

MINUTES OF THE SLO COMMITTEE MEETING

27 FEB 2016

1. Present: John Hockett, Ilona Morison, Laura Grisi, Satsuki Barnes, Meg Rosher, Bar Purser and Iain Roden
2. Rehearsal and concert dates were discussed. Suggested rehearsal dates were 20 and 27 August, 10 and 24 Sept, 8, 21 and 29 October, 5 and 19 Nov and 3 Dec. (Since the meeting, it was agreed the October dates would be the 1st, 15th and 29th). The Christmas concert will be on 10 December. Iain will be away for part of November, but will be back for the rehearsal on 3 Dec.
- 2.1 8 April was discussed as a possible date for the spring concert. Bar said she would check the school holiday dates. (Since the meeting, since the school holiday conflicts with that date, 1st April has been suggested). Iain expressed the hope that the Cormacks would be able to join us for that concert. The possibility of using the Kyle hall was raised.
- 3 Laura said we were paying for the use of the halls until 1.30, thus paying for time we were not using. She suggested that we book only until 1.00 to save money. Ilona said that the money involved was very little, and we wouldn't be covered for meetings if we changed the times. The cost of the two rooms in the Broadford hall are the same, so it was suggested we move back down to the larger hall.
- 4 Reporting on rehearsal progress generally for this forthcoming concert, Iain observed that it now remained to be seen whether the orchestra was able to play all of the Strauss given the limited rehearsal time available. It was agreed that it might be prudent to warm up next time with something such as the Egmont – with which the orchestra was familiar, and for which parts were already available – in case a further item was needed at short notice. (Since the meeting, Iain reports that he has identified and discussed with Chris a possible cut to the last movement of the Strauss, which, if necessary, would avoid the bulk of the difficult passages, but retain a musically satisfying ending, but also leave enough material to avoid the need for an extra item).
- 4.1 Iain also said that maybe the violins could sometimes rehearse on their own while the tea is being made.
- 4.2 Iain said Janice and Iain (double bass) will not be at rehearsals again until the day of the concert. Next year we hope to have a woman named Helen playing bass because Iain doesn't want to do it anymore after this concert.

- 5 Next season's concert programme was discussed, and the pros and cons of asking members for suggestions at the AGM. Chris Watkiss's choir will be joining us for the Christmas concert, and Iain is hoping to do the Halleluiah chorus from the Messiah. He also suggested Johan Strauss's Tritsch Tratsch Polka and the Prelude, Mazurka and Swanhilda's Waltz from Delibe's Coppelia. Iain has written a medley of carols, which he played for us, and Chris Watkiss's choir will sing a verse from "Once in Royal David's City" from the upper hall. Bar suggested "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring."
 - 5.1 Iain also suggested other items – Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance #4, the Can-Can encore from Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld, Sibelius's Finlandia and the last two movements of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. He also mentioned the Whitney arrangement of American in Paris, the parts of which would cost approximately £60. Laura suggested Dvorak Slavonic Dances and Bar suggested Brahms's Variations on a Theme by Haydn.
 - 5.2 Iain has three suggestions for our main work for the spring concert – Beethoven 5 (his overall preference), Dvorak 8 and Haydn 104. The pros and cons of these were discussed.
 - 5.3 Laura said it would be helpful if members could get some of the music for next season ahead to practise over the summer. She also said that the Free Press hadn't mentioned our concert in the What's On page for March, but hoped that it would be put in the next issue.
 6. Iain asked if a member of the committee would take charge of finding parts, perhaps through the library lending scheme in Portree. Ilona said she would check with the library in Edinburgh. The Mitchell Library and Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow were also mentioned.
 7. It is generally agreed that £10 previously charged at Sabhal mor Ostaig was excessive. It will be brought down for this spring concert. (Since the meeting £8 has been agreed for adults, £6 for SMO students and £4 for children).
 8. The meeting ended in a hurry when we realised it was after 2pm!
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