Palmerston North Choral Society (Inc.)

Palmerston North New Zealand

MINUTES FOR COMMITTEE MEETING 16 MAY 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Present: Sue Brown (President), Myra Smith MS, Robert Van Bentum RV, John Chittenden JC. Sue Brown SB (President)

M**inutes of the previous meeting** It was agreed the minutes of the April meeting be confirmed. SB

Matter arising from Minutes Nil

Correspondence

Inward

- Three expressions of interest have been received for the position of Musical Director. Two are from overseas and one currently resident in Palmerston North area.
- Email from Alison thanking the Choir for her farewell presentation.

Outward

- Responses to the applicants, referring one to the New Zealand Choral Federation.

Financial Report.

Westpac current account Cr $13,599.45, Term Deposit $10,086.30.

Account activity for 16 April to 14 May 2026 comprised:

- Expenditure of $3,651.72
- Income (concert sales) $2,780
- Accounts receivable (ticket sales) $125

Account for the first concert "Singing the Seasons' showed income of $2,906 and expenses of $2,155.03, including cost of soloists and musicians $1,000, resulting in a surplus of $749.97.

EFTPOS was successful. Although cost around $180 to set-up around 50% of door takings ($575) were made by EFTPOS, reducing cash handled and banked. It could be used at the technical rehearsal to receive payment from members.

Based on current trends, the Choir is expected to record a deficit for the year but some of the costs are non-recurring.

It was agreed the financial report be received. There were no payments for approval. RV/JC

Librarian's Report. Heather Murphy to update us on the current stock of scores.

Publicity. It was suggested that the Choir appoint a (non-committee) chorister to be the publicity officer. This will include the compilation of programmes which Alison has handled over recent years.

Music Director's Report. N/A

Concert Review Positive responses have been received from the audience. The choir enjoyed the music and the overall programme.

Performance issues identified – choristers singing incorrect notes or failing to cut-off. Question was raised as to whether the choir's role is to satisfy social needs of older choristers or meet the expectations of more serious singers.

Question also raised as to whether we are over-catering for the 'after-concert function.' Can we alternate sections to provide food to reduce the amount provided?

Concert Planning

Concert 2 – Shaky Places at Pathways 5 September

First rehearsal on 18th May. Roy has prepared practice tapes and would expect Choir members to use them for regular home practice. The you-tube recording of 'Shaky Places' is of poor quality. Scores to be uplifted by choir members at 7.15p.m. on Monday. Future practices will be held in the hall. SB will advise Choir by email.

On 29th June the choir will need to meet in the Church to accommodate the National Youth Choir. Alternative is for Choir to meet at Pathways

Sing Fest. Tuesday 30th June at Pathways. Choir will sing 'Look at the World' by Rutter and 'In the Bleak Midwinter'.

Concert 3 - To be arranged. Proposed time for concert clashes with activity at St Peters. Time and venue may need to be revised. We may need to move to Sunday Afternoon.

Selection and appointment of Musical Director

It was agreed that the selection committee for the new Musical Director would be Sue and Myra together with Guy Donaldson and/or Jenny Boyack, subject to their availability. The candidate selected would then be formally approved by the Choir Committee.

Myra reported that three applications have been received to date.

- Two overseas applicants whose expectations of the position may be unrealistic.
- One local application who has a good understanding of the Choir's ability.

General Business

Staging Stored at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit No further action at this stage. We have indicated to the Cathedral that the Choir could make a modest contribution toward the hire/cost of a shipping container, to be sited on the Cathedral grounds.

Choral Society Website Refresh Commercial companies offer website services but are very expensive. Suggested that we ask if a choir member has a friend/family member who could help to refresh the website and keep it current on an ad-hoc basis for a modest cost.

Reimbursement/Remuneration for Roy as Interim MD Roy has agreed to the same remuneration rate received by Alison, plus reimbursement of any expenses e.g. printing.

Next Meeting: 9.30 am Sat 20 June 2026 at 4 Balcairn Place

The meeting closed at 11.20 am