

## **NEW MUSIC MAKERS COMMITTEE MEETING - Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

### **Present:**

Eric Gerrey (Chairman), Eunice Deuchar, Sharon Thomas (ST), Jacqui Clifft, Margaret Ballard, Sarah Turl (STu), Jerry Gamble, Elaine Walter

### **1. Apologies:** Gen Marsh

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Agreed by all as correct.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Recruitment - Agreed that an advert would be produced by STu and printed on green card by EG (postcard size) to be put in prominent places. Suggestion made that the advert make clear we currently have one vacancy for a tenor. **Action STu/EG ongoing**

**Christmas draw** - ST asked that all those who contributed towards the Christmas draw prizes be officially thanked. **Action complete**

**Mayor's charity** – To be held at West End Village Hall, but time unknown. EG and Chris Allison have a meeting on 19 March with the Mayor to discuss final points, including what uniform she would like us to wear. **Action ongoing EG**

**New Year's Eve Party** – **Action ongoing EG**

**Bishops Waltham Rotary Carnival** – Fee agreed at £100. NMM to perform 1345 – 1445. Be at venue for 1330. **Action complete**

**Bishops Waltham Christmas Fayre** – **Action ongoing GM**

**Local Vocals photograph for website** – taken by STu, but after discussion it was decided a better quality one was needed, and preferably at a care home venue. Martyn Thomas has volunteered (via ST) to do this when everyone is available. **Action ongoing ST**

**Summer Concert Poster** – **Action complete**

**Haskins dates 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December** - confirmed. **Action complete**

**Payment for Hilary Green** – **Action complete**

**Bow ties purchase** – **Action complete**

### **4. Correspondence**

Email from choir member concerning departure and non-inclusion of tenor in Local Vocals in response to Chairman's email received. No further action will be taken on this matter.

### **5. Finance**

Total assets currently £13215. Payment made for bow ties £46. Forecast for the coming year was provided by ST and agreed by committee. No increase planned for subscriptions, but the committee reserve the right to revisit this if circumstances change. At present the subscriptions and gift aid more than cover the fixed outgoings.

### **6. Publicity**

Fliers produced with no telephone number as agreed at previous meeting. Tickets will be available from Ticketsource only. Printing will cost £25 for 250 fliers.

It was pointed out that an advert for New Music Makers in the Gazette has the wrong rehearsal time, and does not indicate where we rehearse. STu to contact them. **Action STu**

## **7. Website and Facebook**

All changes now made to website. JC suggested committee looks at the site before each committee meeting to see if any adjustments required. Times for concerts etc automatically default to 1200 hrs which is confusing. Suggested we change the default to "tbc". **Action JC/EM**

ST volunteered Martyn T to take some photos at a rehearsal to replace the one currently on the website. Photo also required of our new member. **Action ST**

## **8. Local Vocals**

Experiencing problems with some of the care homes not answering emails, which makes organising events difficult. Agreed that it was not worth pursuing the homes.

## **9. Forthcoming events**

**Christmas Concert** – confirmed for 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## **10. Choir welfare**

None

## **11. AOB**

Alto vacancy now filled. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to produce a leaflet for people when they first apply to the choir, advising what the voice test will consist of, and pointing out that there is no guarantee they will be accepted if certain standards are not met. **Action JG/JC**

GM asked why the capacity of choir members could not return to 60. This has been discussed before, and it was agreed that 60 is too many to seat at our concerts. Whilst it is recognised that not everyone turns up, there is still the issue that any number more than the current 50 would be difficult to comfortably seat. It would also be a big task to start purchasing more music to add to what we already have, particularly as we would have to buy sets, so would end up with more music than we need. Cost is not the issue.

CA was asked if he would like to have an assistant MD, but he did not consider this necessary.

Meeting ended 09.45 pm. Next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April, 07.30 pm

## ADDENDUM TO COMMITTEE MEETING

### **A meeting was held with Chris Allison to discuss the programmes for the summer concerts.**

Chris provided his choice of songs for the two summer concerts and the Mayor's event in West End. Committee happy with the choice.

JG suggested we try doing a "Flash Mob" at the John Lewis event.

Chris is keen to have some percussion instruments for some of the songs – it was suggested we bring in a professional percussionist, but it was felt the cost would make this unviable, particularly as they would have to be paid for rehearsals as well as the concerts. Choir members will take this on.

Suggestion to bring in Amelia (violinist from previous concerts) to help with a couple of our songs. She is available for the relevant dates, so agreed she should be booked.

Various options discussed as to how certain songs could be improved. CA keen to try a backing track for "Celebration".

Rehearsals agreed for ladies and men to run parallel for their individual songs. Hilary to be asked if she will take the ladies with Keziah – Chris to take the men. This will mean using the church for the second half of a couple of rehearsals.

Mayor's concert – suggestion that Saffron as the newest and youngest member be asked if she would like to do a solo, and also Roy as the oldest member. **Action EG**

CA and EG to decide on seating arrangements for summer concerts prior to staging being booked. **Action CA/EG**