

Mostly G&S Information

General information

Mostly G& S was formed in 2009 to create a small group devoted to the words and music of Gilbert and Sullivan but presented in a semi-staged manner with an emphasis on the music and an authentic adherence to the original scores. Since it started the company has presented all but one of the G&S operas (and will be performing the only omission, 'The Grand Duke', in Spring 2025).

Productions are staged at the 100-seat Alan Cornish Theatre in the Oakwood Centre in Woodley. Performances are accompanied by piano, woodwind and percussion. We usually give a three-day run of evening performances (Thursday-Saturday), preceded by a dress rehearsal on the Wednesday.

The format includes narration, reduced dialogue and all of the music. We have also restored many lost songs, the victims of last minute cuts, usually due to the theatrical demands of the day. Our repertoire also includes works by other composers such as Franz Léhar and Johann Strauss. We have also given themed concerts.

An important and distinctive feature of Mostly G&S is that principals take part in the chorus work in addition to their roles.

Joining Mostly G&S does not involve an audition. Reading music is useful but not essential. If you have a voice and a liking for what we do, and can contribute to our balanced sound, you will be made to feel very welcome.

We also hold social events to which members and friends are most welcome.

Constitution

We are an unincorporated 'not for profit' body. We have a constitution which is given to all members on registration. Our financial year runs from 1 December to 30 November. The AGM is held in February at which the committee (up to 7 members) is elected on an annual basis. The Committee decides from among those elected who shall be Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Membership

Members in any membership year are deemed to be those who have formally registered at the outset of, or during, the membership year through an online or paper form, administered by the Secretary. Such registration entitles a member to receipt of information sent out by email and the right to attend and vote at the AGM. Registration must be renewed for each membership year. There is no charge for membership but those performing in any show pay a subscription for that show.

Registration also involves formal acceptance of the GDPR arrangements of the association, as noted on the registration form.

Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals are held at Brookside Church in Earley (RG6 7HG) from 7.45 pm on Wednesday evenings. There is usually a break in August and shorter breaks at Christmas and Easter. There are usually two Saturday rehearsals at Brookside in the close run-up to a show

Members are expected to attend rehearsals regularly. Any planned or last minute absences should be notified to the Chair. The Committee reserves the right to disallow a member to perform if they miss so many rehearsals they are not adequately prepared for the show.

Refreshments are provided at rehearsals with a small contribution expected from members who partake of them (an honesty box).

Subscriptions

A subscription is payable for each show by those performing in it. The rate is set for each show and is announced after the casting. The subscription may be paid in one, two or three instalments.

Scores

It is usually possible for the group to hire scores from a local library. Members are not charged for the use of such scores but are responsible for keeping their copy in good condition, and can be required to pay for any damage or replacement.

Auditions

Casting for principal roles is by audition. Audition pieces are announced in advance. Auditions are held on a designated Wednesday with a reserve date. The audition panel will include the MD and producer and customarily at least one other person from within the group without a conflict of interest.

Anyone putting their name down to audition is thereby confirming that they will be able to attend rehearsals regularly. If any major absences are anticipated they should discuss with the chair.

Every effort will be made to inform the outcome of the auditions as soon as possible.

The Committee reserves the right to make exceptional arrangements to complete the principal cast.

Communications

All communications are sent out by email. Please let the Secretary know if there is any change to your email. There is a Mostly G&S website (www.mostlygands.co.uk), and a public facing Facebook page which members are encouraged to Like and publicise appropriately.