



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – MUSIC

Organisation/Venue: **SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE**

Title of Event: **score 2006 - a day for everyone interested in new music**

Type of Event: **CONCERT**

Date of Visit: **21/01/06**

Overall Rating 3 / 4 (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)

Concert – rating 3

I enjoyed the performance. I was a little disappointed in some of the playing but this was made more apparent by the acoustics of the space.

The repertoire was varied interesting - especially the Martland – Crossing the Border.

For young composers attending the day workshops I would give an overall rating of 4.

Name: Dee Isaacs

Date: 24/01/06

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.

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Please circle the relevant title

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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	Good performers and presentation Although I did not attend the workshops held through the day I spoke with composers who had attended the day and with James MacMillan and John Woolrich Everyone had found the sessions stimulating.
Vision and imagination	3	The ensemble could look at other spaces within CCA to perform . The building itself lends to more experimental programming.
Performers – where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments	4	Some of the performers in the ensemble were excellent but this strength was not carried through to all sections.
Quality of Presentation – was the professionally presented from a technical point of view	4	Well presented -
Audience – assess the appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	3	An audience of approximately 80 people. Mixed reaction. I felt those who had attended the day's events probably found the concert more rewarding .
Educational Value – comment where appropriate	4	An exciting event for young composers – and good exposure for the 3 collaborative partnerships – CCA , spnm and Scottish Ensemble

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	2	The acoustics of the space at CCA (which is used primarily for recording) proved to be problematic especially for the piano and lower strings. The technician had suggested some enhancement but the ensemble did not agree. I felt this was a shame as the gallery was so unforgiving. Perhaps other spaces in the CCA could be explored – even the foyer and balcony areas would make an interesting performance arena.
Information/ interpretive material at venue ¹	3	Pre concert talk by Sandy Burnett, instead of programme notes was not entirely successful – too much information at once. Perhaps it would be better to speak before each piece.
Publicity/ pre-publicity ²	4	
Ease of booking and payment	5	
Location of venue	5	
External signage and signposting	5	
Internal directional signage	5	
Access and provision for disabled people	4	
Timing of the event	5	The concert was short without interval which seemed appropriate for the repertoire and in relation to a full day of workshops
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	4	Funders were acknowledged on 2 nd page of the programme.

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.