

MAIDENHEAD MUSIC SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society shall be “Maidenhead Music Society”, hereinafter referred to as “the Society”.
2. The Objects of the Society shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society through its Committee shall determine from time to time and also for the general purposes of such charitable bodies and for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.
3. In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise the Committee of the Society may exercise the following powers:
 - (1) power to raise funds and to invite contributions including the sale of tickets to members of the Society and members of the public for concerts promoted by the Society and the receipt of donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees or assistance provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law.
 - (2) power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the Objects and to maintain and equip it for use.
 - (3) power subject to any consents required by law to borrow money and to charge all or part of the property of the Society with re-payment of the money so borrowed.
 - (4) power to employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Society) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the Objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation for staff and their dependants.
 - (5) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
 - (6) power to establish or support any charitable trusts associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects.
 - (7) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the committee may think fit.
 - (8) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.
4. The members of the Society shall be the Honorary Life Members and those who pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Committee and shall consist of a Chairman, Patrons, Honorary Life Members and ordinary members. All subscriptions shall be payable in advance.
5. The Chairman shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The retiring Chairman shall be eligible for re-election.
6. The payment of a Patron’s subscription shall entitle that member to such privileges as may be decided from time to time by the Committee.

7. The income and property of the Society howsoever derived shall be applied solely towards promoting the Objects of the Society as set out above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society, and in the event of the Society being wound up, any assets remaining upon dissolution, after payment of proper debts and liabilities, shall be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to those of the Society.
8. The financial year shall end on the 31st July in each year. The financial accounts for each financial year shall be *examined by an independent examiner as provided by the Charities Act 2011* and submitted to members at the next Annual General Meeting after that date.
9. Such banking accounts shall be opened in the name of the Society as the Committee shall from time to time require and cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other member of the Committee.
10. *There shall be an Annual General Meeting of members no later than four months after the end of the Society's financial year.* Fourteen days' notice of this meeting or of any Special General Meeting shall be given to all members in writing. At any General or Special General Meeting sixteen members shall form a quorum. A copy of any resolutions to be proposed at any General Meeting shall accompany the notice convening the meeting.
11. The management of the Society shall be vested in a committee consisting of the Chairman (who shall be an ex officio member and shall take the chair at all meetings of the Committee), a Secretary, a Concert Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and a Treasurer plus not less than two and not more than six other members, all of whom shall be elected by the Society in General Meeting. In the absence of the Chairman, the Committee members present shall choose one of their members as chairman of the meeting. At all Committee meetings, a quorum shall consist of five members and the Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes. Any member may call for a ballot or secret vote.
12. All Officers and one half of the other Committee members shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. The Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting, and also to co-opt any member for any special purpose.
13. These Objects and Rules shall only be altered at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting convened with due notice for that purpose by the Committee, or at the request of not less than twenty members of the Society of whom at least three quarters shall attend such a meeting. No alterations shall be made to these Objects or Rules which would cause the Society to cease to be a Charity at Law.
14. The Committee shall call a Special General Meeting for any purpose at the request of not less than twenty members of the Society of whom at least three quarters shall attend such a meeting.
15. The Society may in General Meeting appoint any person to be a President or an Honorary Life Member.

October 2004; Amended October 2017 (Item 10, italicized portion); Amended October 2019 (Item 8, italicized portion)