



Cultural Olympiad Commission

Making Music Eastern is considering commissioning a choral work for SATB and children's choir to be performed in various parts of the region in the period January – July 2012 as part of the Cultural Olympiad celebrations. We already have expressions of interest from twelve choral groups in the region in performing a specially commissioned new work as part of their programme for that year. However we would like to increase this number because the larger the number of performances we can offer the more likely we are to be able to get funding. At this stage we are not asking for firm commitments but expressions of interest. Groups expressing such interest would then be consulted as we prepare the brief for the composer so enabling them to have an input to the form of the work. MME will seek funding for the commission and the cost to participants will be modest. Costs of performance would be borne by the participants as part of their normal programme but will be kept as low as possible. MME may try to organize a massed performance in July 2012 for which funding will be sought. To help your group decide whether this is something you would like to take part in, here is a summary of our thinking at the moment.

What will the work be like? A piece for SATB and children's choir, not more than 30 min. long; accompanied by keyboard/ piano/organ and simple percussion; not more than one soloist or none at all; a secular text.

Who can perform it? Any Making Music vocal group, in conjunction with other member or non-member groups if you wish, and a children's choir.

When and where can it be performed? In the period Jan – July 2012 either as part of a larger concert programme, or as a single item short performance, or as part of a community festival, indoors or outdoors, it's up to each group really.

How much will it cost us? MME will seek external funding for the commission, put in some funding from its reserves and ask each group for a modest contribution probably based on the size of the group. There will also be the cost of producing the scores. You will have to bear the cost of the performance.

Who will the composer be? We don't know yet, we can't approach anyone until we know there are sufficient groups interested. But we will choose a composer with a good 'track record' of working with amateur groups.

How difficult will the work be? It is our intention that the work will be accessible to all and we particularly hope that community choirs will perform it. Groups that express interest in the proposal will have a chance to make an input into the brief to the composer. We also plan for the groups to meet with the composer during the composition period to 'try out' sections of the work.

What other help will we get? Groups that take part will be invited to a marketing

seminar and also one or more workshop days to try out the work. The costs of these will be met by MME but you will have to meet your own transport costs. The location of the meetings will be arranged to suit the location of the participating groups.

Where will the massed performance be held? It depends on the location of the groups and the size of the venue that we need. MME will make all the arrangements and meet the costs.

Will the commission definitely go ahead? Possibly not. Firstly we need enough groups to express interest; secondly we need to find the funding. We need at least 15 groups to express interest at this stage.

When will our group have to make a firm commitment? We expect it to be in summer 2010. By that time we will have appointed the composer, heard his/her outline plans, secured the funding and prepared a full budget. Groups will then be invited to make a commitment by making a first payment toward the costs or to withdraw from taking part.

What do we do now? Bring this document to the attention of your Musical Director and committee. If you are interested in the possibility of taking part complete the register of interest form commission.doc and return it, by email with the subject Commission, to Marian Davidson mdavid@waitrose.com

If you have any queries email Marian or phone 01480 411337.

Please return as soon as possible and not later than 15th Jan 2010