



## TROWBRIDGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*Registered Charity 1049949*

### MEMBERSHIP POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

This Policy is to be communicated in writing to any player wishing to join the Orchestra.

1. Players wishing to join the Orchestra are invited to contact the Orchestra Secretary or other committee member. Applications are considered by the Leader of the Orchestra, in consultation with the Conductor and the appropriate section leader.
2. If a vacancy exists, the player is invited to attend orchestral rehearsals for a probationary period.
3. After this probationary period, the Conductor and Orchestra Leader, in consultation with the section leader will make a decision as to whether to invite the player to become a full Playing Member or a Rehearsal Member (see below). The decision will be confirmed in writing by the Secretary.
4. An existing player who wishes to transfer to play a different instrument within the Orchestra is required to go through this process again. Their acceptance to play a different instrument within the Orchestra is not guaranteed.
5. The probationary period is normally three consecutive rehearsals, but may be extended in exceptional circumstances.

The Orchestra exists to provide an opportunity for amateur and semi-professional musicians to meet to rehearse and perform classical orchestral music for their enjoyment. Members of the Orchestra are therefore expected to behave in a manner which permits and encourages their fellow Members to experience this enjoyment. The following points illustrate what would constitute inappropriate behaviour, and facilitate the smooth running and efficiency of rehearsals and concerts:

1. Members are expected to attend rehearsals on a regular basis. There is no hard and fast definition of 'regular', but should the Conductor consider that attendance of a Member is causing problems with rehearsing, this could result in action by the Committee.
2. The Orchestra performs public concerts. Accordingly, Members are expected to practise their parts to an acceptable standard. String players will be expected to copy bowings into their parts when bowed parts are available.
3. If a Member is aware in advance that they will be missing a rehearsal or rehearsals they should communicate this to the Conductor. The Conductor needs to plan rehearsals and

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absence of a Member could affect this planning. It is accepted that not all absences can be communicated in advance - but if you expect to be absent it would assist the Orchestra if you would send a message via e-mail or another Orchestra member as early as possible.

4. If a Playing Member is unable to perform in any concert, they should contact the Leader and the Conductor as soon as they become aware of this. It will usually be necessary to find a replacement player. The Playing Member must contact the Orchestra to confirm that they are able to return for subsequent concerts. Failure to do this may result in the Member losing their place in the Orchestra.
5. Rude, patronising, aggressive and other inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated, and will result in action being taken by the Committee. The Orchestra has a Protection Policy for children and vulnerable adults, which is published on the Orchestra's website (copies are available on request). This Policy is subject to annual review.
6. The membership subscription is set annually and approved at the Orchestra's AGM which is normally held on the third rehearsal date of each season. Subscriptions can be paid on an annual or termly basis. The operating costs of the Orchestra can only be met if your subscription is paid promptly.

## CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- **Playing Members** of the Orchestra attend rehearsals and perform in the three public concerts held each year.
- **Rehearsal Members** only attend rehearsals.

This arrangement is designed to allow players returning to orchestral playing after a break, or those less able and confident, to participate without the pressure of performance. Regrettably, it is rarely possible for wind or brass players to be Rehearsal Members, because the structure of the music in most cases precludes the doubling of parts. String players, however, are welcome as Rehearsal Members. We hope that as their confidence grows Rehearsal Members will progress to become Playing Members.

The subscription rate is the same for both categories of membership.

*Approved March 2016*

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