Minutes of Costanzi Consort AGM

23 September 2019 at 7.30pm

1. Martin as Chairman welcomed 24 members and Peter Leech the MD.
2. 25 Members were present and one apology received from Polly Beck
3. Chairman’s Report

During the period covered by the accounts 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 we performed 3 concerts at All Saints and our first one at the Museum. As things have progressed so well since we began we have now booked our dates at All Saints through to the end of 2021. As you know all these dates including the recording next September are on our website in the members’ area. I am also pleased to note that our concert next June does not clash with Glastonbury.

I have again really enjoyed our time together in a very happy choir. It’s been great and it still inspires me each Monday evening. I must pay tribute to the enormous hard work by Peter researching the repertoire and producing editions from which we sing. This does not happen overnight but his tremendous enthusiasm helps to forge such a happy band of singers. I would also like to thank all my fellow committee members for all their hard work and dedication, without which we would not be here. We have some of the jolliest and productive committee meetings it has ever been my privilege to be involved in.

Thanks also to Clare Rangeley and her catering team for the very important weekly refreshments. Thanks also to those of you who help on concert days with staging, lighting, labelling, tickets, programmes refreshments and glasses etc. Thanks also to everyone who helps set up the church and clear up each week.

We have a full compliment of singers in all parts except that we could do with one or two good tenors to balance at all times. Thanks are also due to Steve who has recently left. I should like to welcome Naomi who joined us at the end of last term and to Harriet who has returned today

1. Musical Director’s Report

Peter confirmed he enjoys Monday nights with a very friendly flexible group. “It’s a delight to slog away on arranging motets at 3 in the morning to be able to try them out with such an enthusiastic choir”. He mentioned that working with string accompaniment and Rob on the organ last November was excellent. The highlight of the year was the Miserere concert in March. The new venture with the Museum produced a sell out Christmas concert and a very successful ‘Bug’s Life’.

He also thanked everyone for their support in the 2019 summer concert in the midst of his tour of China and also thanked Andrew Tyrell and Jeff Spencer for assisting in rehearsals. Peter was very pleased with the progress of the choir enabling him to explore more varied repertoire now and in the future.

Turning to the future we are privileged to have access to what was Roger Norrington’s Schutz Choir library and some of these will be used in the Christmas Concert this year. The Lent concert in 2020 will feature the Victoria Requiem. The name of the choir means a lot and helps to publicise many unexplored works. The summer concert next year will largely feature works for the CD recording planned for the weekends of 5/6 & 12/13 September. Some of the recording repertoire will also feature in the next 2 concerts.

Peter thanked all the committee members for their hard work and support throughout the year. He has never worked with such an easy chairman in 33 years of choral conducting.

1. Treasurer’s Report

I have tried to keep the accounts as simple and clear as possible. I am grateful to Kathy who has cast her eye over my records to provide an independent check that all is well.

Most of the items on the sheet you have are I hope self-explanatory. As I mentioned it is for a period of 12 months ending 31 March this year. A few points for clarity:

Income

The performance income includes sale of tickets, programmes and refreshments.

Expenditure

Music hire so far is nil – Peter has done a wonderful job providing all our music. Printing costs relate to posters, bookmarks, tickets and programmes. Other expenditure includes refreshments at concerts, alcohol licences and small ancillary items.

We finish the year in a fairly healthy position. We are planning to employ instrumental ensembles for future concerts and for the recording next year, so we do need to grow our audience and continue to increase the number of tickets we sell for each concert so that we can afford the requisite number of players for the repertoire. It would be good to match or improve on the number of tickets we sell for the All Saints Christmas concert.

It is worth noting that for the Museum concerts, the Museum cover our costs but we do not benefit from ticket income and we need to concentrate on selling tickets for our concerts at All Saints.

Kathy Fear proposed the accounts were ratified and Luisa de Gregorio seconded this. A majority vote by members confirmed approval.

1. Election of Officers

All the existing committee were willing to stand again no new nominations had been received. Anne Kershaw proposed that the exxisting committee were re-elected on block. Elizabeth Spiller seconded this and a majority vote by members confirmed their appointment.

7. AOB

None. The meeting closed at 7.55pm