



## **Canterbury Cantata Trust**

### **Annual General Meeting**

#### **Minutes**

**10.30 am on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**@ St. Martin's and St. Paul's Church, Canterbury.**

Present: Grenville Hancox (GH) (Artistic Director), Roshna Ahmad (RA: Chair), Jo Heath (JH: Treasurer), Laurence Green (LG: Trustee), Julia Jones (JJ: Trustee), Tim Kidd (TK: Trustee), Laurence Green (LG: Trustee), Andrea Hepworth (AH: Administrator), Matt Shipton (MS: STB Programme Director), Emily Renshaw-Kidd, Sue Davies, Patricia Papa, Margaret Elder.

#### **1. Apologies/Declarations of Interest**

Apologies were received from Lucy Markes.

One declaration of interest – Tim Kidd is married to Cantata facilitator Emily Renshaw-Kidd.

#### **2. Minutes of the previous AGM (26<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

RA signed a copy as an accurate transcription of events.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

##### **a) Chair's Report (RA)**

- It has been a good year post-Covid, healthy choir numbers, albeit down a little from pre-Covid levels.
- Performances taking place again as well as Beaney collaborations (latter is good as a platform in which to raise awareness of our groups).
- 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event last April was a great success. Able to showcase what we do. Raised £9K for the new Parkinson's Centre for Integrated Therapy (PCfIT).



- Three grants have been awarded in the last year from Kent Community Foundation (KCF). First one in July 2022 (following successful grant application by RA and AH) was for £4.5K to cover CCT core costs such as administration, insurance etc., funded by Wards. Second in September 2022, awarded as a 'known organisation', for £4,339, funded by Pargiter. And the third in January this year for £500, which was a 'cost of living uplift' grant.
- We've received lots of lovely testimonials for our work which is encouraging going forward.
- Skylarks meets every other week. Zoom offered every week for those who don't want to attend in person.

**b) 2022 Sing to Beat (STB) developments (MS)**

- Numbers in groups down post-Covid for a variety of reasons, one being that people have got comfortable with attending online.
- Launch of new PCfIT on 11 April 2023, coincides with World Parkinson's Day. TV cameras will be present.
- PCfIT in Nackington Road (MS centre) is a one-stop shop for complementary therapies, physiotherapy etc. to support people with Parkinson's. Singing will be a major component of this.
- Skylarks will be moving to the new centre from Simon Langton School. Students can still be involved and it will be facilitated by Emily Renshaw-Kidd. Element of risk for potentially vulnerable people (e.g. germs from school) will be removed.
- Snape residency STBP training (first since January 2020) will take place early March. Offered at advanced level (focus on reflective practice) for practitioners who have already completed our introductory training. 15 people will attend.
- Five online training courses have taken place over the pandemic, with over 150 people attending. 300 practitioners in total have now completed our STBP training. Many of these are now running Parkinson's singing groups.



- Moving forward on getting our training accredited.
- STB Long Covid has enjoyed success. Two pilots in 2021 involving weekly online sessions, one hour long. Sessions are really valued by participants and they support each other via a WhatsApp group. Sessions run by Dara MacMahon (supported by GH). 16-20 signed up, average of 7-8 people each week. Anecdotal evidence of the efficacy of these sessions via testimonials.
- STBP app: funding needed to take to the next stage as original funding turned down. Randomised control trial conducted involving use of the app.

#### 4. Financial Summary (JH)

- JH presented an annotated set of accounts, showing the split of income against costs by choir/department, fully reconciled to the formal 2022 accounts.
- 2022 Accounts have now been completed and independently examined by Burgess Hodgson. They were approved by trustees in January 2023. Available to read on Companies House, Charities Commission and CCT website. Going forward, our major funders (Oak Foundation) have confirmed that an audit is no longer needed which is good news.
- Historically, there was always a time lapse between production of accounts and AGM. With the change in year-end (from November to August), this has brought everything in line with our reporting schedule and AGM as it allows production of accounts to start as soon as possible following year-end in August and accounts to be ready for following February's AGM. The change in year-end meant that our 2021 accounts covered a 9 month period (December-August).
- 2022 accounts show healthy finances, recovering from the Pandemic period which saw a drop in subscriptions. All the choirs/groups are in a healthy financial position as regards income vs. expenditure and are now self-sustaining.
- Grants: Oak Foundation grant (rolling grant over a five-year period) is ring-fenced to support STB.



- As mentioned above, grants from KCF (together with gift aid) sustain our core costs. Previously, income from choir subscriptions would have supported this area.
- Surplus is high as Oak/STB funding came in quite close to end of accounting year.
- CCT column: income and costs for this department support the general running of the Trust (admin, insurance, accountancy, etc.) and shows the first KCF grant of £4.5K. It costs c.£8.5K per annum to run the Trust. Gift aid of £2K has also been received.
- MS said there may be some financial implications due to moving to the new centre but these will be minimal and will be covered from the Oak funding. New keyboard may need to be purchased.
- We are required to hold c.£8K of reserves to ensure the financial viability of the Trust.

## 5. Future Plans (GH, RA and MS)

- RA introduced the Board of Trustees to everyone present.
- GH is now stepping down from the role of Artistic Director (AD). Following discussions with GH and trustees, it was decided Emily Renshaw-Kidd (ERK) will be the new AD. Handover period over the next few months. ERK is already very involved in the Trust's work as she facilitates Skylarks and directs Cantata.
- Moving forward, we will focus on building up choir numbers to pre-Pandemic levels, boost our funds, organise more performances, showcase what we do and initiate more involvement with the local community.
- GH thanked the trustees, particularly RA for her superb leadership. He said he's very proud to have been a part of this organisation whose strapline is 'caring through singing'.
- From small beginnings at Canterbury Christ Church University's Music Department, he reflected on 'the pebble in the pond' which has made 'big ripples' as regards the impact of our work to positively affect people's lives and wellbeing and on music's ability to change the world.



- GH is delighted that ERK is going to continue his work. The next challenge is to encourage more involvement from young people, a demographic who are not widely-reflected in our current choirs. The rationale of the collaboration between Skylarks and Simon Langton Boys' School was to foster understanding and empathy of Parkinson's from younger people. Going forward, the AD role will be to further develop practical ways to reinforce 'caring through singing' e.g. via social prescription, signposting, etc.

## 6. Director Rotation (voting by trustees only, according to our Articles)

Longest standing trustees are JJ and LG who stood down. They were duly re-elected by unanimous vote of trustees.

## 7. AOB and short question session

ERK spoke to say how honoured she was to take up the role of AD. She is looking forward to working with trustees and amplifying the whole ethos of 'caring through singing'. Her focus will be on bridging generational gaps between younger and older people, encouraging empathy. Other schools will be encouraged to become involved following Skylarks move to the new PCfIT centre.

### Q. Is there any publicity of the STB Long Covid outside of the Trust?

MS replied: yes, via social media, particularly Facebook. STB mainly use Instagram and Twitter. New social media marketing intern now working for us. We also post on Long Covid websites. STB Long Covid has a presence on the STB website. RA suggested a short video to promote it.

RA thanked everyone for coming.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Andrea Hepworth.

March 2023.

