

Endcliffe Orchestra – Committee meeting 27 August

Present: Chris; Katrin; River; Matt; Neil; Alison

Apologies: Claire; John W, John G; Lisa; Alex; Ralph

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record

4. Update on Composing Composition – River has circulated a draft brief following consultation with the committee (River; Alex; Matt; Claire).

A conversation around whether there should be more than one Junior section, GCCE and below and then A Level. The main difference is the length of piece. The logistics would be much more, so it was felt that only 2 categories would be ok. A discussion was held about the prize money. Funding is being applied for, which might also go towards the Junior prize (in addition to supporting the Children's concert). There are sufficient funds in the accounts.

The selection will be up to 5 in each category; the Sunday Workshop rehearsal is sufficiently long enough should there be enough entrants. The committee can also choose not to select any if they don't deem the standard high enough.

Advertising will be at concerts, through schools, social media, there are websites which host competitions, eg WeCompose (music in the round).

Janet Altman's legacy funded the initial competition, her name was also on the second competition and we felt that it would be appropriate to continue this. Chris will let David Altman know.

It was agreed to have the variety of instrumentation option for composition; Prize money was confirmed, the 2nd & 3rd prizes are at the panels discretion, the cost would be a minimum of £1000, maximum of £1700. There may be some minor additional costs.

River is confident that it would be fairly noticeable if AI had been used. Neil will ask if there is anything in the university department.

Next steps: Chris will contact the committee to check we have approval for the brief; Neil will look into AI detection, Matt will put the competition on the Endcliffe Website, River will liaise with Lisa on publicity!

Rehearsal Schedule – Summer concert - It was decided to replace the Coriolan overture with the Egmont. Clive Pollard piece is new, and not too difficult so added in as well.

Martin can't make the proposed date for the Ceilidh, so will be rescheduled.

Pub socials are included, makes it clear that everyone is invited!

Sunday 1 March – Competition workshop – do need confirmation from members that they can make this.

Venues for 2026

31 January – had quotes from All Saints and Victoria Hall; All Saints is the same cost as this year; Victoria Hall is double this, plus car parking is very difficult and also expensive. Another possibility

could be High Storres school, St Mark's Broomhall is another option. – Chris will ask Nick to check these out.

4 July - All Saint's is fine for the July concert – Nick to book. Will keep the usual 10-1 rehearsal, concert at 7:30

Need a rehearsal space for the Sunday workshop.

Dates for sectional rehearsal are fixed, need to book the sectional leaders.

AGM - will be on 15 Sept. Chris will announce this on first rehearsal. John G is resigning, Lindsay is willing to take this on, but can't make Thursday committee meetings, she is willing to jobshare if there is someone willing to make the meetings. The assumption is that the rest of the committee are happy to continue.

Will need a Finance report; the Chair's report and election of officers.

Narrator for the January concert: .Nigel Hildreth is available and very willing, fee would be about £60; Polly is also available and experienced, her fee is about £300, depends on preparation involved, She is known in the field of young musicians and the city. She will also be able to promote this. Committee agreed to book Polly – River will take this forward.

Recruitment of String Players / Code of Practice.

The goal is to have full sections for both rehearsals and concerts. Brass & Wind already have an accepted dep system. The strings don't have this at the moment.

There is a concern about the number of string players who seemed to drop out at short notice. This has an impact on the balance of the orchestra.

Players should give notice to their section leaders when they are going to be absent – especially for the concert. The idea is to build up a waiting list of players willing to step in, but the standard would need to be quite high if needed to sight-read. It was felt that we need to tighten up the notice if not able to play in a concert – so that the section leader and the leader can arrange for deps in that situation.

We have 2 new flutes joining, Caroline is becoming principal flutists.

Capacity – 7, 7, 6, 5, 4 desks. , currently 6; 7; 5; 5; 2.5; We need clarity on who can make the concerts, have a recruitment drive to look for more strings and see who applies. There are 2 issues; recruiting and depping.

Katrin will forward all queries on to River as well as section leaders to make contact/assess ability etc. If the section is full, they will be added to a waiting list, if a vacancy occurs they will be invited to come to rehearsal.

If a dep is needed, again can go to the waiting list to see if they are up for coming along. If no one is available, can then look further afield.

Katrin/Lisa will publicise that we are recruiting – use River's advert?.

Chris will say something at the start about the need to inform the section leader if they can't do the concert. Section leaders can decide if / when deps start to attend, and if those that can't make the concert have to step back.

Code of Practice will be slightly revised by Chris (around strings getting their own deps) and then circulated with the rehearsal schedule. 70% attendance, if you can't make the concert, the section leader must be told as soon as practicable.

Looking at the other guidelines – music is now numbered, the idea is that section leaders hand the music out and know who has which copies. Practice music can be photocopied, but must be destroyed at the end and not played from in the concert.

Flute 2 and Piccolo are currently vacant, there are two who will be coming “on trial” for the first 2 weeks; they may both stay on; if one is not, we may need to advertise; if both are ok, they could also swap around to be more flexible. River has been liaising with them both.

There are a lot of music that uses 3 trumpets – should we aim for 3 as a rule? This will be explored further by Alex/Neil who will share a list of possible with River, will invite to the next rehearsals.

How do we know when someone needs to become a member? A dep for a single concert would have been invited to play; they may ask to stay on, so will apply to become a member and thus pay subs. May have a tiered membership – to be discussed later.

Funding bids

The Gripple Foundation are coming to a rehearsal to assess the application for funding for the music for the Children's concert.

Tramlines – application for £1000, won't hear until November; no response from the other application. River will try again with the Sarah McNulty fund as think there was a breakdown in communication.

AOB – River would like a meeting between SYO and Endcliffe committee to discuss the Christmas concert. Chris, Matt and Neil/Alex, possibly Lisa (marketing) and Lindsay (concert manager) would be useful. River will liaise with the date – not on a Thursday.

Sheffield Symphony Orchestra may be able to also help bolster the numbers if needed.

Alison/Emily have a proposal for signing out music – email went astray but has now been resent. This seems a sensible idea!

Date of next meeting: 25 September -7:30pm at Chris' (6 Rushey Close)