



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

SMALL GRANTS APPLICATION FORM – MAXIMUM GRANT £3,000

CONTACT DETAILS

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the Discretionary Grants Policy and award criteria before submitting their Grant application.

Date of Application:	20/5/23	Ref Number: <i>(official use only)</i>	
Name of Organisation:	Todmorden Choral Society		
Address:			
	Postcode:		

Name of person making the application.		Position:	Chair
Telephone Number:		Email Address:	
Website:		Town Clerk confirmed Bank details and supporting documents <i>(official use only)</i>	Yes

ORGANISATION DETAILS

What type of organisation are you?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Unregistered Community Group/Club/Society (delete as appropriate*) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity <input type="checkbox"/> Charity Number 508690 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
Do you have a constitution or a set of rules? (if yes, please enclose a copy of your constitution)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you part of a larger, national or regional organisation? If yes, please give details	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
How many trustees, volunteers and service users are there in your organisation?	7 trustees, 65 members	
Tell us about your organisation, its aims and the work you wish to undertake and your main activities and how you encourage engagement from all sections of the Todmorden Community		
<p>Todmorden Choral Society has been making music in the town since the end of the First World War, having previously been part of Todmorden Music Society. We usually perform two concerts per year in the Town Hall together with Todmorden Orchestra, Handel's 'Messiah' on the first weekend in Advent and an Easter concert in April. In October we usually perform an Autumn concert at St Mary's with smaller instrumental forces, and we put on less formal Christmas and Summer concerts in Central Methodist. We are always advertising for new members, via concert programmes, our website and social media, and open rehearsals encouraging people to try us out; membership is open to all comers, with no audition, and no requirement to read music – and we rehearse weekly of a Wednesday evening in Central Methodist. Subscription rates and prices are kept as low as the Society can afford, with lower prices for people on benefits and the under 25s and discounted arrangements for people experiencing particular hardship. We aim to keep ticket prices affordable, again with lower prices for people on benefits and the under 16s. We also take part in free public events like the annual carol singing at the Christmas lights switch on and the Platinum Jubilee Picnic in the Park.</p>		

Will your project have any implications in respect of climate emergency and if so, how do you intend to minimise such impact?

We are keen to minimise any climate emissions. Members generally walk or car-share to rehearsals and professional soloists are encouraged to travel by train. Scores are usually hired from the West Yorkshire music library to minimise printing. Communication with members is mainly by email, and tickets are booked online, although this can be done via Todmorden Information Centre if people to ensure everyone can access them. Single use plastic cups have been outlawed at rehearsal tea breaks.

How will you acknowledge the Assistance of Todmorden Town Council on all promotional material - see declaration at end of application.

We will thank the Town Council on our website and Facebook page and in concert programmes and posters.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION – (Please complete/provide)

Level of Reserves Held at application date	Audited Accounts/Annual Income Expenditure Statement	Bank Statement(s) Balance at application date	Total value of Assets Held
£8,451 (projected for year end 31/8/23)		£9,384	£9,757

DETAILS OF FUNDING REQUESTED

What is the purpose of your request for a grant?

- Town Hall Hire
 - Project Delivery
 - Core Funding
 - Civic Pride
 - Town Centre Improvement
 - Safety/Promotion
 - Environmental Projects
 - Climate Change
 - Community Cohesion
 - Cultural Arts & Music
 - Town Centre Event
 - Food Growing
 - Skills Development
 - Voluntary Sector Youth Engagement
 - Social Exclusion/Economic Difficulties
 - Accessibility and Inclusivity – especially Dementia friendly
 - Other (Please Specify)
- Community Benefit

What is your project called?	Todmorden Choral Society: recovery after Covid	
When will your project start and finish?	Start Date: September 2023	Finish Date: August 2024

How will your project benefit the local community within the Todmorden town boundary? (Use a separate Sheet if necessary).

Apart from occasional performances by visiting choirs these are the only classical choral concerts in Todmorden, and provide an important opportunity for people to enjoy classical music who might otherwise miss out on the experience because of cost (higher ticket prices and travel costs – particularly off-putting for people who fear classical music may not be for them), health or mobility issues or anxiety about travelling after dark, our concerts being both cheaper and more convenient to attend than events in Halifax or Manchester.

Besides our audiences, our members benefit from our efforts to keep subscription rates affordable and to create a supportive atmosphere where they can find their voices and discover the excitement of learning new repertoire. Both the singing and the social element of the regular rehearsals visibly benefit members’ mental health, especially those at risk of isolation. (During the pandemic we held Zoom-sings to address this.) We have a significant number of older members and a smaller number who are neurodivergent or struggling with dementia, whose participation is sensitively facilitated by other members, enabling them to enjoy a beloved pastime without stigma.

**Why is this project needed? What advantage will it bring to Todmorden?
How many people within the Todmorden town boundary will benefit from the project?**

Todmorden’s lively music scene promotes a sense of wellbeing and pride in the town, and the Choral Society is part of its heritage (particularly the concerts in the Town Hall). We attract audiences of up to 200, of whom at least 80% live within the town boundary, in addition to the benefits to the members (around 50 Todmorden residents). Tickets for ‘Messiah’ are especially popular, with people besieging the Information Centre asking when they will go on sale (‘Christmas hasn’t begun till I’ve heard your “Messiah”’, as one regular audience member told us). Classical music provision in the UK is under threat due to funding cuts to professional companies, making grassroots music societies like ours all the more important.

We have previously gratefully received support from the Town Council with Town Hall hire costs. This year for the first time we are also seeking a contribution towards core costs to help us to recover from the twin impacts of Covid and the cost of living crisis. We lost both singers and some of our most loyal audience members in the pandemic, reducing our membership and ticket income, while our costs have increased (e.g. to hire rehearsal space because of rising fuel bills). We are gradually building back both audiences and membership, but in the meantime have drawn heavily on our reserves, which is putting the sustainability of the Society at risk. (Last year’s figures would have been worse had we not benefited unexpectedly from two legacies, and although we are encouraging our members and supporters to contribute in any way they can, we have no reason to expect this to be repeated.) We are reducing costs where we can and expanding our own fundraising; we are also reviewing both membership fees and ticket prices, but these both need to remain affordable to ensure everyone can benefit. Our financial year runs from September to August, and a grant from the Town Council at this time would be of great help in getting us back on our feet and allowing us to plan for 2023 - 24, to secure the future of what we regard as a community asset and part of the cultural life of the town.

Please include dates and venue of events if applicable – please include a draft programme if available.

Draft programme (awaiting confirmation from some venues):

28th October: Choral evensong-style concert at St Mary's Church with professional organist
2nd December: Handel's 'Messiah' with Todmorden Orchestra and professional soloists in the Town Hall
16th December: carol concert at Central Methodist
27th April: Spring concert with Todmorden Orchestra and professional soloists in the Town Hall
6th July: Summer concert at Central Methodist

PROJECT COSTS AND FINANCES

Total Cost of Project:	£13,300	Amount Requested:	£2,950
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Have you previously applied for grant funding from Todmorden Town Council?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when did you apply and what amounts were awarded?	November 2022; £1,200	

Have you or this group previously applied for or received any other grant for this project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Applied to:	SCOPS Arts Trust for contribution to core costs. The success of the project is not dependent on their contribution.	
Date(s) applied for:	26/4/23 (stage 1 application, decision due this week; not received so suspect unsuccessful, can confirm before 7/6/23)	
Received from:		
Date(s) received:		
Amount (s) received:		

Budget: This budget should be for the **total cost** of the activity you are applying to do. Please be as accurate as you can, as you may be asked to explain any amount which is unclear. Attach a separate budget sheet if you have done this work already. Please also provide estimates/quotations of the proposed items of expenditure you may use.

Expenditure items	Cost (£)
Venue hire (3 concerts)	1,400
Professional soloists (3 concerts)	4,500
Conductor's & accompanist's fees (concerts & rehearsals)	3,200
Rehearsal room hire	2,850
Score hire, promotion etc.	1,300
If applicable - Volunteer hours at £10 per hour	
A: Total Expenditure	13,250

Other Income Sources (state from whom and whether confirmed)	Income (£)
From your own resources (including public fundraising)	1,300
Members' & patrons' subscriptions	5,000
Ticket sales	4,000
If applicable - Volunteer hours at £10 per hour - (Match with Figure in Expenditure)	
B: Total Income	10300

C: Sum requested from Todmorden Town Council	2,950
D: Applicant contribution % = (B/A)% - (official use only)	
E: Todmorden Town Council Contribution % = (C/A)% (official use only)	
D: Total income (must be sum of B & C above) and equal to figure A	13,250
TTC use – does applicant contribution % meet criteria – see end of application form (official use only)	YES (does not exceed 3,000)

How much do you receive from your main funder ?	Per year £ see below
What other grants have you received in the last 3 years (amount and from who?)	
<p>In three years we have had two grants of £1,200 from the Town Council for town hall hire (one returned due to events being cancelled during lockdown). We are approaching other funders but to date have had no other grants in the last three years. We try to cover most costs from subscriptions and ticket sales.</p>	
<p>Please attach any other information you think is appropriate for this project, e.g. insurance cover, health and safety issues, planning permission received, quotations from suppliers and any other relevant information to support your application.</p>	