

## Setanta Committee Meeting

**7th March 2016, Ballymascanlon Hotel 7pm**

**Present:** Una Murphy, Cathie Clifford, Carmel Hamilton, Joe McDonald, Maura Morgan, Mary Murphy, Murt Ó Séaghdha, Jim Slater.

**Apologies:** Pat Clinton

### **Kilkerley Concert**

- Our participation in the Kilkerley concert on 12<sup>th</sup> February was greatly appreciated. We were very warmly received and spread the word about our May concert.

### **May Concert**

- Una reported the concern expressed by some choir members over the entry cost of €25. Subsequent enquiries showed that most members consider it reasonable, especially as supper and a glass of wine are included.
  - As an aside, issues of a general nature such as this are always a committee decision. So choir members should feel free to approach any committee member, especially their section reps, with their concerns. There is no need to place it all on Una!
  - As a further aside, the main source of information on upcoming events and proposals are the minutes of committee meetings that are posted on our website. So members are encouraged to read these as they appear. Members who would prefer a printout should request this from their section rep.
- Cathie's design for the concert poster was reviewed and adopted with minor amendments. A mix of sizes (A3, A4, A5) will be printed.
- 400 tickets will be printed in time to hand out to choir members before the Easter break. Members will be encouraged to sell 4 tickets each. Since there will be 10 to a table, it would be nice if two members plus their guests could fill each table.
- Separate tickets will be printed for choir members, who must pay €10 for supper.
- The Bell Chorus was dropped from the programme, as well as Funiculi Funicula. Two pieces are being added to Les Miserables medley. It is proposed that Eugene Ginty will sing Bring Him Home as a solo. Una is waiting for more detailed discussions with him, as he is currently very busy.
- More practise is needed to focus on getting the Italian words coming fluently, especially for the men's sections. Practise is needed also on getting used to backing tracks. Decisions will be made later on whether to use soloists from within the choir for certain pieces.
- Una and Cathie are working to put together a rehearsal CD to mirror what is on the website. Section reps to check the numbers needed.
- Jim was at the Crowne Plaza and was very pleased with their facilities and the ease of access. They have a stage and we can easily add our own platforms if necessary.
- Crowne Plaza charge €22 per bottle of wine. Jim will ask about corkage charges. Choir members will be asked if they know someone who might sponsor the wine reception and/or raffle prizes.
- Raffle: no update as Michael wasn't present. Carmel to check with him.

### **Concert Rehearsals**

- Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April workshop (10am to 3pm) confirmed for DkIT

- Wed 4<sup>th</sup> May Eugene will join us in rehearsal. This allows time to fix any problems.
- Sun 8<sup>th</sup> May full rehearsal in Crowne Plaza (not Sat 7<sup>th</sup>). Michael to confirm.

### **Uniforms**

- Maura checked material for ladies' scarves or wrap. Sample colours were reviewed and a decision made. Maura to negotiate prices.
- Investigating options for a men's uniform in the longer term, with dress suits being kept for more formal occasions. No update as Pat and Michael were absent.

### **Membership & Attendance**

- Discussed various individual cases of recent non-attendance to clarify intended participation in the May concert. A few cases to be followed up.
- The committee have become aware of the understandable nervousness of some newcomers in approaching their first public concert. The programme is particularly big and demanding for those who were not in Prague recently. So newcomers are encouraged to sing the pieces they know and if necessary to mime some of the others. It is important for everyone to be as supportive as possible to each other.

### **Other Plans**

- Una replied to DCINY to say we wouldn't be participating in any of their concerts in 2016.
- June 2016: possibility of attending one of Eugene Ginty's home concerts as a social outing.
- Christmas 2016: booked Heritage Centre, Carlingford for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- Spring/Summer 2017: need to check options for festivals abroad.
- 2018: special event to mark 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Setanta. Una in initial correspondence with RTE Concert Orchestra about a collaboration. We need some suggestions for a programme. Definitely not a requiem! Maybe Karl Jenkins Armed Man?

**Next Meeting:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April, Ballymascanlon Hotel, 7pm