



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – MUSIC

Organisation/Venue: St Magnus Festival/St Margaret's Church/South Ronaldsay

Type of Event: Concert Performance

Title of Event: The Whistlebinkies & the Limbe Choir (Malawi)

Date of Visit: 20/6/06

Overall Rating (Please rate the production 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. NB: for multiple performances or festivals, or if you prefer please feel free to use headings for a more extensive commentary. Please note the artistic assessment according to the rating detailed below)

4

Name:___ Ian Smith_____ Date: __2 / __8 / __06__

Advisor Scottish Arts Council Officer *Please circle the relevant title*

This report has been commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to evaluate the artistic quality of the production named below. It has been prepared by either a specialist Advisor, or an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated at the end of 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 may be made available to Scottish Arts Council Officers, Council and Committee members, and specialist advisors as appropriate. It will be taken into account in assessing the work of the producing company in relation to applications for funding to the Scottish Arts Council. It may also be used by the Council to report on the overall performance of its Core 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:

- 1-Very Poor** – standard falls well below what is acceptable.
- 2-Poor** – not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation.
- 3-Competent** – routine rather than especially interesting.
- 4-Good** – well conceived and executed
- 5-Excellent** – conceived and executed to a high standard.

1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, taking account of the following:

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Quality of production – was the event successful overall in relation to any stated aims (e.g. in the programme or other printed material)	4	This was an interesting collaboration arising from festival director, Glenys Hughes' sabbatical in Malawi.
Vision and imagination	5	This was a visionary pairing as Eddie McGuire is the ideal catalyst to bring these two entirely different ensembles together and to utilise his own creative professionalism and expertise to combine forces in inspiring performance.
Performers – where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments	5	Despite the fact that the Limbe Choir are amateur, their faith inspires them to perform beyond their technical abilities and equally motivate and move their audience and fellow performers.
Quality of Presentation – was the professionally presented from a technical point of view	5	Malawian dance and rhythm pervaded this performance with great effect.
Audience – assess the appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	5	Many audience members, including many festival regulars, cited this performance as inspirational.
Educational Value – comment where appropriate	4	The choir had held education workshops throughout Orkney, but this was a performance.

2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and the venue, with reference to the checklist below, including additional comments/observations.

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Suitability of the venue for the event	4	Churches vary in their suitability for live performance. The main discomfort was simply due to the capacity audience, but the venue worked extremely well for this event.
Information/ interpretive material at venue ¹	4	Appropriate and informative.
Publicity/ pre-publicity ²	5	Excellent, including the web site.
Ease of booking and payment	4	
Location of venue	5	A short journey from Kirkwall, but transport was provided for all ticket holders.
External signage and signposting	5	Transport is provided to all venues outside Kirkwall and this seems to be a feature for regular attendees.
Internal directional signage	4	
Access and provision for disabled people	3	Only because of the type of venue, but no-one was prevented from accessing this event.
Timing of the event	5	
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g., box office, front of house and bar/catering)	5	Festivals such as St Magnus would simply not operate without a huge number of volunteers. This enhances the community aspect of the event, which already exceeds all reasonable expectations in this regard.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council funding ³	4	

¹ These include programmes, displays etc., including the range, quality and clarity.

² Publicity/pre-publicity (leaflets, posters, etc), including the range, content, and when and where available. Be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event. Also view and comment on the company's website where one is advertised, commenting on the ease of use, and quality of content and presentation, and currency of information

³ The following is an extract from the Scottish Arts Council's conditions of grant for funded organisations:

"The company should acknowledge Scottish Arts Council funding in press releases, at launches, on all published materials (including leaflets, brochures, programmes, posters, notices display, exhibition materials, websites and advertising). Acknowledgement of the Scottish Arts Council grant must also be made in any secondary or indirect products arising from the revenue funding such as recordings, publications, video, broadcasts, computer programmes etc."

Please comment on whether these conditions of grant were met, including use and prominence of the Scottish Arts Council logo on the company's website.