

## Fakenham Choral Society Music Planning Minutes

<b>Date &amp; Location</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August, 10.45am Sue & Tim's Garden, Whissonsett
<b>Present</b>	Sue Burton Tim Burton Mark Jones (MD) James Mooney-Dutton (Accomp) Tracey Thompson

<b>Glossary</b>	
Gill Ashby	GA
Philippa Allen	PA
Colin Blackmore	CB
Roger Burbidge	RB
Sue / Tim Burton	SB / TB
Elizabeth Rix	ER
Rosemary/Brian Dear	RD/BD
Mark Jones	MJ
Diana Lyons	DL
Tracey Thompson	TT
Barbara Wyvill	BW
James Mooney-Dutton	JM-D
Margaret Vincent	MV
Grant Harrison	GH
Celia Giddings	CG
Fakenham Parish Church	FPC

### Minutes

Agenda Ref	Summary/Actions	Action Owner
1.	<p><b>Purpose of Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TT summarised the survey outcome, current Covid / Government restrictions (tightening again in some areas), the fact that research into singing as a method of spreading the virus was not yet concluded and the Committee's desire to plan some way to engage the members for a return to singing (virtual or face to face)</li> <li>This meeting had been called to bring together the FCS music team and to utilise JM-D's experience of virtual rehearsals to formulate a proposal for FCS</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JM-D gave an account of how his other choirs had managed during lock-down. Zoom rehearsals had taken place but it had been a learning curve to understand what did and did not work. Personal development and 'catching up' was as important as learning music. JM-D stressed that virtual rehearsals can never be a replacement for those who want to sing in a big group and perform to large audiences, so it needs to be framed as a 'new' way of being part of a choir. He suggested it might be useful to ease people in – listen to a piece of music, learn about its background, sing it, go round the table and ask members about how they are. It was also an opportunity to learn pieces for fun which would not naturally be programmed into a concert. JM-D offered the use of his Zoom account</li> <li>The practicalities for FCS, who had not met virtually at all, were discussed. The shortcomings of Zoom as a rehearsal platform, fear of using new technology, concern at being heard by others, having the right (or any) equipment, supply of music, availability of learning files</li> <li>MJ felt that FCS members would be keen to sing rather than use the time for social interaction. The technical aspect of hosting meetings and streaming music were also considered. MJ asked what would happen if there was a sudden lifting of restrictions? As this was unlikely in the next few months, we would plan for virtual now. The Committee could meet at short notice to plan a move back to face to face rehearsals. MJ raised the subject of subs / donations but it was felt this should be left to the Treasurers and full Committee to decide. MJ also thought it better to keep to our usual rehearsal day / time</li> <li>TT mentioned that RD wondered if Rodney Slatford (Yorke Trust) might permit the use of their chapel for small face to face groups (if permitted)</li> <li>S/TB said that libraries were not lending music at the moment. FCS had a limited library but members often had their own key work scores. We have a stock of white carol books and several copies of European Sacred Music (MJ said he could borrow more from elsewhere). It could be possible to have a central location / time where members could collect a score e.g. an hour at Tesco's car park where social distancing and score hygiene could be managed. Alternatively, members could be asked to purchase their own score or out of copyright music</li> </ul>	

	<p>could be emailed for members to print (those who couldn't print could be sent paper copies). The latter would only work for short works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was further discussion on the format of rehearsals, the day/ time of day, whether to sing as a whole group, in sections or alternating weeks (i.e. sections would sing fortnightly)</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Proposals and Actions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Rehearsals should start as agreed on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September using Zoom</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a 'trial' using Committee members would take place about a week beforehand</li> <li>b) the first week would include a 'how to use Zoom' element. JM-D to teach</li> <li>c) rehearsals would start at 8pm and run until 9.15pm</li> <li>d) propose to split the term in two with Christmas music starting after half term</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <u>FCS to purchase its own Zoom Plan</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) JM-D to investigate 'break out' functionality for sectionals within the same call</li> <li>b) decision needed on the best Zoom plan for our needs and who to nominate as hosts</li> <li>c) Zoom could then be used for the AGM and other committee meetings</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <u>Suggested rehearsal format</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) whole choir warm up. EITHER MJ would produce a video OR research a suitable online one (share screen functionality within Zoom)</li> <li>b) sing through the chosen piece together (see 4. below), using online backing tracks (share screen)</li> <li>c) break out into sectionals using Zoom functionality. MJ and JM-D to lead using online training resources (share screen functionality) and/or leader at piano to note bash. Opportunity given by leader for feedback on tricky bits for review</li> <li>d) rejoin as whole choir for final sing</li> <li>e) all attendees would be on mute by default, with option to raise hand, use chat facility or when asked for direct feedback</li> <li>f) end the formal rehearsal, but a host would keep the lines open for a short while for feedback and/or a 'social' element</li> <li>g) review to see if this format works or whether alternating SA / TB (or other combination) fortnightly is better</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. <u>Music Choice(s)</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) need to choose music where there are online learning files. Some do include scrolling scores to follow which could be screen shared</li> <li>b) Propose Schubert Mass in G (scores £4.99 from MusicRoom). Decide on edition to be used</li> <li>c) do we ask choir to purchase their own scores OR use 'summer term' subs to buy in bulk?</li> <li>d) look at other music possibilities (bearing in mind online learning resource requirements)</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <u>Subscriptions</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) do we charge or not? If yes, then what</li> <li>b) do we open rehearsals up to others not currently in the choir</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>JM-D</b></p> <p><b>JM-D Committee</b></p> <p><b>MJ</b></p> <p><b>MJ Committee MJ</b></p> <p><b>Committee Committee</b></p>
4.	<p><b>Date of next Committee meeting</b> Suggestion that this is fairly soon due to proximity to start of term date and decisions about score purchasing</p> <p>Meeting ended 12.25pm. S/TB thanked for use of their garden and JM-D / MJ thanked for taking part</p>	