

## Minutes of LEGATO Members' Meeting in London, 29 April 2006

Present choruses: Classical Lesbians Berlin, (Diversity London), London Gay Men's Chorus, Männer-Minne Berlin, Mélo'Men Paris, Pink Singers London, Philhomoniker München, Rosa Note Stuttgart, Schola Cantorosa Hamburg, Vielhomonie Rhein-Ruhr, Vox Rosa Den Haag, Vox Homana Hannover

Apologies from: Heartchor Berlin, Choeur Homogène Geneva

Minutes: Marie Burrichter, Classical Lesbians

### **Topics**

1. The President opens the meeting with a speech.
2. The meeting approves the minutes of the last LEGATO meeting in Berlin.
3. The meeting accepts Team London's bid to host the next Various Voices Festival in 2009.
4. After having been informed that Geneva would not like to host the festival, the meeting listens to Team London's presentation on how they want to organize the festival.
5. Team London is a group of 20 members from three London choirs – Diversity, The Pink Singers and London Gay Men's Chorus – that work as an organizing committee for the festival. They have worked out a thorough plan for running the festival, which will also be presented in the Internet (see [variousvoiceslondon.co.uk](http://variousvoiceslondon.co.uk)).
6. After the presentation the team answers more detailed questions of LEGATO delegates, which could be summarized in the following points:
  - The team thinks that it is possible to attract about 4,000 participants by advertising the festival beyond the choruses that are already interested - possibly also non-LGBT - , by using the advertising support of the South Bank Centre and by attracting London's big community as audience.
  - The team thinks that also small venues, i.e. all venues apart from the South Bank Centre, may attract enough listeners because of maximum awareness of the festival by advertisement.
  - The team are acutely aware that even a festival fee of 150-250 EUR is still quite a big amount for some participants. They suggest fund-raising events done by the choruses. London Gay Men's Chorus has been quite successful in fund-raising and is willing to offer know-how to other choruses.
  - An estimate of about 900 places of private hosting could lower accomodation costs for participants that are less well-off.
  - The festival will be opened to overseas choirs.
7. Clark from Various Voices Paris gives an update of organisational matters:
  - finance from VV Berlin and LEGATO has helped to produce the CD, which is now available and will be sent to all who have ordered in advance.
  - VV Paris has to file bankruptcy protection; due to the sudden lack of financial support by the government three bills could not be paid.
  - VV Paris was / is aired on French TV in Decmber 2005 and June 2006.
8. Ludger from VV Berlin states that the 8,000 EUR that are still left from the festival will be given as a donation to LEGATO, VV London, or VV 2013.
9. Jens Melcher resigns from the board due to lack of time. Iris Hölling decides to stay on the board due to the absence of female candidates for the board. Mathias Lipinski (Stuttgart) and Richard Mohr (Hamburg) stand as candidates for the board. Richard Mohr is elected as a new board member.
10. Some LEGATO delegates suggest that LEGATO could have more than three officials. Any changes in LEGATO's constitution have to be announced in the agenda before a

meeting. To make the work of the board possible and to be able to find enough board members most delegates agree that the constitution should stay the way it is now. Of course everybody is more than welcome to help LEGATO's development by taking responsibility for certain issues. Mathias Lipinski (Stuttgart), Robert Duffton (London) and Dominik Jacob (Düsseldorf) say that they are interested in working closely with the board.

11. On 8-10 September 2006 there will be a meeting in Laurent's country house near Paris which aims at developing new visions for LEGATO (organisational reform, aims, attracting new members etc.). All LEGATO members are invited; so everyone interested in taking part please contact [laurent@variousvoicesparis.com](mailto:laurent@variousvoicesparis.com). *Addition to the minutes: Due to sudden professional commitments of Laurent and no possibility to change the date at that short notice this working weekend is postponed till after the delegates' meeting in October. A new date will be fixed then.*
12. Iris reports on financial matters: A number of choruses have not paid their fees in 2005/06. Please do so. For the year 2005/06 there is a total income of 620 EUR, expenditures of 420 EUR, which leads to a surplus of 200 EUR. Together with the payback of 3,700 EUR from VV Paris LEGATO's account shows about 6,000 EUR at the moment.
13. The next LEGATO meeting will take place in Stuttgart on 14 October 2006 and will be hosted by Rosa Note.