

13 The fees for acting and non-acting members, in respect of the season to come, shall be agreed at each AGM. Any member can attend rehearsals subject to regulations imposed from time-to-time by the Committee.

All those selected to take part in any production shall be or become members of the Society. The Committee shall have the right to waive all fees for a production in respect of:

- i) Acting members aged 14 years or under at the time of auditioning if at least one of their parents/guardians is a paid-up member of the Society.
- ii) A person invited to fill a principal part after failure to fill that part satisfactorily from within the Society.
- iii) Other exceptional cases that the Committee considers appropriate.

14 A general Meeting of the Society shall take place within four months of the last date of the main production, and ten days notice will be given of its being held.

15 No member shall use the name of the Society in connection with any performance without the previous sanction of the Committee.

16 Complimentary tickets are to be given at the discretion of the Committee.

17 The Committee shall have the power to call in professional help.

18 The income and property of the Society whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Society and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred to any member or members of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses on behalf of the Society.

Any member of the Society who is remunerated by a fee for their services to the Society shall be entitled to become an Honorary Member for the duration of their contract. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay any fee or subscription and shall be entitled to attend and speak at all General Meetings to which Ordinary Members are invited. Honorary Members shall not be entitled to vote at General Meetings or Committee Meetings.

19 The Committee shall have power to deal with any matters not provided for in the foregoing Rules, and its decision shall in all cases be final, but no alteration of the Rules shall be made without the sanction of a General Meeting of the Society and such alterations to be specified on the notice convening the meeting.

20 The Society shall only be dissolved by resolution by a majority of at least five sixths of the members present and voting at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose of considering such dissolution. In the event of dissolution, any balance of cash remaining in hand after the realisation of assets and payment of debts, shall not be distributed among the members of the Society, but shall be applied for such charitable purposes, similar to those of the Society, or be paid, distributed or transferred to such charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Society, as the Committee with the consent of the Meeting, shall determine.

# EAST SURREY OPERATIC SOCIETY

**Rules**  
September 2000

- 1 The Society shall be called the East Surrey Operatic Society.
- 2 The object of the Society is to provide the opportunity for its members to develop their interest in opera drama by the production of operatic and musical works, concerts and plays.

In furtherance of this object, the Society through its management committee shall have the following powers:

- a to promote musical and operatic works.
- b to purchase, acquire and obtain interests in the copyright of or the right to perform or show any such operatic works.
- c to purchase or otherwise acquire plant, machinery, furniture, fixtures, fittings, scenery and all other necessary effects.
- d to raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation, and otherwise, provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds.
- e to do all such other things as shall further the objects.

- 3 The Society shall consist of acting and non-acting members.

- 4 Membership shall be open to all those having sympathy with the objects of the Society and desiring actively to further it and pay the annual subscription prescribed by the Rules.

Application for membership shall be made in writing to the Honorary Treasurer and signed by the applicant. The ESOS membership year begins on the first day of the month (currently October) in which the Society begins rehearsals for its principal annual production. All memberships (except life memberships) cease on the last day of the preceding month.

No applicant shall be allowed to audition before having paid his/her membership fee and acting fee.

Non-members may attend rehearsals until the first day of auditions. Thereafter, they may only attend with the agreement of the appropriate Director or an Officer of the Society.

- 5 Any member of the Society who, in the opinion of the Committee confirmed by an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society, shall be guilty by his actions of misusing the privileges of the Society or of otherwise bringing the Society into contempt or disrepute may be suspended or expelled from the Society.

The Committee may, by a unanimous vote, remove from the list of members the name of any member who has persistently neglected the work undertaken by the Society.

- 6 The Society shall be managed by a Committee which shall be elected by the General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose, consisting of:

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman  
Hon Secretary  
Hon Treasurer  
Hon Business Manager, and  
four other members.

This elected committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two further committee members and to appoint a sub-committee (or sub-committees) formed of members of the Society to help with the running of the Society, should it feel that it is necessary to do so.

At each AGM the Committee as a whole shall retire but be eligible for re-election.

The Hon Secretary shall call a Committee meeting whenever necessary, five to form a quorum.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt any member to fill a vacancy that occurs during the season and that member shall be entitled to vote.

The Committee shall also have the power to form sub-committees.

The Society may elect a President who shall be a Patron of the Society, and who may attend Committee meetings without the right to vote, to hold office for one year.

The Society may, on the recommendation of the Committee, elect as Vice-Presidents such persons as have rendered outstanding service to the Society, and such Vice-Presidents shall be considered as Life Members.

- 7 The selection of plays for presentation and the appointment of a Director, Musical Director and Stage Director from time to time, as required, shall be entirely in the hands of the Committee, who shall be free to arrange whatever they may think most conducive to the interests of the Society. No member can claim the right to appear in any piece except at the invitation of the Committee. Members who are cast for parts in any play are requested not to accept other engagements for the three weeks immediately preceding the performance.

- 8 The cast for any production shall be selected by the Management Committee or by a Casting Sub-Committee appointed by the Management Committee and consisting of the Director and Musical Director as ex-officio members, and three other members of which two shall be non-acting.

The Management Committee shall, when forming a Casting Sub-Committee, nominate two reserves to fill any casual vacancies. Prior to each production all candidates shall satisfy the said Committee as to their suitability to perform to the required standard.

- 9 The Committee shall have the power to elect Honorary Acting Members for any performance if considered advisable in the interests of the Society.

- 10 Acting Members are to provide their own scores and any present-day dress.

- 11 The authority of the Society is vested in the Director during rehearsals.

The Stage Director shall have complete authority on the stage at all times. No persons except those taking part and members of the Committee shall be admitted behind the scenes without his permission.

- 12 An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society shall be convened by Resolution of the Committee or requisition by not less than twelve members made in writing to the Hon Secretary. Such requisition shall state the subject to be discussed and the Hon Secretary shall thereupon call an Extraordinary General Meeting not later than thirty days after the receipt of such requisition. The business of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be confined to the subject mentioned. Ten days notice shall be given to members of an Extraordinary General Meeting - such notice shall state the Agenda and twenty-five members shall form a quorum.