



THE MUSICIANS'
COMPANY

November 2024

Thank you for your enquiry about membership of the Musicians' Company. You may know that the Company traces its roots back at least as far as the year 1350, making it one of the world's oldest musical organisations. We are the fifth largest Livery Company in terms of Membership, and the largest without a Hall. In the twenty-first century it does important work amongst young professional musicians, supporting them with scholarships, prizes and our Young Artists' Programme. Although classically based, our work extends to brass and military bands, and to jazz and popular music. We have a distinctive presence within the City of London. We also run a lively social calendar for our Liverymen and Freemen. More about the City of London's Livery Companies can be found on our website www.wcom.org.uk and here: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-us/law-historic-governance/livery-companies>.

Please return the completed form to membership@wcom.org.uk or to our postal address, remembering to attach a passport-sized headshot photograph onto the form (if you cannot insert the image into the document, please attach the image to the email – files should be standard image format such as .JPG, .PNG or .GIF of no more than 1000 KB).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Along with your application form, you will need to have attended a Musicians' Company event, and have an agreed proposer and seconder/sponsor:

- If you have not already attended an event, we can advise you of the forthcoming events and how to book, or you can check our website. Please let us know if you are attending so that we can welcome you at the event and mark this on your application.
- If you do not already have a proposer or seconder/sponsor, then the Membership Committee may arrange for you to meet potential ones at their next meeting. Your proposer must be a Member of the Court (www.wcom.org.uk/who-are-we/governance/). Your other supporter must either be a Member of the Court (called a seconder) OR a Liveryman (called a sponsor).
- Once you have attended an event, and confirmed your proposer and seconder/sponsor, your application will be reviewed by the Membership Committee (which usually meets three times a year) and then the Court. If approved, you will be invited to join the company as a Freeman. **Please be advised that this process will take some months.**

COMPANY FREEDOM

You will be invited to a Court Meeting where you will be admitted to the Freedom of the Company (which in early days meant that you were free to practise your art within the confines of the City of London, and now allows you to participate in many Company activities). On admission to the Freedom you will be required to pay a Freedom Fine, which is currently £450 (subject to change). Freeman must also pay an annual subscription which at present is £90 (subject to change). This covers the mailings of the bi-annual Company magazine, *Preserve Harmony*, and the annual Company Yearbook as well as administrative costs.

LIVERY

After two years as a Freeman, you may if you wish be considered to proceed to the Livery (this is not obligatory). As a Liveryman, you will be eligible for extra privileges: to attend *all* Company events (including the annual Installation Dinner and Midsummer Banquet), to process in St Paul's Cathedral at the Company's annual service, to vote for the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor and attend many other Livery and City functions.

If you wish to be considered for admission to the Livery, you will also need to take up the Freedom of the City of London (if you have not already done so). Instructions about this process will be supplied to you after you have been admitted as a Freeman to the Company. The current cost of this process is £180 (subject to change). The Company also expects you to have attended a City Briefing Course before attaining Livery status, dates and booking of which can be found here: <https://www.liverycommittee.org/event/city-briefing-course/>. Please ask us if you have any questions, or would like help in this process.

Your attendance at Company events and on committees, and support for the Company's charitable work (should you be in a position to do so) will also be taken into account when the Court comes to consider you for admission to, and 'Clothing' with, the Livery.

If admitted to the Livery you will be asked to attend a Court Meeting at which you will be Clothed. You will be required to pay a Livery Fine, currently £800 (subject to change), which includes the cost of your Livery Badge. Like Freeman, Liverymen are required to pay an annual subscription, which for 2025 will be £420 (subject to change). The Company will expect you to attend functions (for which there will often be an additional cost) and to help the Company in its work when called upon to do so by the Court.

If you need any further details, please do not hesitate to contact our Membership Secretary at membership@wcom.org.uk or on 020 7496 8980 option 1.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Constable OBE
The Clerk