



CARLTON OPERATIC SOCIETY

New Membership Process September 2011 – revised May 2012

Acting Members

- Audition once every three years to gain “auditioned” status.
- In years two and three, Acting Members can pay non-acting membership fee if they do not wish to be in that year’s production, but want to maintain status for future years. (This is also possible in year one, but will only happen rarely when a member has to withdraw from a production).
- All current Acting Members will be automatically considered to be part of the company unless the committee decide that a smaller cast size is necessary. (For example, for cost, artistic or practical reasons).
- At end of each year each member entitled to take part in the following production without audition (e.g. current Acting Members and Auditioned Non-Acting Member in Years 1 and 2) is asked whether they intend to take part in the next production as an Acting Member. This will help to inform the committee how many additional members are required, if any. If more than one show is being performed in a year, this will occur at the end of each show.
- At start of year four, an Acting Member must re-audition if they wish to remain an Acting Member. The outcome of the audition is either that they remain an Acting Member, or they become a Non-Acting Member, depending on the judgement of the audition panel as to their current suitability, and payment of the appropriate fee.

Company Audition Process

- Prospective Members can apply to the Administrator to join society in advance of the start of the new season.
- The Administrator, the GPC, and the Production team agree how many members are required to be able to cast show, and calculate how many new members are required that year. This may be split between men and women, to maintain an appropriate balance.
- All Prospective Members, Non-Acting Members who want to audition, or Acting Members who need to re-audition are invited to a Company Audition.
- The auditionees are judged by an audition panel for their suitability for the society. Auditionees will be advised on how many vacancies there are.
- Consideration must be given to their ability for future shows as well as the current one, as they may not need to audition for the following two seasons. Up to the required number of suitable auditionees are selected as new Acting Members of the Society. If insufficient suitable candidates are available, then the membership is left under target.
- Successful candidates pay the Acting Membership fee for the year, and gain “auditioned” status.
- Unsuccessful candidates are invited to pay the Non-Acting membership fee, are invited to join in the social aspects of society, and to take part in non-acting roles. For these members, auditioning again in future years to become Acting Member is possible.

Non-Acting Members

- Anyone who wishes to join as a Non-Acting Member may do so on payment of the appropriate fee. If they wish to take part in a show in a future year they must take part in a successful Company Audition, as described above.

Maintaining Audition Status

An Acting Member can maintain their successful auditioned status by paying at least the Non-Acting membership fee in each year after audition, with a maximum of three years between auditions. The Post-Show membership fee is not sufficient to maintain auditioned status. Should a former member wish to re-join the society following a break from paying a qualifying membership fee, the process will begin again.

Limited Company Size

If the company size is required to be limited, all Acting Members and Auditioned Non-Acting Members wishing to take part will be auditioned. Should the company size not be reached, non-auditioned non-acting members and new members can then be considered.

Principal / Character / Role auditions

Any Acting Member wishing to take a specific role in a production will need to audition. Should any role not be filled, due to either shortage of candidates in general, or to no suitable candidate being available, the audition panel may invite a non-member or non-Acting Member either to audition for the role, or to fill the role without audition.

Limit on society size

Non-Acting – no limit; Acting/Auditioned Non-Acting – approx. 45-50; Cast – Approx. 35-45.

Membership Year

For the purposes of this scheme, the membership year begins at 1st September. Fees are due by 30th September, with the exception those for Post-show membership. Post-show membership is not available until after the main production of the season has finished.

Membership levels

	Acting ¹	Non-Acting	Junior ²	Post-Show	Life
Company audition	Yes, every 3 years ³	No	Each year as required	No	No (but see Acting Member)
Be on stage in main production	Yes	No	Yes	No	After audition as Acting Member
Play specific character	By audition or invitation	N/A	By audition or invitation	N/A	See Acting
Take part in Concerts	Yes	Yes ⁴	No	Yes ⁵	Yes
Take part in Carol Singing	Yes	Yes ⁴	No	No	Yes
Have featured role in concert / carol singing	By audition or invitation	By audition or invitation	No	By audition or invitation	By audition or invitation
Join in social activities	Yes	Yes	If appropriate	Yes	Yes
Attend dance class	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Attend and vote at General Meetings	Yes	Yes	Responsible guardian	Yes	Yes
Be elected Officer	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁶	Yes

Caveat

All of this is subject to the decisions taken at Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings; the membership process can be changed at any time as a result of these decisions.

¹ It is assumed that Student Members are either Acting or Non-Acting.

² As per constitution, only when required by the production that year.

³ Pending continuous membership

⁴ Must audition if they have not performed with the society before and wish to perform

⁵ Subject to concert being after the show, and must audition if they have not performed with the society before and wish to perform.

⁶ They could be elected officer at AGM as Post-Show member, but would need to be Non-Acting member for the following season as all committee members must be society members.