

CLARE COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

FRIENDS OF CLARE CHOIR

27 April 2008

At a meeting held at 2.30 pm in the Thirkill Room

Present

The Director of Music (in the Chair), the Choir Administrator, the Development Director, the Development Officer, Jenifer Ball (1973), Fiona Clifton (1981), Mark Smee, Roger Cooper (1970), Mark Hargreaves (1954), Pegram Harrison, Charles Jones (1967), David Kirkman (1953), Rosemary Kirkman, Amy Klohr (1975), David Rippon (1953), Wendy Rippon, Trevor Sandford (1970).

Apologies were received from Andrew Greenwood (1972 and James Rivett (1998).

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

These were signed by the Chairman as a correct record. It was noted that the minutes were routinely published on the Friends of Clare Choir website within a week of each AGM.

2. Report on the Choir's recent activities

The Choir Administrator reported on the Choir's activities during the 2007–8 academic year. In addition to regular services in Chapel, the Choir had performed at festivals in Salzburg, Potsdam and Munich; with Fretwork at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, as part of the 'Encounters' early music weekend; at the London Bach Society 40th anniversary concert in London; at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons; and at St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall, Cheshire. The women had sung in the King's Easter Festival. The Choir had given a Christmas concert in College on the last Thursday of the Michaelmas Term, and had recorded Harvey Brough's *Requiem in Blue*.

3. The Choir's future plans

The Choir Administrator reported that the Choir would once again be performing at the Munich Festival this summer, singing under Ivor Bolton in the city's Herz-Jesu Kirche; this would be followed by a tour of Austria, including an appearance at the Innsbruck festival. Later in the summer, the Choir would be giving a concert performance of *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Barbican, with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment conducted by Ed Gardner. Other future engagements included a concert with Trinity College Choir and Collegium Musicum in Trinity College Chapel, performing a work commissioned from Christopher Brown with the aid of a Cambridge University 800th Anniversary Fund grant; a performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, with the Manchester Camerata conducted by Nicholas Kraemer; a concert in Ely Cathedral with Ely Cathedral Choir, Trinity College Choir and Prime Brass, in aid of the Ely Cathedral Music Foundation; and a concert in Worcester Cathedral in November in support of their organ fund.

The Director of Music noted that he chose the Choir's programme of engagements with the aim of giving each member of the Choir a broad musical experience during their three years, including concerts with leading orchestras and conductors, and foreign experience.

It was noted that Choir engagements aimed to be self-funding over the course of each academic year, and that as a matter of principle members of Clare Choir were not asked to

contribute financially towards the cost of engagements or tours. It was agreed that the Choir should investigate the possibilities of sponsorship, although this was by no means easy to secure.

4. Finances

The Development Director reported on the interim accounts for the financial year 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. At the start of the financial year, the opening balance of the Friends of Clare Choir account stood at £5,290.01. Membership subscriptions to 29 February 2008 had brought in income of £2,397.70 plus £7.05 in Gift Aid. Further membership subscriptions and Gift Aid for March–June 2008 could be expected to raise the balance by the end of the financial year to around £8,500.

5. Request for support

The Director of Music reported that the Choir had secured the overall commission of *Ex Maria Virgine*, a cycle of carols for choir and organ by Sir John Tavener; this commission included the right to stage the first complete performance and to make the first recording. The recording, for Naxos, was scheduled to take place in July, but would cost £10,000. Sponsorship from the College and an individual alumnus had already been pledged to the tune of £7,000.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Friends would top up the existing sponsorship to £10,000 (i.e. by providing a grant of up to £3,000) to make the commission viable, and that the College would approach individual Friends for additional donations to supplement the sponsorship. The Director of Music thanked the Friends for their support and noted that Friends would be invited to the first performance of *Ex Maria Virgine* at a reduced ticket price.

It was noted that there might be significant financial benefits associated with a Tavener commission, recording and world premiere performance, and that these should be fully exploited for the Choir's long-term benefit.

6. Proposed changes to the Friends of Clare Choir Constitution

A draft revised constitution was circulated and a number of further amendments were proposed and agreed. With these amendments, the revised constitution was likewise agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 3.40 pm.