

# Minutes of the Anton Bruckner Choir AGM 2010

Held at St Matthew's Church, Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6  
20 February 2010 at 5.15pm  
32 members were present

## 1. Minutes of previous AGM

Were approved: proposed Izzy King, seconded Annie Wildman, passed nem con.

## 2. Financial report (Chris Sherlaw-Johnson)

2009 was a reasonably successful year – we lost about £1500 on the Bach (more or less as expected) but gained about £1000 on the Rachmaninov. We expect GiftAid reclaim to make up much of the difference.

Michael Hope asked about the cost of the party at Aldeburgh - £759 spent! Chris was able to reassure him that this had been more than covered by those who attended – included in the “Other donations” line of £917 above.

Further information about GiftAid for 2009: it is estimated at about £600, though this has not been finalised yet, nor any claim submitted to HMRC. It will therefore be included in next year's accounts.

These accounts were accepted: proposed Pauline Thompson, seconded Aiden Liddle, passed nem con.

## 3. Chairman's report (Alex Churchill)

It has been a really successful year – in particular the Aldeburgh tour, which was a new departure for us, and an excellent concert at St John's, Smith Square – we're looking forward to returning there for the Messiah.

Thanks to all the members for singing, supporting, and selling tickets.

Particular thanks to the committee and other volunteers:

Pauline Thompson for her efforts arranging scores – having everything ready for the start of the first rehearsal every time

Gordon Banner for arranging meetings, minutes, etc

Lulu Chivers for being the voice of common sense on the committee, and a lot of work “behind the scenes”

Victoria Roberts, who was concert manager for several years, has left during 2009 as she is moving away

Ann Stedman, concert manager later in the year, who has already been working hard!

Chris Sherlaw-Johnson for managing the money and preparing the accounts

Will Hale who collates subs info and arranges GiftAid reclaims

The marketing team: Sian Rees, Jenny Garrett and Ruth Harris. In particular Georgia Lowe, who has had to resign as marketing manager, but has done a huge job over the years.

Richard Hubbard for his revamp of the website, which not only streamlines submission of forms for members, but is a great help to the committee and simplifies many of our tasks.

We do still need a new Marketing Manager – the workload has been split up and this is now mostly a coordination role – please see Alex if interested.

The Ghent tour was sadly not quite viable – we had 27 positive responses, but needed 35 to make the costs add up. Maybe it was not the right time – holiday season – maybe we should rethink and go for October or May half term? Any feedback from members on this would be welcome.

We may potentially have a social event in the summer, to fill the gap between this concert [February] and October.

Thanks to Chris Dawe for his conducting; the excellent results we get are partly due to good singers and our members' hard work, but also due to the quality of the conducting we enjoy.

#### **4. Musical director's report (Chris Dawe)**

First, thanks to Alex: he remains calm and organised while steering the ship steadily – and an excellent meeting style, much appreciated by the committee.

The Bach Mass in B Minor at St John's Smith Square:

This is the third time we have done this piece (once in our early days, in Ealing, and later at St Giles Cripplegate). As with other pieces we have revisited, it seems to improve on each repeat.

SJSS seems to be a natural venue for our larger concerts – this was our second visit, we are getting to know it.

Our orchestra was arranged by Graham Walker, the cellist. This is the second time he has set up a good band for us.

Aldeburgh:

Was a diplomatic and musical success; we seem to have made a good social impression on our hosts, and the conductor was pleased too.

It was an enjoyable trip, and a good hall to sing in.

We are going back this year to make the most of last year's success – we have lost our personal connection there as Anita Crowe has moved on. In the longer term, if invited, we might like to return, but perhaps not annually, maybe every 2 or 3 years.

Rachmaninov Vespers:

Our second time through this one, and another improved performance. Well done though to those who had not done it before and were having to be quick learners!

Thanks to Claire Bennie for her big solo, and to Mike Hutchinson for his (at short-notice).

The combination with young soloists from Chris' school also worked well.

The upcoming concert is looking good based on rehearsals so far...

Messiah will be our big concert at SJSS in December. It is not as easy as you might imagine – so we will not be complacent about rehearsals etc. In the run-up to Christmas there will probably be several performances at SJSS, not to mention elsewhere – let's make ours one of the best.

After that – 2011 – we don't have any plans yet!

A tour is still on the agenda, it would be an important way to keep the choir moving along. It would be good for people outside London, and indeed might be a way to keep in touch with people who've moved away. Ideally once we've found the right formula (dates etc) we could do one every couple of years.

Some final thanks – Claire Bennie for poster and flyer designs, and Pauline for her incredible job as librarian.

## 5. Appointment of officers and committee

The existing officers and committee have all agreed to continue in their current roles, as listed on the Agenda. No other nominations have been received, so the list was as follows:

### Officers and Trustees

Music Director	Chris Dawe
Chairman	Alex Churchill
Treasurer	Chris Sherlaw-Johnson
Secretary	Gordon Banner

### Ordinary Committee members

Librarian	Pauline Thompson
Committee Member	Lulu Chivers
Concert Manager	Ann Stedman

These were accepted en bloc: proposed Phil Pratt, seconded Charlotte Nicklin, passed nem con.

## 6. AOB and further discussions

### Social event

Chris Dawe: this could be the last but one weekend of August (21 or 22 Aug).

Lulu Chivers: suggestions for venues would be welcome – perhaps a church hall?

We could have members of the choir doing individual “turns”

Lulu: perhaps someone could volunteer to be “Turns Coordinator”!

Lulu: we also need to think about food – probably book a caterer

We'll invite Friends of the choir, and personal friends + family.

## Website

Pauline Thompson wanted to add her thanks to Richard for his revamped website – it makes her job vastly easier by consolidating all the responses, doing all the bills and so on.

Chris Sherlaw-Johnson drew our attention to the instructions on the site which allow members to pay online rather than having to wait till rehearsals.

John Catherall: the website is well thought out, and gets the details right in many areas which can easily spoil the experience if done wrong.

Rosemary Hadfield wondered what had happened to the Aldeburgh photos from last year, and if they could go on the site?

Richard Hubbard: certainly they could if someone will send them along. Also, any help from anyone with graphic design talents would be appreciated – he's thinking of updating the look of the site.

## Finances

Richard Hubbard: we seem to be building up a decent balance. Is there any scope to spend more towards our charitable aims, without being spendthrift?

Alex Churchill: we need a basic balance to give us a safety margin against problem concerts and also cashflow – we have to pay venues and orchestras before the ticket receipts come in. For all this, £5000 is an absolute minimum to give us headroom. Remember we are looking towards the Messiah concert which will probably cost a considerable amount.

Gordon Banner: we have come a long way since the days when a couple of members of the committee made personal loans to the choir to keep things running, and of course we don't want to end up back there.

Rosemary Hadfield: we should be cautious about concerts at SJSS in particular – we don't have a long history there, so it's too soon to be certain how well they will go – for example if the 4 Dec date is less auspicious than the previous ones we've had.

Georgia Lowe: how did we get the grant from John Lewis before? Can we apply for it again?

Alex Churchill: it was through Sarah Cryer, who works there. Yes we can re-apply, but there is no guarantee it will result in anything.

Georgia Lowe: it's worth us all thinking about our employers and similar potential sources of sponsorship.

Minutes prepared by Gordon Banner, 25 February 2010