

Bylaws other music e.V.

I. Name and Domicile

1. The name of the association is „other music e.V.“
2. The domicile of „other music e.V.“ is Weimar, Germany.
3. It is recorded in the register of associations at the Weimar courthouse.
4. Its business year is the calendar year.

II. Mission & Activities

1. The association is active regionally, nationally and internationally.
2. As defined by its bylaws, the purpose of the association is: in cultural and educational/political fields, guided by the idea of *interculturality*, to contribute to a more peaceful world through activities, involving socially relevant groups, that highlight interculturality both practically and theoretically as an indispensable historical aspect of cultural, social and national identity formation, and through projects that actively encourage the development of an intercultural awareness. In this sense, special attention is given to the relationship between Jews and non-Jews; however, the activity of the association is not limited to this particular relationship.
3. *The association advances the general public in the fields of arts and culture as well as an international ethos of tolerance in all areas of culture and the idea of international understanding.* This mission is to be fulfilled especially through:
 - a) the implementation of events such as workshops, podium discussions, readings, concerts and symposia that serve the goal of improved mutual understanding,
 - b) the development and implementation of concepts for interdisciplinary and intercultural continuing education, particularly in the area of music,
 - c) the integration of written and oral forms of cultural transmission in both theory and practice, through the development of innovative forms of teaching and learning and the presentation of events that realize this aim,
 - d) the support of research initiatives, scholarly/scientific projects and publications that illuminate the musical traditions of different peoples, especially with respect to their contemporary further development,
 - e) the advancement of intellectual exchange among people of different origins, nationalities, religions and professions,
 - f) the ongoing development of international networks among institutions and cultural organizations that pursue similar goals and are likewise committed to the idea of Europe and international understanding.
4. The association „other music e.V.“ is non-profit. It does not pursue its own financial gain, but serves exclusively and directly the common good as defined by the paragraph „tax-advantaged purposes“ in the Fiscal Code. Association funds may be spent only for purposes as stated in the bylaws. No person may benefit from expenditures that are foreign to the mission of the association or through disproportionately high financial compensation. In their capacity as members of the organization, members receive no benefits from association funds.

III. Membership

1. Every legal or natural person, regardless of citizenship or religious affiliation, can apply to become a member through a written declaration addressed to the board, as recognized by the bylaws.

2. The board decides by simple majority whether to accept an applicant for membership. The board then informs the applicant of its decision in writing. In case of an applicant's rejection by the board, a General Assembly meeting can be called to reach a final decision.
3. Every dues-paying member has the right to vote in the General Assembly.
4. Membership is terminated by the departure, cancellation, expulsion or death of the member.
5. Notice of resignation is to be declared to the board in writing with a minimum of four weeks before the end of a calendar year.
6. Membership will be cancelled if a member's dues are two or more years overdue. The cancellation takes effect at the end of a calendar year. A member will be informed in writing in the last quartal of a calendar if membership dues are overdue.
7. A member can be expelled if his/her actions or behavior have caused damage to the association or its public image. The board decides whether to expell the member. The member is to be informed of the decision to expell in writing in a standard letter. An appeal contesting an expulsion can be made to the membership meeting, which makes the final decision. Until then, the member is on inactive status.
8. Upon termination of a membership, all former rights and duties with respect to the association based upon membership also expire.

IV. Bodies of the Association

For the sake of simplicity only, the following functions are described in their masculine form, but no gender-specific limitation on their application is implied.

1. The bodies of the association are
 - a) the General Assembly
 - b) the board
2. The General Assembly is the ultimate decision-making body of the association. An Annual General Assembly is to be convened in each business year. The board invites all members to the assembly by letter at least 4 weeks prior to the announced assembly date. The invitation contains a draft of the agenda. Prior to the start of the General Assembly, members may suggest further items to be added to the board's proposed agenda. At the start of the meeting, the General Assembly decides whether to include each one of these suggestions in the agenda. Every member has the right to participate in the General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly
 - Formally approves the board and chooses the board following the end of a term of office (see Article IV, Paragraph 10),
 - formally accepts the reports of the board and the treasurer,
 - determines the voting procedure and the bylaws,
 - establishes priorities for the association's activities in the coming voting period,
 - and decides whether the association will join other associations and consortia,
 - decides about the purchase/lease, sale, mortgage of land and buildings.
4. The decisions of the General Assembly require a simple majority of the attending members. Each member of the General Assembly has one vote. A member may mandate another member to represent his vote by assigning it to him in writing. A mandate must be given separately for each General Assembly meeting. A member may not represent more than two votes other than his own.

5. Decisions concerning the bylaws and changes to the mission of the association require a two-thirds majority of the attending members. The bylaws may only be changed if the wording of the proposed change is made known to the members no later than the invitation to the General Assembly meeting.
6. The decisions of the General Assembly are to be recorded in the written minutes of the meeting. The minutes are to be signed by the chairman of the association, by the minutes-taker and by one member of the association who is not a board member.
7. An irregular meeting of the General Assembly can be convened by the board at any time. It must be convened when demanded by the interests of the association, or when 10% of all the members request it in writing, along with the purpose and reasons for the meeting.
8. The board consists of the chairman, two vice-chairmen, and up to four vote-entitled associates. The board conducts the business of the association between meetings of the General Assembly, on the basis of decisions made during General Assembly meetings, and carries out all aspects of the association's work that are not specifically reserved for the General Assembly by the bylaws. It is accountable to the General Assembly.
9. The term of office for the board is two years. Multiple terms are allowed. Each member of the board is voted for separately, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise. Following a member's request for candidacy, the vote is to be conducted with closed ballot. The board remains in office until a new board is voted into office. In case a member of the board with decision-making authority (as defined by Nr. 12) departs from the board during a term of office, the board may appoint a substitute. Such an appointee shall be chosen primarily from the group of associate board members. The appointment by the board must be confirmed in the next annual General Assembly meeting. Otherwise a new vote is required.
10. In its first meeting, the board votes for a chairman and two vice-chairmen.
11. The board reaches its decisions by majority vote. In case of ties, the chairman's vote breaks the tie. Written minutes are to be kept of all board decisions. The board can also vote in writing or by email („circulation procedure“) if no board member objects. The result of such a written decision is to be recorded in the minutes of the next board meeting.
12. The chairman and his two vice-chairmen represent the association judicially and non-judicially as defined by § 26 of the BGB (Civil Code) by twosome in each case. The General Assembly can appoint a representative to carry out board duties or portions of those duties according to § 30 BGB (Civil Code).

V. Compensation for Activities on Behalf of the Association

1. Participation in the association and its functions is in principle voluntary and unpaid.
2. Within the association's budgetary restrictions, however, it is permitted to pay an allowance for special expenditures (§ 3 Nr. 26/26 a EstG) or to be remunerated for fulfilling a function on the basis of a contract for employment or services. The board makes all such decisions, including the conditions and content of the contract as well as its termination.
3. Additionally, the members and staff of the organization are entitled to reimbursement of costs (§ 670 BGB (Civil Code)). Receipts for transportation and travel expenses, post, telephone, and other costs incurred through work for the association will be reimbursed, as long as the receipt or expenses list is valid and in proper condition. The board can set limits on the amount of reimbursement in consideration of tax law following § 670 BGB (Civil Code).

VI. Budget/Membership dues

1. The amount of membership dues is suggested by the board and determined by the General Assembly. The board may allow a reduction in membership dues upon request.
2. Between meetings of the General Assembly, the board discusses and decides how finances are to be acquired and disbursed in accordance with the bylaws. It is required to fulfill this task.
3. Following the end of each business year, the treasurer creates the association's annual financial report. This report must include complete information about the acquisition and expenditure of funds. The report is to be presented to the General Assembly for confirmation. The General Assembly can decide to engage an independent financial expert to examine the financial report.

VII. Ending the association's activity/dissolving the association

1. The association may be dissolved by an act of the General Assembly during a meeting called specifically for this purpose, and requires a three-fourths majority of the attending members.
2. In case the association is dissolved or its tax-advantaged purposes cease, its assets accrue to the UNICEF Children's Assistance program, which is to use the assets directly and exclusively for purposes which serve the common good.