

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN MUSIC

I NAME

The name of the society shall be “The South African Society for Research in Music (SASRIM)” hereinafter referred to as “the Society”.

II OBJECTIVES

Emerging from the recognition that music research has historically been pursued in relatively distinct settings and intellectual traditions in our country, the objective of the Society shall be to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between all researchers in music, within and beyond academia and the promotion, fostering and dissemination of such research. The Society shall be operated as a nonprofit organisation exclusively for this object.

Though the Society’s members are predominantly based in South Africa, the Society also welcomes members, collaborations and research into music in its broader Southern African, African continental and international contexts.

III MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Any candidate eligible for ordinary or student membership shall complete a membership form in writing specifying such particulars as the Executive Committee may require.
- (b) Membership shall comprise the following categories:
 - (i) Ordinary member: Any person who supports the objectives of the Society and formally joins the organisation.
 - (ii) Student member: Any person who is registered as a student at any accredited institution of higher learning and formally joins the organisation.
 - (iii) Honorary member: A member whose research or other activities has or have contributed in the opinion of the Executive Committee to the development of music research in South Africa. An honorary member shall be elected at any Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Any member may submit a nomination for honorary membership in writing to the Executive Committee at least two (2) months prior to the Annual General Meeting. Honorary members shall not pay annual dues.

IV TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society shall terminate:

- (a) On death.
- (b) By voluntary withdrawal in which case the member concerned shall advise the Secretary in writing of such withdrawal.
- (c) By cessation of membership which shall occur automatically should any member fail to pay the annual membership fee. After 1 July, members from the previous calendar year (1 January-31 December) who have not yet paid current fees will be considered delinquent and shall receive no further issues of the Journal. Members in arrears at the end of the calendar year will be removed from the membership rolls. After being removed from the rolls a person may rejoin the Society at any time without penalty.

V MEMBERSHIP FEES

Ordinary and student members shall pay the prescribed fees as determined annually by the Executive Committee on 1 January or on completion of the membership form. Honorary members shall not be obliged to pay any membership fees.

VI THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Executive Committee shall comprise fourteen (14) members and shall comprise of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor (ex officio) and nine (9) additional members. The Executive Committee shall represent the diversity of the field of music research.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall be entitled to co-opt at any time, in the event of insufficient nominations or resignations, additional members.
- (c) The members of the Executive Committee shall remain in office for no longer than the three-year period between elections, but be eligible for re-election or re-nomination. Normally the total duration of a member's term of office should not exceed six consecutive years.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall systematically review the business of the Society at least once every six (6) months, by meeting or arranging a suitable alternative for communication and joint decision-making. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by its Chairman or in the absence of the Chairman by another member of the Executive Committee appointed by the Chairman to do so.
- (e) Executive Committee meetings can be held when a quorum of five (5) members are present.

- (f) Decisions by the Executive Committee are taken by majority e-mail vote of all members of the Executive Committee.
- (g) If at least a third of the members of the Executive Committee so wish, a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee shall be called within a period of fourteen (14) days of such a meeting being requested.
- (h) The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be minuted as set out in article X. Non-members of the Executive Committee may be invited to meetings of the Executive Committee but shall not be entitled to any vote.

VII ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Executive Committee shall be responsible to take decisions by simple majority vote regarding
 - (i) Expenditure
 - (ii) Membership matters
 - (iii) All other matters in the running of the Society not specifically delegated to any Annual General Meeting
 - (iv) The appointment of the Editor of the journal published by the Society
- (b) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the calling of General and Special Meetings.
- (c) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the preparation of the agenda for Meetings.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the execution of decisions made at General and Special Meetings.
- (e) The Executive Committee shall appoint subcommittees from the members of the Executive Committee to pursue specific core functions of the Society, such as finance, publications, the programme of the annual conference, a local arrangements committee and any other areas that the Executive Committee deems to be appropriate in advancing the objective of the Society.

VIII DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

- (a) The Chairman shall represent the Society in all its interests both internally and externally as convener and chairman of the Executive Committee and any Annual General Meeting. All documents shall be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary and in the case of financial

documents the Treasurer as well. Correspondence shall be signed by the Secretary.

- (b) The Vice-Chairman, during the absence, incapacity or disability of the chairman, shall exercise all functions of the chairman. In the event that the office of the chairman becomes vacant before the conclusion of his or her term, the vice-chairman shall succeed to that office.
- (c) The Secretary shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business of the Society, especially correspondence and the keeping of minutes. He or she shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices on behalf of the Society.
- (d) The Treasurer shall be in charge of all financial matters concerning the Society and shall submit statements of account to the Executive Committee and to the auditor.

IX ANNUAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be convened by the Executive Committee each and every calendar year.
- (b) A Special Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee whenever the need arises. Such meeting shall be held as a result of a decision taken at the Annual General Meeting or when at least twenty-five per cent (25%) of the ordinary members furnish the Executive Committee with reasons in writing as to why such a meeting should be held. A Special Meeting shall be called within two (2) months of such a decision or the receipt of reasons in writing from at least twenty-five per cent (25%) of the ordinary and institutional members.
- (c) Notice of General or Special Meetings shall indicate the date, time and place of the Meeting and shall include the agenda for consideration by such Meeting.
- (d) The discussion of urgent matters other than those on the agenda shall be permitted if considered necessary by the Chairman at any General Meeting. Written notice of such urgent matters must reach the Secretary as soon as possible prior to the date of the General Meeting, and will be included at the Chairman's discretion.
- (e) Decisions at all Meetings of members shall be reached on the basis of a simple majority of members present and represented by proxy, except when a motion to amend the constitution or to dissolve the Society is tabled in which event written notice to this effect shall be given to the Executive Committee not later than two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting and a two-thirds majority of members present and represented by proxy shall be required.

- (f) Votes may take the form of a secret ballot provided that a third of the ordinary members present so desire. In the election of an honorary member votes by secret ballot are the rule. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of an equal numbers of votes being cast.
- (g) Non-members may be invited to the Annual General and Special Meetings by the Executive Committee but shall not be entitled to vote.
- (h) The Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee shall act as Chairman of the Annual General or Special Meeting. If both are absent the members of the Executive Committee shall nominate a Chairman.

X MINUTES

The proceedings of any General Meeting or any Special Meeting shall be minuted by the Secretary. Such minutes shall indicate the number of members present and represented by proxy and the number of votes recorded for and against each decision. The minutes shall be submitted to the next General Meeting or Special Meeting for approval after which they shall be accepted and signed by the Chairman and Secretary.

XI ACTIVITIES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The activities of the Annual General Meeting shall comprise:

- (a) The decisions on the annual reports of the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Editor of the journal published by the Society.
- (b) The discussion and decisions reached in regard to all matters on the agenda. All bona fide members of the Society may place items on the agenda by communicating them to the Secretary, in writing, up to seven days prior to the AGM.
- (c) The election, every three years, of the Executive Committee in the order listed below, or confirming nominations of the Executive Committee to fill any positions which may become vacant on the Executive Committee within every three-year term.
 - (i) The Chairman
 - (ii) The Vice-Chairman
 - (iii) The Secretary
 - (iv) The Treasurer
 - (v) Nine additional members
- (d) Decisions relating to:
 - (i) The rules of the procedure at Meetings
 - (ii) The Constitution of the Society and its dissolution

XII MONIES

All monies shall be deposited in the bank account bearing the Society's name.

XIII LANGUAGES

- (a) The use of any of the official languages of the Republic of South Africa shall be admissible in the conduct of meetings provided that wherever possible a summary in English should be given.
- (b) Official correspondence shall be conducted in English.

XIV THE JOURNAL

- (a) Circumstance permitting, the Society shall publish a journal, hereafter referred to as "the journal" and shall hold copyright over all material published therein.
- (b) The name of the journal shall be "South African Music Studies" ("SAMUS").
- (c) The Executive Committee may appoint the Editor of the journal for a period of three (3) years, with the possibility of re-appointment. The total duration of the editor's term of office should not exceed six years.
- (d) The Editor of the journal shall, at his/her discretion, appoint an Editorial Committee to serve a three-year term concurrent with the term of the Editor, to assist with the task of producing the journal.
- (e) All editorial decisions shall be taken by the Editor in consultation with the Executive Committee.
- (f) The Editor shall report to the Executive Committee of the Society.
- (g) The journal shall be distributed to all paid-up members of the Society by the Executive Committee. Non-members may subscribe to the journal at a subscription fee to be determined by the Executive Committee.

XV DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

In the case of voluntary dissolution of the Society, the auditor in collaboration with the Chairman and the Secretary shall dispose of the assets of the Society as follows:

- (a) Public subventions of the current year shall be returned to the original source.
- (b) Assets derived from other sources shall be returned to the donors concerned.

- (c) Assets derived from other sources shall be donated to a cultural organisation to be selected at the meeting in which the Society's dissolution is approved.

XVI ACCEPTANCE OF CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall come into force immediately upon its acceptance by the Annual General Meeting.