

SURREY HEATH CHORAL CIO
Trustees Meeting
5th November 2020
On Zoom
MINUTES



Present

Keith Wigglesworth	Chairman	Kate Brown	Treasurer
Matthew Sleep	Trustee	Salma Sams	Trustee
Andrew Milligan	Trustee	Tim Fitzgerald	Trustee
Colin Gunner	Secretary		
Sylvia Law (Minutes secretary)		Geoff Tuson	Accompanist

Apologies for Absence.

Debra Sheffield

Discussion of auditions for Musical Director

Auditions have been held for :-

Krystal Hewitson

Ed Bonner

Peter Ford

Each trustee was asked to give their opinions of the candidates in relation to the auditions. Matthew gave the reactions from the choir that he had received by email.

After some discussion it was felt that Krystal was not experienced enough compared with the other two candidates to fill the post of Musical director. It was considered that she would be ideal for the post of deputy looking after the Siemens choir, if it reforms after the pandemic, she also received least votes from the members of the choir and so she was omitted from the further discussions.

Peter and Ed were both considered to be suitable and the trustees were fairly divided on which candidate to choose. Further discussion about the negatives and positives of their applications and performance at audition were focussed on:-

Ed Bonner

- Travelling to Camberley from his home or work in London, i.e. his ability to join in with choir events outside of Monday evenings could be a problem.
- His enthusiasm and musical knowledge were commented upon and his ability to connect with the members of the choir.
- He received the most votes from the choir members.

Peter Ford.

- The focus of the audition was given over to correcting the pronunciation of the words in Latin and less to the music. It was felt that this might not be appreciated by many members of the choir and lessen his ability to connect with the members of the choir.
- His musical knowledge was very impressive, and he was quite enthusiastic.
- He received less votes than Ed Bonner from the members of the choir
- He received slightly more votes from the trustees

At this point the Trustees were divided.

There was some discussion of going back to the candidates and discussing our concerns with them and perhaps asking Peter's previous choir for a reference for him. At this point there was a discussion of whether to not appoint at all but it was decided that this would just push the problem into the future

A considerable debate took place to consider the fit and suitability of each candidate in relation to the membership and management team. On balance and after considering all the views of choir, trustees and accompanist, the Trustees decided to appoint Ed Bonner as the candidate most likely to bring the choir together and provide a positive and cohesive future.

There was a discussion of the details of the appointment and it was decided to offer the post to him for a probationary 6 months basis to start when we are able to get back to rehearsals, i.e. when government guidelines allow it.

He will also be asked if he is able to produce some online input in the meantime, paid on a pro rata basis.

Action Keith to write to him and offer him the post

Action The trustees to review Keith's proposed contract and let him know their views.