

ESSEX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

RULES

1. Title

The name of the Society shall be the Essex Symphony Orchestra.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Society shall be to advance the education of the public in the arts and in particular the study, practice and performance of orchestral music.

In furtherance of the above objective, but not further or otherwise, the Society shall have the following powers:

to raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons, provided that the Society shall not engage in any permanent trading activities in raising funds for the said objectives, and to do all such lawful things as shall be necessary to the attainment of the above objectives.

3. Management

The aims of the Society shall be invested in a General Committee.

The General Committee shall consist of four Officers, a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, plus not less than four Members of the Society, all being elected by Members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting.

A quorum for the General Committee Meetings shall be 5 Members of the Committee.

The Officers and Members of the General Committee are elected to serve for one year. They can be re-elected to serve for another term by agreement of the Members at the AGM. There is no maximum term that an Officer or Committee Member can serve on the committee.

Nominations for Officers and Committee members should be received by the Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the AGM.

Where more than one nomination is received a ballot will take place at the AGM.

With the exception of non-Member Officers, Nominees shall have been members of the Society for not less than one year.

The General Committee shall contract as required, preferably after consultation with the Society's Members, a Conductor and a Leader.

All arrangements and management of rehearsals and concerts, and control of expenditure and finance shall be the sole responsibility of the General Committee. Committee Members shall be authorised to spend up to £500 in the furtherance of their duties provided any action is reported to the General Committee.

4. Membership

Each new member shall agree to abide by the rules of the Society and will be required to pay a subscription as laid down in Section 5.

The first term of attendance for a new member shall be provisional, to allow mutual consideration by the individual and the Society. The subscription for provisional membership is specified in Section 5.

Membership is in all cases at the discretion of the General Committee, including new membership and termination of existing membership.

The General Committee shall have the power to allow persons to join the Society who are non-subscription paying Members and as such will have no voting power and shall not be eligible for nomination to the committee.

5. Subscriptions

The annual subscription paid by Members shall be fixed by the General Committee.

There shall be no subscription due for the first term of provisional membership for a new member.

All new members joining after the beginning of the season shall pay pro-rata.

Student Members, defined as those in full-time education or apprenticeship, shall pay a reduced subscription.

The General Committee shall be empowered to reduce the subscription payable by those members who have not had the opportunity to be in full-time attendance of rehearsals and concerts.

In consideration of a member's personal circumstances, the General Committee shall have the power, entirely at their discretion, to reduce that individual's subscription by any amount from 0% to 100%.

Other than the exceptions described above, subscriptions shall be payable to the Treasurer at the beginning of the season. With the agreement of the Treasurer payments may be made by instalments and may be made electronically.

6. Attendance

All Members will be expected to be in regular attendance at rehearsals and concerts throughout the season, and should advise any Committee Member of illness or other cause which may prevent attendance.

Members take part in any one concert by invitation of the General Committee. The General Committee is empowered to control the number of players in any one concert.

Members shall be responsible for the safe return of parts taken away for practice.

7. Finance

A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Society and all

cheques or electronic payments should be signed or electronically authorized by two Members of the General Committee.

The Society may receive donations, grants in aid or financial guarantees for general expenditure and promotion of concerts.

The income and property of the Society, however derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the Society, defined in Section 2 of the Rules.

In the event of the Society being wound up or dissolved from any cause, all assets of the Society shall be realised and transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objectives to the of the Society.

8. General meetings

Annual (AGM)

All Members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting during each season, notice being given to the Membership by the General Committee at least 21 days before the proposed date of the meeting.

The purpose of the AGM is:

- to receive the Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports,
- to receive and adopt audited Financial Accounts,
- to elect a President, Vice-Presidents, Officers and Members of the General Committee for the subsequent season,
- to review the programme for the subsequent season
- and to discuss any other relevant business placed on the agenda by the General Committee.

Any motion Members wish to have discussed at the AGM must be proposed and seconded by any Members and notified to the Secretary at least seven days before the date of the AGM.

The General Committee shall have the power to invite non-voting

Members and non-voting guests to the AGM.

Extraordinary (EGM)

An Extraordinary General meeting can be called by the General Committee or by a minimum of two Members of the Society, who shall make their request in writing (including by email but not by other electronic methods) to the Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the proposed meeting.

At least 21 days notice of the meeting is to be given to Members of the Society.

Notifications may be made by email, but not other electronic methods.

Quorum

The quorum for an AGM or EGM shall be ten Members or 1/10 of the membership, whichever is the greater.

9. Alteration of Rules

Any alteration of the Rules must appear on the Agenda for the AGM or EGM and unless such a proposal is sponsored by the General Committee, a copy of the resolution must be sent to the Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the AGM or EGM.

Sponsors of such a resolution are required to be Members of the Society.

Alterations to the Rules must be carried by the votes of not less than two thirds of those Members present at the meeting.

No amendment may be made to Section 2 (Aims and Objectives), Section 7 (last sentence) or this Clause, without prior approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners and no amendment shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Society to cease to be a charity in law.