

Skye and Lochalsh Orchestra
Minutes of the Committee Meeting,
18-5-14

Present: John Hockett, Chris Manvell, Sam Nicolson, Bar Purser, Wendy Riva,
(Maggie Manvell - minutes)

Apologies: Ilona Morison, Iain Roden.

Minutes of previous meeting: Approved

Spring Concert - Reflections

- Prices were too high and were based on normal SEALL prices, which are usually for professional concerts. Decided next concert charge to be £5, with concession for children, and this to be put on advertising.
- It was good to have gone to the pub after the concert, where everyone was able to 'wind down'.
- Some orchestra members were displeased at the cost for Laurence as a professional. It was agreed that the orchestra members should have been informed or consulted about this.
- Orchestra members could be invited or volunteer to play solo pieces with or without the orchestra in future.

Dress:

- Decided to keep the black. Agreed that black looks professional / encourages a good standard / is easy for most people / does not detract from the music.
- Old sweatshirts to be taken to a charity shop.

Dennis Briggs' Will:

Dennis generously left the orchestra his baby grand piano and double bass. It is understood that they are presently housed at Aros. Ilona has written to Aros with proof of this from the executor, Duncan Martin. A reply is awaited.

Banking:

- RBS are still sending statements to the previous treasurer and this is being addressed.
- John agreed to be the third signatory.

Website and Facebook:

- Two summaries of committee meetings and AGM have been put on the web.

- Decided, for transparency, to put links to entire minutes, as PDF files, on the website.
- Also to be sent as e-mail attachments to members.
- Links to be put on Facebook page.
- The Facebook page seems to be going well - to be continued.

Autumn Session:

- Rehearsals to begin on 30th August and continue fortnightly, starting 6th September, until Nov when there will be extra ones.
- Acknowledged a problem with some players turning up for the concert with very little rehearsal attendance. There was some consultation about an expectation of a minimum attendance, (except for invited 'experts') but this would be difficult to enforce.
- Concert: Sunday 7th Dec approx 4pm at Fingal Centre.
- Percentage of concert takings, and donations, to local MacMillan Nurses and Highland Hospice, in memory of Brian.
- Programme to be that suggested by Iain on 'Dance' theme.
- One item to be performed along with the schools orchestra. Iain and Jenny to be asked about this.
- Wind group / string quartet items could be fitted in if space in programme.
- No carols.

Open Day and Publicity:

- It was decided not to go ahead with an 'open day'.
- A publicity drive to go ahead, with advertising - in WHFP and using posters where possible - ,giving dates of earlier rehearsals and an invitation to attend. Especially violins.

Instruments known to be owned by SLO:

- Piano and double bass (presently at Aros); small cymbals; triangle; timps (presently with Judith Bullivant) ; tam tam (currently with James Merryweather).
- The cymbals actually belong to Maryon Gardiner, but may be kept by SLO and a donation (£30) to be given to Maryon's daughter's charity in S America, Project Ecuador - www.projectecuador.co.uk.
- The value of the piano is unknown, but since SLO has no storage or means of transport, it was suggested that it could be sold and the money used to buy a keyboard and sound system.
- Someone is willing to collect the double bass and practise and play it for next session.

Procedures and job descriptions:

It had been agreed at the previous meeting that procedures and job descriptions were necessary to enable the smooth running of the committee and orchestra. This now in hand but several still need to be identified, written and put on computer e.g. running the library and booking halls - with phone numbers - as well as procedures for concerts / refreshments / tickets, etc.

AOCB:

Iain to be asked to teach us some 'concert etiquette' (standing / bowing / entering / leaving, etc.).

No date was agreed for the next meeting.

Approved. Chairman: _____

Date: _____