

Endcliffe Orchestra Committee Meeting

Thursday 8th February 2024

Draft Minutes

1. Apologies: Present by Zoom were Alex, Chris, Clare, Fiona, John G, John W, Neil B. In attendance were Neil A and Ralph. Apologies were received from Alison.
2. Draft Minutes of the Meeting of 11th January, 2024. These were considered and all matters arising were covered in Agenda items of this meeting. They were agreed as a true record.
3. Declaration of items for A.O.B. - there were no items declared
4. Agenda Items

- a. Report from the Winter Concert

John G expressed thanks for all those who had helped both at the beginning and particularly at the end of the concert in ensuring that everything was back in place. It was gratifying that the Family concert was agreed to have been a great success with many children present and having a lovely time. A suggestion was made that for any future family concert we might hold, the concert should be brought forward by half an hour because there was a long gap between the rehearsal and the main concert. **It was agreed** that planning with the Church authorities needed to be clearer and we need to ensure that the Church is booked for at least an hour before the start time of the rehearsal (to enable the seating to be arranged and percussion to be transferred from Millhouses).

The evening concert was a great success with many people saying how well the orchestra played. There were approximately 210 people and takings were £2,000 ensuring that after expenses the concert made a profit of £700. Donations (including a contribution from the orchestra) amounting to £500 were made to the charity 'War Child'.

A **suggestion was made** that we need someone at the 'front of house' who is familiar with the working of the card reader and who is present right from the beginning when audience is arriving. **It was agreed** to investigate this for the next concert.

We reflected on why this was such a well-received concert and thought that having the Family Concert (though this was free) might have helped

and that all the publicity on social media, through well-designed leaflets and flyers and through contacts in the schools all helped to increase our audience. **There was a suggestion** that we should explore the possibility of maintaining a mailing list for those coming to the concert so that they can be informed by email shot of future concerts. There **was also another suggestion** that rather than having programmes for Family Concerts we should have flyers at the concert with a QR code enabling people to join the mailing list for concerts.

b. The Ukrainian concert

Neil A gave an update on the concert arrangements. St Mark's Church Broomhill has been booked for a rehearsal on Friday evening 19th April from 7:00 - 9:30. The following day, 20th April, there is a morning rehearsal from 10:30 - 1:00 pm and the concert is in the evening with a 7:30 start time finishing at approx. 9:30

The equipment which is transported from Millhouses can be housed at St Mark's overnight and should be covered by the orchestra's insurance. Transport for equipment from Millhouses will have to be arranged from 6:00 pm or earlier.

Neil B is going to publicise the event among the Ukrainian community in Sheffield and they may wish to be involved in the organisation in some way (e.g. providing refreshments?).

Having worked out the costs incurred in hiring the Church, paying a fee to the soloists and other deps etc., making a donation for the music, and sundry expenses such as the van hire, **we agreed that a reasonable ticket price would be £12, with a reduction to £8 per ticket for those aged 18 and under.**

We agreed that a suitable title for the publicity and for the concert would be 'A celebration of Ukrainian Orchestral Music'. We discussed publicity for the concert and, in addition to the flyers and posters, it was suggested that we should publicise the concert on Classical Sheffield website (**John W** to see to this) and also inform 'Look North'.

As regards rehearsal of the music, we expressed concern as to the legibility of the music. **Alex and Neil B** have been working to put all the

parts as well as the full score in the Google folder so that people could study these parts and magnify them to give detail.

- c. Charity nominations. We discussed the charities we might wish to nominate for the Ukrainian concert and this was to be looked into by Neil A and Neil B.

As regards the summer concert, Neil B suggested and **the committee agreed** that since the programme consists of pieces by two Czech composers, it would be a good idea to nominate the Charles University Foundation Fund Prague which is a fund established to assist the wounded and the bereaved families of the shooting that took place in December 2023 and during which the Head of the Music Department at that University was killed.

- d. Orchestra Year Planner. The items that we would need to decide in February and March (subject to the result of the Orchestra Survey - see next item) include the number and type of concerts during next year (2025); whether we take part in Classical Sheffield in March, and if so, what programme ideas we can put forward.

We noted that these decisions would have to be taken soon, but they await the result of the orchestra survey

- e. Vacancies on the committee. We noted that the position of Deputy Chair was still unfilled. We also are looking for a Marketing Officer - an important position to develop the profile of the orchestra.
- f. Orchestra Survey. This was ready to go to the orchestra and will appear in Friday's Newsletter and be publicised with a time limit for responses at the next rehearsal after half term.

- 5. A.O.B. There were no official items for AOB but we signalled that we need to have an agreement by March as to whether we wish to take part in Classical Sheffield week - next March, and if so, what we might propose in terms of a collaboration or a concert.

- 6. Date of Next Meeting. Thursday 7th March, at Fiona's.

Clare Campbell