

Concessions Policy of the Addison Group of Singers

1. The object (purpose) of the Addison Group of Singers (AGS) “shall be to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals”. This is in our constitution.

2. The AGS must be run in a way that benefits the public. We need to be aware of the Charity Commission Public Benefit Guidance and take it into account when taking decisions where it is relevant.

3. Decisions are relevant where we take a decision that relates to the way in which the public will benefit and when we decide who will benefit. As an example eg limiting who can join a choir or class or who can attend a public concert. Deciding fees is such a decision as we effectively limit who can join according to income.

4. However the Board must also run the AGS so that it does not lose money.

5. Bearing both requirements in mind the Board has decided to make the following exceptional provision to those who might otherwise not be able to join.

5.1 Class and Choir fees will be waived for the under thirties but they will be asked to pay for their own music. If they wish to donate their fee they are welcome to do so. This is to help those who are at the start of their working lives and may not be able to otherwise afford to participate. On request the Board will also consider providing the music for free for an under thirty who informs a Trustee they are experiencing financial difficulties. (Decision to be taken off line by a Trustee, the Treasurer and the relevant Vice Chair or Class Trustee and reported to the next Board meeting).

5.2 Music and Class and Choir fees will be waived for those in receipt of the following benefits (on sight of benefit paperwork dated with the last three months to the chair or vice chair or treasurer – the paperwork will not be held by the AGS but it may be asked for again annually) :

- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Support
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

7. Exceptionally the board may use its discretion to provide a long-standing member (2 years or more) free or reduced rates on request or as a thank you for exceptional voluntary service.
6. The names/initials and numbers of those receiving free or reduced rates will be provided to the board confidentially termly. If the numbers receiving free membership grow to one tenth of any class or choir the Board will review this policy to ensure the choir/class remains financially viable.
- 7) This policy will be viewed annually or more often as required.

Date approved 23 January 2024