

## **Endcliffe Orchestra Committee meeting**

**6th March 2025**

### **Draft Minutes**

Present: Chris, Clare, John W., Lisa, Matt, Ralph and River in attendance for the first item

1. Apologies: John G., Katrin, Neil.
2. Draft Minutes of the meeting of 6th February

These were unanimously agreed. There was one item arising, which appeared later in 4.c., but we discussed whether it would be a possible to ask that the toilets in the All Saints Church Hall (further down Ringinglow Road) could be opened for the audience to use in addition to those available at the Church.

3. There were no items for AOB
4. a. Proposal to work with CSO and SYO on a Christmas Concert.

River spoke to the proposal to run a Christmas concert together with the SYO. He reported that CSO was no longer participating in this (they have reservations about parking in Sheffield Centre). River stressed both the popularity of Christmas music and the fact that this would not be difficult to put on - the music would be straightforward and familiar and would require only two rehearsals beforehand. River has provisionally booked the Victoria Hall for Saturday 6th December. He proposes two concerts each lasting no more than one hour. The times he suggests are 12.00 pm and 3.00pm when there are likely to be many people in town and who would enjoy a short concert of Christmas music. There would be a rehearsal in the morning prior to the first concert. The format would be a complete collaboration between the Endcliffe Orchestra and the SYO in which the young people would be fully integrated with our players i.e. all participants will play all the pieces. There would be a 50/50 split of the profits and costs and River suggested a ticket price of £5.00 with a hall capacity

of 450. It was suggested that this would be a low risk venture (in that many parents and others as well as the public would be interested and would come) and a high reward venture in terms of collaboration with a youth orchestra.

After River left the meeting, we discussed this further and **decided** unanimously to proceed with the venture; it would be an orchestral event included in the 2025-6 programme and, in the event of members of the orchestra not being available on that date we would get depts in their place.

b. Update on the proposed collaboration with the Chesterfield Philharmonic Choir (7th June 2025).

Clare spoke about the correspondence with the Chesterfield Choir. A sign-up sheet for members to express a willingness to take part had been available at two rehearsals and announcements. Despite this, there was an insufficient number of players in the different sections of the orchestra who expressed interest and so we felt that **we could not commit to our orchestra collaborating** with this concert. We were also unsure of whether we could afford dedicated rehearsal time for this in the light of our summer concert only a few weeks later.

c. Follow up on issues with All Saints, Ecclesall and consideration of the suggestion that there should be no interval break.

There have been several issues as reported in earlier minutes, and Chris has written to All Saints Church and, as yet, had no reply. A member of the orchestra has suggested that a way to deal with the difficulty concerning the length of the interval was to have a concert with no interval - a shorter time and continuous music. The aim would be that the concert finished earlier and people might feel comfortable with a shorter time-span.

We discussed this and **considered** that our concert-goers enjoyed having an interval, mingling with one another, enjoying the refreshments, and having a break in the concert. The problem was the lack of toilet facilities. We **decided** that it might help matters if the Church would allow the use of the toilets in the

Church Hall on Ringinglow Rd. Secondly, if there were to be an indication of the length of the interval printed in the programme. Thirdly, if there were to be either a 'gong' or an announcement heralding the end of the interval in say 5 or 10 minutes. Finally, if it would be possible to programme a short piece after the interval to enable late-comers to enter the Hall after this piece. We also **decided** that in our discussions with the Church we should ask for a later finishing time for the concert.

d. Feedback from orchestra sections and options to progress to a permanent MD post

We considered at length the feedback from all sections of the orchestra and this led to a detailed discussion as to how we should proceed. In the end, we **decided** that the orchestra would offer River a fixed term contract for the next season, 2025-6. In July 2026 we would then have a review in which it was open to both sides to extend or make permanent the post of MD.

There is a meeting on 17th March with River to discuss this.

5. AOB. There was no 'official' AOB, but we considered the 'strange' Newsletter (about porcelain tiles!) which was not put out by the Orchestra. Matt assured us that there had been no data breach in respect of the orchestra.

There was also news of Marc Kawwas who is the soloist in the Gershwin and he is reported to be enjoying practising for the performance.

6. Date of next meeting: 10th April, 2025 at Chris's