



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – MUSIC

Organisation/Venue: Female Voices from the National Youth Choir of Scotland, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Title of Event: Performance of Debussy *La Damoiselle Éluë*

Type of Event: Concert with the SSO, conducted by Ilan Volkov.

Date of Visit: 28 September 2004

Overall Rating

Rating: 5. This was a professional and confident performance by a well-drilled choir.

Name: **Iain MacInnes** Date: 7 October 2004

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)	5	NYCOS female voices played a relatively small but impressive part in a larger concert programme which included Kurtàg and Debussy's <i>Images</i> . The choir performed with the BBC SSO and mezzo-soprano Christine Rice, and the concert was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. The choir's contribution was excellent.
Vision and imagination	4	This was a challenging but imaginative concert programme (the SSO's opening concert of the season). The choir performed Debussy's cantata <i>La Damoiselle Éluë</i> .
Performers – where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments	5	The choir of 36 members performed confidently, with good pitching, cohesion and diction (in French). This was a first-rate contribution to a professionally-managed event. The choir worked well with Ilan Volkov and the SSO.
Quality of Presentation – was the professionally presented from a technical point of view	4	Yes. The choir looked good on stage.
Audience – assess the appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	4	This was a challenging programme (especially the Kurtàg), well-received by an audience of c 500.
Educational Value – comment where appropriate		

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	5	Excellent. Large stage at the GRCO.
Information/ interpretive material at venue ¹	5	Song text and translation were printed in the complimentary programme booklet (provided by the BBC), together with a programme note by Conrad Wilson.
Publicity/ pre-publicity ²	4	Good. BBC coverage and publicity, plus favourable reviews in national newspapers.
Ease of booking and payment	5	GRCH box office and BBC SSO office.
Location of venue	5	
External signage and signposting	5	
Internal directional signage	5	
Access and provision for disabled people	5	
Timing of the event	4	
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g., box office, front of house and bar/catering)	5	
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council funding ³	3	Not in concert programme (being a BBC event), but acknowledged on web site.

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.