

Endcliffe Orchestra Committee
Thursday, 16th April, 2026
Draft Minutes

Present: Chris, Alison, Clare, Katrin, Lindsay, Matt and River

1. Apologies: Alex, John, Lisa, Neil and Ralph
2. Draft Minutes of the meeting of 19th March

We thanked Katrin for all her work on the Communications Policy and for the production of the first Endcliffe Notes (Newsletter). This has been well received with good reviews from recipients outside the Orchestra as well as orchestra members.

We also noted that a further screen has been purchased to provide protection against the sound of the brass affecting the string players positioned towards the back of sections. We **noted that the aim** is to purchase further such screens.

The Draft Minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Declaration of items for AOB. Three items were brought forward - a statement of costings for music for 2027; actions we might take to celebrate the orchestra's 50th anniversary and general idea for spending given the very healthy state of the orchestra finances.
4. Agenda items:

- a. To discuss and agree the repertoire for the summer concert 2027, as suggested by River

The first matter was the Christmas collaboration concert with SYO on 5th December at the Victoria Hall. The full programme of Christmas related music will be available in June but generally the theme will be around the Muppets Christmas Carol.

The January concert 23rd January is already arranged. It consists of :

McLennan - Sonus Solaris

Bernstein - Overture to West Side Story

Prokofiev - Romeo and Juliet Suite No 2

Tchaikovsky - Symphony No 4

The concert for our input into Classical Sheffield is on March 13th and will consist of an open workshop event at St. Marie's Cathedral in which

we will play Terry Riley's piece 'In C'. This will be open to all players who wish to join and the ticket sales will come to the Endcliffe Orchestra rather than Classical Sheffield.

The summer concert 2027, Sat. 17th July, will be on the theme 'Dance On' / "Danzon".

The pieces agreed by the committee and River are:

Rimsky-Korsakov - Capriccio Espagnol

Saint-Saens - Violin Concerto No 3 (soloist, Lizzie Dawson)

Falla - Ritual Fire Dance

Piazzolla - The Four Seasons in Buenos Aires

Marquez - Danzon No 2

Alison had costings for the hire of the pieces and some of them will only incur printing costs since they can be downloaded from IMSLP. Other costs are very reasonable with most individual pieces costing less than £200. On the other hand, Piazzolla 'The Four Seasons in Buenos Aires' will cost £800 to hire. It is hoped that we will be successful in Trust Fund applications to cover the hire cost for this piece.

In addition to the details of the programme appearing in these Minutes, it is agreed that the Programme for season 2027 should be available on WhatsApp.

b. Assistance for Lisa in respect of Marketing.

There have been calls for people to assist with the marketing jobs in the orchestra including liaison with advertisers, keeping up with social media advertising and ticketing near to concerts. We were thankful that Catherine (2nd violins) has agreed to assist with ticketing. We are hopeful that others might offer help.

In the meantime it was suggested that we might approach Fiverr to help with poster design - with designs for the next concert that would be adaptive across different social media platforms. The same or other companies might be approached to assist with social media advertising. The discussion then turned to the Endcliffe Notes (newsletter) and we discussed whether we should have a category of recipients who were designated as 'Friends of the Orchestra'. Several suggestions were made as to how such a group could assist with the orchestra. **Chris and**

Katrin are to work on a proposal concerning ‘Friends of the Orchestra’. Also on marketing, **Lindsay agreed to liaise with Radio 3 on advertising our concerts.**

As an adjunct to the marketing section we discussed the viability of All Saints, Ecclesall as a venue and, whilst we liked this venue, we were concerned at the poor provision of loos and we suggested that it might be a good idea to look into the possibility of hiring portaloos to make this a more convenient venue. This is something that could be **taken up by our concert managers with the venue.**

- c. To make a final decision on the use of WhatsApp as our preferred method of communication.

We discussed the current use of WhatsApp and found that this was very acceptable to most members of the orchestra. In the light of this **we recommend that WhatsApp be our usual method of communication to and from members of the orchestra.**

Katrin suggested that there might be one email per term which contained the Rehearsal Schedule (this would be in addition to the **Rehearsal Schedule being on the WhatsApp Announcement section and also on the Members Area of the Orchestra Website).**

5. AOB

The fact that 2027 is the Orchestra’s 50th anniversary was raised and we had a number of suggestions as to how this could be marked. Banners proclaiming this could be arranged; likewise commemorative merchandise commissioned and perhaps a party.

This led to a discussion of the favourable financial position in which the orchestra finds itself. Suggestions were made as to suitable ways in which to spend some of this for the benefit of the orchestra: hiring music for more modern pieces which may have more expensive hire costs; marketing assistance; looking into the possibility of hiring bigger venues for our concerts; compiling a short history of the orchestra and commissioning a new website with a more modern design.

6. Date of next meeting

Thursday May 21st, 2027 at Chris’s