

## Skye and Lochalsh Orchestra

### Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 30 June 2013

Present: Chris Manvell (CM), James Merryweather (JM), Judith Bullivant (JB), Mike Cormack (MJC), Margaret Cormack (MC)

Apologies: Sam Nicolson, Janice Taylor, Jo Cumine

- 1) New Secretary
  - a) Jo has resigned from the Committee.
  - b) **JB** has volunteered to act as Secretary.
  - c) A new committee member will be co-opted in the autumn and the secretary post confirmed at the next full committee meeting.
- 2) Cheque signatories
  - a) The current signatories are Laura and Jo, neither of whom are on the committee..
  - b) **JB** volunteered to act as signatory and we need another.
  - c) **MC** will investigate the possibility of transferring the bank account to the Bank of Scotland in Broadford, which would be more convenient than the Royal Bank in Kyle.
- 3) Updating the website
  - a) **JM** and **CM** to update the website for the autumn session.
  - b) **CM** will upload a PDF file of the orchestra catalogue once it is sent to him.
  - c) A 'Useful contacts' type page will be set up as a place to provide details of people offering music tuition etc.
  - d) **MJC** will revamp the history page and send a Word file to **CM** for uploading. onto the website
- 4) Loch Carron invitation
  - a) MJC has been contacted by Ann MacKay from the Howard Doris Centre in Loch Carron asking if members of the orchestra would be interested in putting on a concert there in October (the venue would be unsuitable for the full orchestra).
  - b) It was agreed that the wind group and the string quartet would put together a programme for a concert on Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>. This concert will form part of Luminare Scotland programme which is putting on concerts in old folks homes.
- 5) Concerts
  - a) The dates of the autumn/Xmas concert and rehearsals have all been booked.
  - b) Doubt as to the playability of the Brahms Academic Festival overture was expressed and it was thought advisable to abandon it. Thus the programme will be
    - (1) Schubert Rosamunde Ballet Music no.2 (music to be got from Caithness)
    - (2) Tchaikovsky 2<sup>nd</sup> movement from 6<sup>th</sup> Symphony (Good Music - music already acquired)
    - (3) Selection from Bizet Carmen Suite – Les Toreadors (i.e. what is usually known as the overture), Prelude to Act 1, Aragonese, Intermezzo, Les Dragons d'Alcala, Habanera, Danse Boheme (Music to be downloaded from Petrucci, by **CM, MJC**)
    - (4) While Shepherds Watched (**JM** to provide music)
    - (5) possibility of Hely-Hutchison Carol symphony (**JB** to investigate)
    - (6) An appropriate opening piece e.g. Mendelssohn Scottish / Reformation symphony movement. Still to be decided.
  - c) The Spring concert will have to be at the beginning of April as Easter is on 21 April in 2014 preceded by 2 weeks of school holidays. The date of 5<sup>th</sup> April was agreed with rehearsals on 11, 25 Jan, 8,22 Feb, 1,15,22 and 29 March

- d) **MC** will investigate the availability and cost of using the Fingal Centre in Portree for the concert. Having rehearsals at the North end or at Sligachan was discussed but rejected as Broadford is more central (with members in Glen Elg & Ratagan as well as Uig & Dunvegan)
  - e) The offer of Laurence Perkins to play solo bassoon with us was approved. **MJC** will contact him accepting his offer of doing a concert on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. He will be offered a fee of £200 and the profits of the concert donated to a charity of his choice.
  - f) LP has suggested various works and can provide the orchestral parts (Weber Op 35, Gounod ‘Hitchcock theme’, Hebridean selection arranged by himself).
  - g) Doubts have also been expressed about the playability of Beethoven’s 5<sup>th</sup> at the Spring concert (all or part). ‘Echoes of Ossian’ by Gade was agreed. The rest of the programme will be discussed at a later date.
- 6) Variety in Rehearsals
- a) It was unanimously agreed that, while it would be enjoyable to play non-concert music at rehearsals, the orchestra needed all the rehearsal time (8 rehearsals at most) to get the concert music to an acceptable performance standard.
- 7) Repertoire
- a) It was agreed that we do not need a more explicit policy about non-classical music, nor should we change our name. It was agreed to continue with the current policy of playing orchestral music of varying types.
- 8) Dealing with Members’ suggestions
- a) The committee will make themselves better known to the orchestra, and players encouraged to make their suggestions known to any member of the committee. For non-standard / more recent works any suggestions of music should include where to get the music from.
- 9) Setting up an SLO Online Forum
- a) The committee did not feel there was a need for one. The orchestra meets every 2 weeks and, as in 8 above, players should be encouraged to take suggestions / discussion points to members of the committee.
- 10) Future rehearsals
- a) Ways of improving the effectiveness of rehearsals was discussed. **JB** is to speak to Rick about some of the points raised.

Date of next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August – **MJC** to organise.