

NEW MUSIC MAKERS Extra Committee Meeting - Minutes 28th October 2024

Present: Eric Gerrey (Chairman), Sarah Turl, Eunice Deuchar, Sharon Thomas, Jerry Gamble, Margaret Ballard, Gen Marsh, Naomi Holloway, Chris Allison

Apologies: Rebecca Williams

Purpose of meeting:

This extra committee meeting was called by Eric, to invite Chris Allison and go through various questions from the committee, before his appointment as Musical Director on 1st January 2025.

New pianist:

NMM will need a pianist on a regular basis, once Chris has become the new MD. Chris stated he could accompany the choir until we have found a suitable pianist, rather than rush to get one.

Various names were discussed:

Ed - was decided not a contender.

Stephanie – unlikely as goes back to Hong Kong on a regular basis.

Sophie - Eric to approach her.

EG

Kezia Jacobs of the Chantelle singers – to be contacted after we have tried Sophie

ST suggested we contact the D@Art centre for any recommendations

Chris suggested a recorded backing track could be used to ring the changes, which was accepted in principal as long as we still had a piano playing the track for rehearsals.

If we don't have a new pianist in January 2025, Stephanie could be a temporary stand-in, Chris to ask her.

CA

Absence of MD:

In the event of Chris being away, various options were discussed:

Use Hilary, as a pianist, but we must pay her Eric to ask her

EG

Chris said that it would probably be only one day in February 2025 and Maundy Thursday'

Jerry also offered to conduct if Hilary not available. Alternatively we could rehearse with just the pianist.

Assistant Musical Director:

It was discussed whether the choir needed an Assistant MD. Chris advised it would be good if we had one, but it would need to be a choir member.

If we have no luck in appointing a pianist and/or assistant MD, then we shall have to consider advertising for them.

Committee Meetings:

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Chris stated that he would like good communication between the committee and himself, with us working together more closely.

It was agreed by all that he, as the new MD, will come to a committee meeting once a term.

Rehearsals & Performances:

Chris asked us to consider memorisation - to focus on a few pieces every week.

He thought that some of our pieces are quite hard to perform.

He asked if he could review a copy of prospective new music, after the Music Committee had decided on it.

Concert length - Chris suggested about 2 pieces shorter would be better.

50 minutes each half, with an interval and a raffle.

He suggested less solo performances in our concerts and less solos in our songs, would be a better way forward for the choir.

He is very keen for us to attend local events to get us known more.

Contract and formalities:

Chris said he was happy to accept a slightly lesser charity rate for charity events if need be.

A draft contract was handed out for agreement.