

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

STEINWAY PIANOS

BACKGROUND

Angus Council, Services to Communities (S2C) has been asked to audit the piano provision across facilities, specifically the Steinway provision within the Webster Memorial Theatre (WMT). This has come about due to the current condition of the concert piano at the WMT following the refurbishment of the WMT and the storage of the piano during that period.

It seems that the current Steinway is no longer able to provide the service required during concert performances at the WMT and a means of replacing this instrument has been investigated, including trading in this piano along with two other Steinways identified within other S2C facilities.

As a means of identifying suitable funding to provide S2C with an instrument capable of meeting the needs of the WMT and other facilities, Steinway were asked to complete an audit of the three pianos in our ownership, as well as giving an indication of the cost for replacing the piano at the WMT on a like for like basis. This information and valuation from Steinway is detailed below:-

WMT	Steinway B Grand	part exchange value	£12,000
Arbroath Community Centre	Steinway Model C circa 1884	part exchange value	£6,500
Montrose Town Hall	Steinway D Grand	part exchange value	£17,500

**Total value £36,000**

The full retail price of a new Steinway suitable for use at the WMT is £75,750 with a performance venue saving of £9,090 leaving an outstanding balance of £66,660. Alternatives have been investigated including:-

- new Kawai Grand (Model GX-6) at a price of £17,208 plus VAT
- new Grotian-Steinweg Grand (Model Studio 208) at a price of £25,952 plus VAT

If these instruments could be provided including the trade-in above then either of the instruments is within budget.

The instrument at Montrose Town Hall was an anonymous gift to the Council in 1965 valued then at £2,500 and S2C have contacted solicitors (see [Appendix](#)) concerned with that gift to try and identify the donor in order to contact them regarding the disposal of the gift.

The response from Scott Alexander, Solicitors indicates that it will be “absolutely impossible to establish who the anonymous donor was and accordingly I would suggest that you merely dispose of the piano as suits the Council”.

It is proposed to proceed with a replacement utilising the three trade-in values for the Steinways in order that a new Grotian-Steinweg can be purchased.

Contact for further information:

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