238.15</u>	Current liabilities	<u>4,541.05</u>	<u>4,310.20</u>	
Current liabilities	4,541.05	4,310.20				
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>3,980.86</u>	<u>2,927.95</u>	FINANCED BY:			
			Reserves brought forward	2,927.95	1,960.87	
			Excess income	1,052.91	967.08	
				<u>3,980.86</u>	<u>2,927.95</u>	

I have audited the above income and expenditure account and balance sheet, and in my opinion the financial statements show a true and fair view of the Choir's affairs at 30th April 1992 and for the year then ended.


 31.5.92.
 Chris Robinson
 Auditor

1.
The past year has been generally successful with some fine performances in spite of our old friend the critic from the local rag. I sometimes think he can't have attended the concert he seems to know so little of what went on. Fortunately the criticisms from our professional musicians have been much more constructive, in particular those from Howard Blake, Tod Handley, David Wilcox and of course Neville.

Our programme of music has been very wide this year ranging from Israel in Egypt to Blake Benidictus, from the Sea Symphony to our summer concert with Fauré Requiem. Not to mention last summer's Opera Hit at Petworth, what fun that was. I wonder how many choirs would love to have such a choice and with such a fine orchestra as the G.P.O. in support.

DO WE Really appreciate how lucky we are?

It is easy to forget that but for the Generous Support of the Borough we couldn't possibly be performing a programme of this quality. 2.

In recent years we have had to find more money from our own efforts and I would like to thank particularly:-

Michael Daw's Draw, Jilly Bradshaw and Sue Maddox for their ^{fundraising} sales and t-shirts etc.

We should also thank Jenny Hakin and Margaret Parry for their efforts covering sponsorship & Publicity.

In spite of these efforts we still don't cover our costs and we can't look to the Borough for more funds. I fear therefore that we will have to recess our subscriptions for next year. This will be the first job of your new committee but I think you should be prepared for a larger increase this year because as you know you voted for a lengthened rehearsal season when this was put to you by Neville last February and we are singing through to the 20th July.

this will cost an extra £ to cover the hire of hall and professionals and must be found from our own funds as it is not covered by the Grant from the Borough.

Our Season is likely to be 45 weeks next year with 50 Rehearsals, quite apart from the Frieberg extras for our visit to Germany, these costs are paid by those taking part and is included in the overall charge for the visit. You should therefore be thinking of an increase for the lengthened season to about £ . but this is less than £1.00 per week which is far less than many choirs of our size and reputation have to pay.

This year has had its sad side:-

4.

Firstly the illness of Sir Charles who I fear is not making as quick a recovery as had been hoped, I spoke to Lady Groves yesterday..

Resends his best wishes and thanks us for keeping him in our thoughts.

Our Second sadness as you know is the loss at the end of the season of our fantastic accompanist Lynette Newman. How we will ever replace her I don't know. I suspect the main reason for her success is the 'Family Chemistry' which exists between her and Neville, a form of telepathy. I suspect his loss will be as great as ours!! We wish her good Luck in her new teaching post and thank her for the years of support she has given to us.

You will shortly be voting for your new committee, I said at the last A.G.M. that I had hoped to have the revised, constitution as proposed by your committee ready for your approval this year but we have found it difficult to finalise the clauses in a form which would be acceptable to the Borough legal department and to the Chavity Commission this has delayed the presentation. later I will be asking Micheal Jeffreys and his sub committee to speak to this, and you will find draft copies of the proposed constitution with your papers.

This has resulted in a lot of hard work for Micheal. Chris Helen. G.

Finally may I thank all the committee for their support, Kathy Atkins without whom we would find it difficult to function, Peter white for his patient inspiration and Jean Radley for her organisation of the auditions. have you thought how much time this takes up before the rehearsal every monday evening, thank you.

And of course Neville Creed we are not likely to forget his conducting of Israel in Egypt last November. and the Opera Hits at Petworth Park. Thank you for your guidance & support.

I regret that I will not be with you for the summer concert as I will be cruising in my boat along the Brittany Coast for 4 weeks ~~and miss the concert by a~~ but vice chairman will I am sure see that all goes smoothly. (Freiburg Bachchor

Season
1992

Started under the shadow of the death of Sir Charles Groves, as the weeks go by it becomes more obvious just how much of an influence he had on our Guildford Music Scene.

Our memorial concert in the Cathedral when we performed the Mozart Requiem under En Shano. was played to a packed Cathedral which was an indication of the love and esteem felt by so many for Sir Charles.

I thought it interesting to note how well the performance went considering how tightly sandwiched in between other concerts this performance was. I think there were two reasons for this, firstly Neville's ability to get the best out of us when we are up against it but also because each one of us felt a desire to give every ounce of effort to make this a worthy memorial to a great man.

The visit of our friends from Freiburg joining us in October for the German Requiem went well and judging from the many letters following the visit our friends thoroughly enjoyed their stay, they were very sorry to hear about the fire at Windsor.

As one of the few members here this evening ^{old enough to} who remembers the Battle of Britain and who survived, I find it very wonderful to realise how music and culture can wipe away fear and resentment and which can now generate such close friendship on both sides

I look forward very much to our november visit
 may I just make one point, We realise that
 for many reasons some members just can't get away
 for our tour due to other commitments. We don't
 want these tours to create a split in the choir
 into "them and us." I can assure you that those
 who are lucky enough to be able to go will
 be well aware of those who couldn't make it
 and they will be in our thoughts. Next tour
 it may be you that can go and we can't!

I must not close without thanking all those
 who helped in running the choir committee during
 the year and during the Bachchor visit
 not least the 27 members who opened their
 homes to give accommodation to our visitors
 it was not always so easy due to language problems
 I know!

I would like to thank two people however
 Jeane Radley and Joy Hunter who with other
 helpers organised the meals for the choir during
 their visit. they also have the onerous and time
 consuming ~~task~~ of organising Auditions and general
 secretarial duties and a fine job they do, please
 relect them!!

We all owe a great deal to Kathy
 Atkins working behind the scenes, Peter White,
 Jeremy Filsell, both of whom make it all look
 so simple and of course our Neville without
 whose leadership we would be lost.

3
Thank you Team and please be patient
with us if we lapse sometimes.

I will leave Neville to speak about
the performances last year and to tell
you about the full programme for next year.

But finally may I thank those committee
members who will be retiring this year
Jenny Hakim, Chris Blatchford (now in Russia)
Jilly Bradshaw. you have earned a rest
thank you.

We will be using our new constitution
this evening for our elections and
I will hand over to Micheal who has
masterminded the drawing up of this
reworking.

We restart our rehearsals on Wednesday, 1st September.
May I remind you of the social evening of
Merrist Wood on the 19 July.

Rossini Summer concert we must sell tickets

Matters arising from 1992.

Finance . John Trigg. in control.
charitable status Micheal Jeffrey,