

Minutes of GALS Committee Meeting
7pm, 3 July 2017
Ed's home, 7A Harbour View Road, Point Chevalier

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Daan van Gulik, Ed Craig, Nick Forbes, Pam Hart, Terry Moore,
David Reeves, Howard Blackwell, Kevin Sanderson

Apology: Bex Harris, Cindy Ashford, Sarai Dee

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Proposed: Pam

Seconded: Daan

Carried as an accurate record.

3. Correspondence in and out

- Heather and Pam – Swedish Pronunciation on Website and MP3 parts on Website. In reality, Nick has not got time to put tracks on line. Spoken words may not help for the singing anyhow. Nick suggests that best reference is the solo version on You Tube. Nick would rather focus on trying to get things right in the rehearsal time, rather than expecting some people to learn outside rehearsal time. Action: early identification of potential problem areas in musical pieces, with consideration to how those difficulties might be eased. Eg MP3 parts or a language workshop or simply Youtube excerpts.
- Rosemary – Financial Feedback to choir re concerts – agreed that we do this. Not all expenses are resolved. **Ed** to put in notices when these become clear.
- Powhiri – Abolition of MAC – Discussion: the constitution was amended to create the MAC to support the choir and the MD. The committee is of the opinion that the MAC should be strategic, meeting only a few times a year to plan direction 18 months to 3 years ahead, and to work closely with the musical leadership team.

4. NZCF profile – Ed has updated

5. Logo – **David to progress this**

6. Agenda for Committee / MAC – see Powhiri's note above and Minutes from 29 June 2017. Action: Howard to devise outline agenda and Ed to circulate to MAC & Exec members

7. Review of Waiheke Concert. Good socially for the choir. Relatively poor numbers in audience attendance, despite the effort Howard made with local papers, facebook promotion and David and Ed at "Pink drinks". Little Sister loved performing with us, and also loved hearing us. Financially, the Waiheke Concert made a loss, that was not budgeted for or approved by the committee. We should continue to do this it is musically and socially acceptable, but we need to be vigilant about the finances. Raffle could have fewer, more valuable prizes.

8. Review of Auckland Concert. Audience engagement and feedback was great. It was good that we did a song within the audience. The aim of how much could or should be memorized needed to be set earlier. Lighting was professionally done and very good. Not quite the “birthday extravaganza show” that we had maybe hoped for. A “show” is different from a “choral” concert. Focus was on singing – which was of a high standard. Venue was OK, but not the best. “Artistic Team” was somewhat lacking. A “working group” worked well for the 20th concert, and could have helped in this concert. The operational component was done rather panicky and late. Communication was somewhat lacking – around logistics, decoration, set-up, raffle, food, bananas etc.

There was discussion re inclusivity of GALS as a community choir. We need to welcome new members. Helen had sent an email regarding the disruption it causes existing choir members when there are new people every week. Committee decided that in the two months before a concert we will ask new people to visit but hold off joining till after the concert. At the start of the New Year, in the run up to Pride, GALS just has to cope with new members joining at that time.

9. Thank-you letters. David to send letters to Robot Anderson, Lynne Frith, David Steemson, Sue Lamb and Little Sister.

10. Street Requiem. Auckland Live is giving us a great deal. Including Venue hire, Front of house, marketing and ticketing. We are responsible for technicians on the day. We also need to set ticket prices, which will be done once we have a clear picture of the costs, over next week or so. Other choirs have not yet been asked. Nick to approach Stella Singers, Viva Voce, the Graduate Choir ... depends on the rehearsals that are required for each choir. North Shore Chorale are keen to be involved. We need to have a conversation with the choir downstairs. We could also have a conversation with Ahakoa te Aha. It is the desire and intention to make some donation will be made to City Mission, there are a number of ways that could happen. E.g. direct donation from GALS (Ticket price needs to cover that) or gold coin donation or a mix of the two.

Kathleen to be invited formally to camp – from Thursday Night to Sunday Night. Nick to ask Catrin to be a soloist. Nick to also to find a Tenor soloist, and instrumentalists. Action: Nick to liaise with Kathleen, and pass over the logistics of Kathleen's visit to Pam. Kathleen's costs will be covered by GALS.

11. Independent Production Manager for Street Requiem. Suggested by Kevin – esp in view of wash up from the recent concert re ticket sales. David and Howard have met a production manager from Auckland Live, who will be acting on our behalf. Suggestion to have a tight working group. David / Howard / Daan / Pam / Nick / Gracie.

12. Music for the second half of the year. We may need some new music beyond what we have in our folders. e.g. Stones. We also need Christmas music for singing in Aotea Square – part of the deal with Auckland Live.

13. Various Voices – no action tonight

14. The Orpheus Project – would 20 people from GALS want to be part of this? To be on stage as part of a dramatic performance both in Auckland and then in Wellington. It involves singing as well as minimal drama. It would involve people taking some time off work for rehearsals and performances. 6 x 3 hours Sat starting Sat 20 Jan 2018. Then 3 x Thurs to Sunday in March 2018 – with the last of those in Wellington. It feels brilliant but difficult for non professionals to commit to the time required. Put to choir tomorrow. Then feedback to Michael Parmenter.

15. Report from Treasurer. (Kevin). As per reports.

16. Membership Report. (Terry / Pam) Probably a new soprano tomorrow. Ruth L, Rose, Jan, Cass, Caitlin are not continuing in the next six months. Ollie will also be stopping soon. Terry is doing well in welcoming people in, but it is hard for him to do the technological side.

17. Performance Report (Bex) –

We've had a successful concert season.

Waiheke saw us with a good audience and a great atmosphere. The addition of little sister went down very well.

Our regulars who followed us to the island were very impressed and comments of inviting them to join our Auckland performance were put forward.

Auckland went extremely well. We had a full downstairs and extra seating upstairs. Front of house team did a fantastic job as always. With a huge thanks to David frost, Cindy and Sally Anne.

Supper was well received. The addition of the photo Montage from sue and Ruth was admired and a big thank you to them.

Also, huge thanks to Juliet for directing all the helpers and making it happen.

Lights and sound this concert were done by Robot Anderson and this seems to be a workable partnership. The feedback has been good about the lighting and quality of sound. Robot has not charged the choir for his services nor for the hire of the equipment. Perhaps we should consider a donation.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for the help and support you gave me during my first concert as performance manager. I am looking forward to street requiem.

18. Marketing Report – no current marketing manager – proposal to co-opt Ralph into this role. All were in agreement.

19. Camp – volunteers to be called for at rehearsal tomorrow.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:45pm. Next meeting will be on 7 August 2017 at 7pm at Pam's home, 15A Brookfield Road, Te Atatu Peninsula

Note: Over the week after the meeting, there was email discussion about a donation to Robot, as this was raised in Bex's report but not acted on. A decision was made to donate him \$100.

