

Informal Constitution for Chamber Ensemble

The aim of this document is to suggest a modus operandi rather than to set any hard and fast rules. Most of the following ideas have been tried and proved in successful events to date.

The intention is to facilitate music making in the NTO away from the main set-piece concerts each term, and to allow smaller pieces to be rehearsed and performed, down to chamber music size. Rehearsals are on an ad hoc basis, to be kept to a minimum, and entirely separate from the main Monday sessions.

Concerts and recitals are organised to promote the public image of the main orchestra and, where feasible, for charitable causes. The orchestra committee must approve any arrangements, and may delegate detailed responsibility. Such activities will normally be self-financing.

All activities are entirely voluntary and do not form part of members' expected commitment to the main programme. Members have first refusal of places in any ensemble or chamber orchestra, but in the event of vacancies musicians will be drafted in from outside. (This has proved to be a way of attracting new members). Conducting, leading and playing solos are all open to members who wish to broaden their experience.

Any reasonable request (or pretext) for the staging of a performance would be considered. The normal basis is to establish a date, a venue and usually a cause, after which a programme and musicians can be organised.

The main object of the exercise is to have as much musical enjoyment as possible!

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