Members Handbook

Terms and Conditions of Membership of the Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra ("WSO")

Introduction: The Committee of the WSO reserves the right to make alterations to this document but a substantive or wholesale change will require the Committee to consult the members.

A. Membership Criteria

Membership is open to anyone over 16 years of age provided a suitable vacancy exists and subject to a maximum trial period of five weeks with the orchestra (during which no membership rights arise).

During the trial period prospective members will be assessed on their musical ability by the Conductor or Leader as appropriate in conjunction with any section leader.

The Committee has the power to refuse to accept any player who in the opinion of any of the Conductor or Leader or section leader is not of sufficiently high playing standard.

Following any successful trial, Members of the WSO are those orchestral players who have paid the periodic subscriptions at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined and announced by the Committee.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Conductor, Leader and any "extra players" or occasional tutors are not deemed to be members.

B. Membership – general rules

Subscription

Subscription rates (and manner of payment) shall be determined by the Committee and are payable no later than five weeks into any terms. The Committee shall be entitled to propose additional charges for any public events that require extraordinary expense but shall propose such charges in advance giving at least one term's notice. The Treasurer shall maintain a register of subscriptions paid.

Consistent failure to pay any subscriptions without good cause may result in termination of membership.

The Committee has the power to allow an individual member to pay a reduced subscription on grounds of hardship.

GDPR

On becoming a member, the member consents to the Player and Operations Manager maintaining personal data about them which shall be limited to full name, address and contact details. By joining, the member consents to this use of personal data for the purposes of any GDPR legislation that may be in force from time to time

Voting

Members are entitled to vote at the AGM, SGM and other general meetings provided they have, in the opinion of the Committee, regularly attended rehearsals and have paid in full all subscriptions due. All members have equal voting rights.

Termination

Members shall be entitled to terminate their membership by writing to the Player and Operations Manager.

Via a written request to the Player and Operations Manager and Chair any player may request a temporary absence from the orchestra which shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to replace the member either temporarily or permanently depending on individual circumstances.

In addition to the failure to consistently pay subscription fees mentioned above, the Committee has a general power to terminate the membership of any individual, provided that the decision of the Committee is unanimous both as to the termination and as to there being good reason for it. If the individual concerned is a member of the Committee or is a Committee member making or connected with the complaint against the individual they shall be excluded from any Committee discussion or decision. The individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Committee, accompanied by a friend if desired, before a final decision is made. In particular, if in the opinion of the Committee any member has conducted themselves in a manner detrimental to the interests of the orchestra, they shall be given an oral warning and their membership will be terminated subsequently if the offence is repeated or a further offence is committed.

C. General expectations of any members

Members are expected to

a) support the aims and objectives of the orchestra and comply with any policies set by the Committee that may be in force from time to time.

b) be as punctual as possible and in regular attendance at rehearsals and concerts and should send apologies for any absence to the Player and Operations Manager and their section leader. Regular attendance at rehearsals is attending at least 7 out of the 10 rehearsals per term unless

(i) any player is not required to attend according to the rehearsal schedule or is not required to attend as a result of any change to that schedule

(ii) attending fewer rehearsals has been agreed with their section leader and the Conductor in advance.

The Committee may limit participation in concerts to those who have attended a sufficient number of rehearsals.

All players must be available for the afternoon concert day rehearsal and should any player not be available then participation in the concert will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and with the explicit agreement of the Player and Operations Manager (who will consult with the Conductor on such a decision).

c) take good care of parts and ensure that they are returned to the hire librarian when requested. The Committee reserves the right to charge members the full cost of replacing any lost, damaged or defaced music borrowed by them.

d) assist in the running of the orchestra by, for example, selling tickets or programmes, serving refreshments, or preparing a venue for rehearsal or concert and restoring it to its previous condition afterwards.

e) reply promptly to requests from any Committee member in particular requests from the Orchestra Player and Operations Manager.