

Singer, Songwriter and Performer Club

Club Report 28.01.2022

Club name

Singer, Songwriter and Performer Club (SSP Club)

Club outline

The Singer, Songwriter and Performer club is a platform to connect EMBL musicians. It organises virtual and live music events like the Winter Concert, which featured 31 songs performed by 40 musicians and collected 2650,81 Euros Whisper's Children's hospital charity. The club also organises and offers classes/training in audio engineering, recording and music theory and provides musical entertainment for EMBL events. A main focus of the club is the administration of the EMBL band room container which gives EMBL staff an essential place to practice, perform and connect. The investment into the band room are long term investments for future EMBL musicians.

The Singer, Songwriter and Performer club was founded in 2019 and is based in Heidelberg. It now consists of active members (**33 EMBL members, 4 EMBL alumni and 10 external**) as well as 41 passive members who are sometimes joining the club activities (e.g. one time participants in the Winter Concert; please note that we do not count the EMBL Choir or staff from other outstations which can participate in the winter concert).

Activities

Band room

EMBL staff can use the band room during breaks or in the evenings or weekends. It is used for band practices or when an instrument cannot be played in an apartment because of noise constraints or if the EMBL musician does not own or has the space for gear (e.g. drum set, e-Piano, band practice).

The room contains basic equipment for common use and is ready to play as long as you bring your instrument. This includes

- Drum set
- E-Piano
- PA
- Mixer (with recording capabilities)
- Very basic vocal microphones (from photolab)
- Very basic guitar amplifiers
- Music stands
- Mic stands
- Cables

for common use.

Band room is **regularly** used **2-8 times** per week by either bands in the evening or single musicians or duos playing during lunch break or in the afternoon. The usage varies depending on need for preparations of events, time of the year and EMBL campus health and safety restrictions (people on site).

Activities

All organised activities were online which include:

- Winter Concert (31 Songs performed by > 40 musicians, 1024 views, 2650,81 Euros collected for Whisper's Children's hospital).
- Mental Health Awareness Concert (404 views, 4 musicians)
- Live stream concerts for 5 EMBL/EMBO conferences (online)
- History, folklore, and musical structures of Irish traditional music (online)
- How to record and stream music videos (online)
- Live Stream Concert (online)
- Meet and Connect (online)
- Reverb and Delay (online)
- Introduction to the new digital mixer (online)

Future plan for the band room

The band room is well equipped and regularly used. The equipment is an investment for the future and will be there for literally decades for future EMBL musicians.

There are two major and two minor points which would be highly recommended to be addressed. Firstly, the current **guitar amps** are just extremely underwhelming and not practical in a live situation. Guitar amps are too heavy to be brought by private users and as it is common space, it would be a good investment to get a proper amp. Secondly, the club currently does not own a **bass guitar amp**, private equipment is currently in the room which can be used, but will potentially be removed in the next years. Thirdly, **amp mics** and better **vocal mics** would complete the equipment.

We therefore propose getting a proper guitar amp 2022 and a bass amp 2023 and get mics when there is money available (end of the year?).

Expected costs for 2022

We would like to have a buffer of (at least) 180 Euro for cable replacements, repairs and maintenance.

As mentioned, we would like to equip the band room with a proper guitar amp in 2022, here are 3 options with a brief explanation:

Option 1: Guitar Amp: Fender Tone Master Twin Reverb : 924 Euros → **1104 Euro**

Great option, Long Life - hardly any maintenance - will last for 20 years+

Option 2: Hugh&Kettner Tube Amp for 720 Euros (second hand) → **900 Euro**

Great option, a bit harder to maintain (it contains tubes which eventually will need replacements) - will last for 20 years+

Option 3: Fender GTX100: Euro 411 → **591 Euro**

Good option

Planned activities for 2022

Band room

We expect the Band room to be used extensively when the pandemic settles, and a moderate but regular use in between.

Events

Following events will be planned if Corona lets us:

- Winter Concert (online or live)
- Summer Fest Concert
 - Small version from 2 hours concert to big one up to 6 hours of musical entertainment
- Mental Health Concert (online)
- Supporting Course and Conference Offices for > 5 Courses or Conferences
- Regular Jam Sessions in the band room (small groups)
- Online Training Events (Music theory)
- On site training on Mixer and how to play in a band

Organising Committee

Can be contacted via sspclub-orga@embl.de

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Member list

- <https://doodle.com/poll/wcsc8ac2qfc2ke72>