



ARTISTIC EVALUATION

This evaluation is intended to represent an objective aesthetic judgement. **Specialist advisors and officers should avoid making judgements based on their own personal tastes and preferences wherever possible.**

Artist/Company: Scottish Music Centre

Venue: SMIC and telephone conversation.

Title of Event:

Type of Event:

Date of Visit: 11/2/10

Overall Rating:

(Please rate the event overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – i.e. the particular strengths and weaknesses. If the management of the event affects the overall enjoyment of the event, please comment, but the overall rating should be based on the artistic merit of the event.)

Very good

Name: Richard Michael

Date: 17/2/10

Scottish Arts Council Officer/**Specialist Advisor**

This report has been commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to evaluate the artistic quality of the production named above. It has been prepared by either a specialist Advisor, or an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated on the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work and to the management of the venue, if the venue is core funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

The report will form evidence for the Artistic Leadership and Public Engagement sections of the Quality Framework and be taken into account in assessing the work of the producing company in relation to future applications for funding to the Scottish Arts Council. It may also be used by the Joint Board to report on the overall performance of its funded organisations.

Evaluators should enter their rating under each section, explaining briefly their reason for the rating with reference to their comments under each section. Ratings should be given in accordance with the following:

Very poor- standard falls well below what is acceptable.

Poor - not well conceived and executed

Satisfactory

Good - well conceived and executed

Very Good – well conceived and executed to a very good standard

Excellent – Inspiring and executed to an exceptionally high standard

(My comments are based on a personal visit to the Centre, a follow up conversation and email correspondence. My report does not fit into the conventional SAC form, and is therefore presented as below)

I visited the Scottish Music Centre on 11 Feb as a freelance composer and pianist, interested in finding out the benefits of membership (£10 a month) and to discover what the SMC could do to publicise my published scores and CD.

Keith Beattie with whom I have chatted before, met me and gave an overall picture of the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Keith was honest in saying that I needed to speak to Jamie Gilmour who had the relevant information about membership benefits, and that I should phone him at the earliest opportunity.

In conversation Keith made reference to the keyboard and composition workshops he delivers to local students at the weekend. As this is an area of interest to me (a mac user, who spends a lot of time delivering inset sessions to music teachers on the use of IT in the classroom) I asked to see the facilities and to find out more about the courses delivered at the Centre.

The IT room is equipped with macs, good quality keyboards, amps and speakers. The software used (Garage Band and Logic) is state of the art, and I was impressed by Keith's knowledge and enthusiasm. Care and consideration has gone into the layout of the room which although full of equipment, has an uncluttered feel to it. The ex-teacher in me recognised a first class resource staffed by an individual who would make full use of it!

Keith also explained the other functions of the Centre in holding archives of Scottish musicians, musical events, and publications etc, which are available for the public to examine at any time.

I followed up the visit with a telephone call to Jamie Gilmour on Mon 15 Feb to further my knowledge as to the benefits of membership to the SMC.

Jamie advised me that although the SMC held six of my scores, they could only be sold to the public, if I was a member.

He also pointed out the networking facilities available to me – and I found out that had I had been a member, I would have had notice about a part time job that would have been of interest to me. The closing date was last Friday!

A clear benefit to composers such as myself, are the copying and binding facilities available at the Centre. Members are given a discount and are also encouraged to use the Centre as a meeting place to discuss their works, commissions and performances with interested parties.

The layout of the "social" area is welcoming, with tables and chairs set out in an informal way to encourage dialogue, and all the facilities of the Centre are available as and when they are needed.

As advised by the SAC, I visited the Centre as a freelance musician checking out the facilities to see if membership would be beneficial to me, and other musicians in my situation.

The fact that I am seriously considering taking out membership is an indication of how impressive I found the organisation. I was treated with courtesy, my views were listened to and I am in no doubt that the SMC is an invaluable resource to the music scene in Scotland.

The SMC might consider the following –

- (a) having degrees of membership i.e. pupil/student**
- (b) expanding the workshops by bringing in visiting musicians**
- (c) give presentations in all main musical institutions about the work of the SMC**