

ABBEYDALE ORCHESTRA

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1 Name

The name of the society shall be ABBEYDALE ORCHESTRA, hereinafter referred to as the Orchestra.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 To maintain, develop and improve public education in and appreciation of music in all its aspects by the provision of orchestral music rehearsal and by any other means as the Committee sees fit.
- 2.2 To further any other such charitable purposes as the Committee shall think fit.

3 Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the Orchestra is open to any person who plays or learns an orchestral instrument who is interested in furthering the objects of the Orchestra and who has paid the membership subscription determined by the Committee, subject to there being a suitable vacancy and following the successful completion of a trial period. All subscriptions are payable in advance.
- 3.2 Acceptance of new members is at the discretion of the Committee, advised by the Musical Director and Leader.
- 3.3 The Committee has the power to terminate the membership of any individual provided that the decision of the Committee (with the exception of (a) the individual concerned if a member of the Committee and (b) any member of the Committee making or connected with the complaint against the individual) 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.

4 Equal Opportunities and Diversity

We are committed to treating all members with fairness, kindness and respect. No person shall be excluded from membership of the Orchestra or barred from any official or voluntary role or refused employment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender or gender expression, marital status, disability, age, religion or belief, or political affiliation.

5 Officers and Committee

- 5.1 The management of the Orchestra is in the hands of a Committee consisting of three officers – a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer – and other such members as shall be duly elected by and out of the Orchestra's members at the Annual General Meeting. They shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election. The Musical Director and Leader may join the Committee as ex-officio members although this is not obligatory.
- 5.2 The Committee shall hold at least two ordinary meetings each year. A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any two members of the Committee.
- 5.3 The Chairman chairs Committee meetings. If the Chairman is absent then the members present shall choose one of their number to chair that meeting before any other business is transacted.
- 5.4 A Committee meeting is quorate when at least one third of the members of the Committee at the time or three members of the Committee, whichever is the greater, are present.
- 5.5 Every matter shall be determined made by a majority of the votes of the Committee members present and voting on the issue. Each member has one vote; no member may vote on an issue where they have a conflict of interest. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or 'casting' vote.
- 5.6 The Committee is responsible for keeping minutes of their meetings and ensuring that these are stored safely and are available for inspection as required.
- 5.7 The Committee may make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, summoning and conduct of their meetings and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

6 Management

- 6.1 All arrangements for the provision of rehearsals and the control of finance shall be in the hands of the Committee.
- 6.2 Individual members of the Orchestra, who may or may not be members of the Committee, may be invited by the Committee to undertake particular responsibilities on a voluntary basis.

7 Finance

- 7.1 The financial year runs from 1 August to 31 July the following year.
- 7.2 The Treasurer and either the Chairman or Secretary, as determined by the Committee, shall be signatories on the account(s). Debit card payments may be made by one signatory, but a minimum of two members of the Committee must have ongoing oversight of account activity by means of mobile or online banking or printed statements.
- 7.3 The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that the Orchestra's finances remain stable and for alerting the Committee promptly to any financial problems that could arise.
- 7.4 The Treasurer keeps accurate records and each year prepares accounts of income and expenditure and a balance sheet for presentation to the Annual General Meeting. These accounts have first to be audited and examined as required by legislation or, if there is no such requirement, scrutinised by someone independent of the Committee who signs them when agreed.
- 7.5 The income and property of the Orchestra, however derived, is to be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Orchestra. No portion thereof shall be paid to any member or members of the Orchestra except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Orchestra or as a token of appreciation for exceptional service to the Orchestra as agreed by members at a General Meeting.

8 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of members shall take place each year following the end of the financial year. At least 21 days' notice of the meeting shall be given to all members. The AGM will include:

- 8.1 Receipt and approval of the accounts and balance sheet.
- 8.2 Election of Officers and Committee. Serving Officers and Committee members are eligible for re-election. Nominations for election of new Officers or Committee members must be made by members of the Orchestra in writing and must be in the hands of the Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM. Should nominations exceed vacancies then an election shall be held.

9 General Meetings

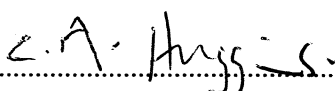
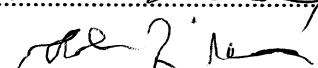
- 9.1 A Special General Meeting may be called either by the Committee or by any four members. In either case all members shall be given at least 7 days' notice in writing of the date, time and place of the meeting and the reason why it has been called.
- 9.2 At all general meetings of the Orchestra every member has one vote.
- 9.4 The Secretary or other person appointed by the Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings.
- 9.5 A General Meeting is quorate when at least 10% or 10 members of the Orchestra at the time are present, whichever is the greater.

10 Alterations to the Constitution

The Constitution may be altered by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting provided that 14 days' notice of the proposed alteration has been sent to all members.

11 Dissolution

- 11.1 Dissolution of the Orchestra must be decided by a majority vote of members at a General Meeting.
- 11.2 In the event of the Orchestra's dissolution any assets remaining after the payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred as determined by the membership to another orchestra or to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objectives to Abbeydale Orchestra.

	CHAIRMAN		SECRETARY
	TREASURER	26 March 2025	DATE