



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send:

- forms A and B
- your organisation's last set of accounts
- the most recent bank statement

to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk.

1. About your organisation

Name of the organisation requesting the grant

Abingdon Music Centre Trust

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

Abingdon Music Centre Trust is a local charity that was established over 40 years ago to bring musical opportunities to local people, whatever their age and ability. We work with a wide age range from babies up to retired people, the oldest of whom was 100 years old. We run various instrument classes, three choirs (including the ACCord community choir) and a community orchestra

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

To buy portable rechargeable PA equipment to enable us to use our existing basic equipment more effectively. We want to be able to be more flexible in accepting requests from local events, which cannot always supply the external power or specialist equipment needed. Outdoor singing and playing is difficult because the full sound is lost and having this equipment would improve the quality of performances making them more enjoyable for the audience and enable us to respond to a wider range of requests for performances.

| | |
|---|---|
| What is the total cost of the project | £ 515 |
| How much grant are you seeking | £515 |
| What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant | 100% |
| How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project | |
| Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down | <p>A PA Speaker with 2 wireless mics on different channels (£289): QTX QX12PA-Plus 12" PA Speaker With Wireless Microphones at Gear4music</p> <p>Battery powered mixer (6 channels): (£99 + postage) Behringer XENYX Q1002USB Premium 10-Input 2-Bus Mixer at Gear4music</p> <p>2 x speaker stands: (2 x £39.99 each) PA Speaker Stand by Gear4music, Single at Gear4music</p> <p>Three mic cables and two cables to link the mixers to the speakers. (mic cables at £14.99each SubZero XLR (F) to Jack Cable with Neutirk Connectors, 3m at Gear4music) (cables to link mixer to speakers at £11.99 each : XLR (F) - XLR (M) Pro Mic Cable, 12m at Gear4music)</p> |
| What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years | <p>Our main funding is through member fees and online donations via Local Giving. We hold two members' concerts per year with fund raising raffles and requests for donations. We are currently using the VWHDC lottery to raise further funds and have ongoing profile raising and we are approaching local businesses. However, given the current economic situation this is not sufficient to allow us to invest in the equipment that we would use this grant for.</p> |

3. Local benefit.

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| As members | 271 |
|-------------------|------------|

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| How many people take part in your organisation’s activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation. | As recipients | Unable to estimate but large numbers have benefited from our performances |
|---|----------------------|--|

Please fill in the table below relating to numbers of members and/or recipients falling into each category. Estimates are acceptable provided an “e” is put after the figure.

| Age profile | 0-16 | 16-65 | over 65 |
|--|------|-------|---|
| - Members NB anyone who is a paying member of our classes, choirs or orchestra is a member. | 107 | 164 | As we do not ask for dates of birth for adults we cannot split the category of over 16. Most are past retirement age though |
| - Recipients NB recipients would be those for whom we perform and therefore we cannot keep data on this | | | |

| Gender profile | Male | Female |
|----------------|----------------|--------|
| - Members | 89 | 182 |
| - Recipients | See note above | |

| Local connection | Town resident | Attend education in town | Neither resident nor attending education in town |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| - Members | Only a handful of our members come from outside Abingdon and its immediate area | 20(rest are babies or pre-school) | |
| - Recipients | See note above | | |

4. Vision and objectives

Please explain how your project will meet the town councils vision and objectives, which are set out below. **You do not need to respond to each point** but it is important that your project addresses the town council’s vision and at least one objectives.

4a. Vision

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

Our organisation's motto is "Music for everyone"

Learning, listening to and performing music is well recognised as an important way of increasing feelings of well-being, developing skills and bringing people together. Our guiding vision is that music should be accessible to all and we apply this by having no limit on age or ability for those joining our activities. We have no auditions and people from all walks of life are involved in making music with us. Over the years we have also made a strong contribution to the community life of Abingdon through our involvement in events and our outreach work.

We feel very strongly that music should be accessible and enjoyed by our local community. We show this by the range of groups and classes we have on offer but also but getting out into the community to perform and engage with members of the public. Our performances are a way to connect with people who may not already be familiar with us and show them what we offer. We hope that they might like to join a group and have the opportunity to be a part of something friendly, fun and positive. But, even more importantly, our performances are there for our community's enjoyment and a way to provide a positive and therapeutic outlet for the audience.

4b. Objectives

1. **To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency**
2. **To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future**
3. **To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future**

The grant money that we are asking for will purchase equipment that will be used often and for a long time to come in support of our aims and vision.

We provide quality music sessions for babies, pre-school and school-aged children as well as various groups for adults (including community choirs, orchestra, guitar and recorder groups). These sessions are an educational and engaging way to bring people from all over Abingdon and the surrounding areas together.

To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity

4.

We are committed to running groups that enable our local community to forge friendships, enjoy music in a safe space and to have a positive experience every week.

Over the years, as well as our in-house music teaching, orchestra and choirs we have greatly developed our outreach work, for example in local care homes. We regularly contribute to community events such as Fun in the Park as well as working with local organisations such as care homes and feel that we are an integral part of the musical culture in Abingdon.

Since Covid restrictions have reduced, we have continued to support community events and were present at the Church Farm community event, the Abingdon Jubilee celebrations, a Touch of Pink, the Radley Lakes and Cakes event and the Abingdon Passion Play fundraising event.

We are signed up again for the Touch of Pink event in July and will continue to commit to more events again in the coming year.

5. Other/previous grant awards

Please provide details of any grant awards you have received from the town council, other councils or large organisations that you have received in the past three years

Doris Field Charitable Trust £600 to fund Zoom licences and instrument bags for online choir, orchestra and classes whilst in-person sessions not allowed.

Pye Homes £2000 to fund singing sessions for older and vulnerable adults.

Please list any grant applications to other councils or bodies which are currently pending

Pye homes continuation

6. About your organisation

Please explain what structure your organisation has, i.e. is it a charity, a society, or another type of model

Registered charity

What is the balance of your main account according to the most recent bank statement?

£3851.08

Additional financial information

Does your organisation have any other finances held in other accounts?

Yes

If so, please provide full details of all your additional finances, including recent figures.

CAF Gold Account (online saving account which is linked to our main CAF account), present balance £5014.86

If these funds are earmarked for any specific projects, please provide further information about this.