

Constitution of the Mawson Road Community Orchestra

1. Title

The orchestra shall be known as Mawson Road Community Orchestra (MRCO).

2. Object

2.1 To play orchestral music together; to rehearse such music for occasional performance, and to undertake any other charitable purposes as the Committee may from time to time decide.

2.2 To be inclusive of all persons wishing to join who satisfy the minimum criteria.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership of the MRCO shall be open to all persons interested in furthering the object of the MRCO.

3.2 Junior members (under 16) are welcome with an adult member who is either a parent or acts in loco parentis.

3.3 Members may be playing members or affiliate members.

3.4 For a playing member the minimum initial requirement is the ability to read a little music and the wish to play.

3.5 Playing members pay a subscription. Affiliate members do not.

3.6 Members become affiliate members when invited by the Committee at a General Meeting.

3.7 Playing members become members on:

3.7a payment of subscription,

3.7b registration via the MRCO website,

3.7c acceptance of the data protection criteria.

3.8 A member ceases to be a member when:

3.8.a he or she wishes.

3.8.b when their attendance has lapsed, their subscription is unpaid and the Committee deems it appropriate that they be removed from the membership;

3.8.c or exceptionally, the Committee has the power to terminate the membership of an individual, provided that the decision of the Committee is unanimous both as to the termination and as to there being good reason for it, and provided that the individual concerned has the right to be heard by the Committee, accompanied by a friend if desired, before a final decision is made. Except:

3.8.di if the individual concerned is a member of the Committee and

3.8.dii if any member of the Committee is connected with the member against whom the complaint is being made

3.8.diii In such cases these individuals will not be party to discussions as deemed appropriate by all other Committee members and will not be able to vote.

4. Subscriptions

4.1 Playing members pay a termly subscription.

4.2 The rates of subscription are set and reviewed from time to time by the Committee; any rise in subscription rate must be approved at a General Meeting of the MRCO.

4.3 Exceptionally, membership subscription can be waived or reduced on application to the Treasurer who will make a decision by agreement with the Committee.

5. The Committee

5.1 The Committee shall consist of playing members.

5.2 There will be a Musical Director

5.3 In the event that more than one person is willing to step up to a role, an election will be necessary. All qualifying orchestra members have one vote.

5.4 Committee members shall be accepted at a General Meeting to serve for a period of two years. Committee members shall be eligible to stand for re-election once the two years has expired.

5.5 The Committee shall consist of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and two other MRCO playing members.

5.6 The Committee shall meet at least three times a year.

5.7 Minutes of the Committee shall be signed off by the Chair and posted on the website.

5.8 A quorum of the Committee shall be three members.

5.9 In the event that a Committee member is unable to carry out their duties for some legitimate reason, the Committee can agree to co-opt another member to fulfil these duties. The co-opted member can be voted on to the Committee at the next General Meeting of the MRCO, through the normal election process.

6. Meetings

6.1 An Annual General Meeting of the full MRCO shall be held once a year. The MRCO year runs from September to August.

6.2 At least fourteen days' notice shall be given to MRCO members by the Chair before holding a General Meeting

6.3 A quorum for a a General Meeting of the MRCO shall be eight members..

6.4 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be held at the request of six playing members of the Orchestra, with at least fourteen days' notice, giving reasons for the meeting.

6.5 In all meetings agreement will be, wherever possible, reached by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote may be proposed. Voting will be by majority. If there is no majority, the Chair will have a casting vote.

7. Management

7.1 The Musical Director is responsible for the selection of music to be played and performed.

7.2 The Committee is responsible for arrangements for rehearsals and concerts.

7.3 The Committee will authorise ex-gratia payments to the Musical Director for his services. The Musical Director will not be allowed to vote on matters relating to any such payment.

7.4 The Committee, with the Treasurer, will agree other expenses and ex-gratia payments from time to time, as it sees fit.

8. Finance

8.1 The financial year runs from 1st September to 31st August

8.2 The MRCO will have a current bank account.

8.3 The Treasurer will be responsible for collecting subscriptions from members, reviewing the orchestra fixed costs, putting procedures in place for the reimbursement of expenses incurred on the MRCO's behalf and monitoring the income and expenditure of the MRCO

8.4 The Treasurer will report formally to the AGM once a year on the MRCO's accounts, presenting a balance sheet and commenting on all income and expenditure.

8.5 The Treasurer and two other members of the Committee may have access to online banking.

8.6 The Treasurer must seek the approval of the Committee for any payment in excess of £100, with the exception of the agreed cost of venue hire.

8.7 The income of the orchestra may include: subscriptions, donations, grants in aid, ex gratia payments from other organisations that hire its services, and the income from ticket sales at its own concerts, together with any interest from its bank account.

8.8. The expenditure of the orchestra is to be applied wholly towards promoting the objects of the orchestra as set out in 2 above.

9. Equal Opportunities

Membership of the MRCO is open to all who satisfy the criteria in Clauses 2 and 3 above.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at either an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting after the necessary notice has been given (see Clause 6 above).

11. Dissolution

11.1 Dissolution of the orchestra is a matter to be decided by a majority vote of members attending an Extraordinary General Meeting.

11.2 In the event of the orchestra's dissolution, after payment of outstanding debts and liabilities, any remaining assets are to be passed to some appropriate community organization or to another orchestra as determined by the membership.