

Middlebury Musicians Guild (MMG)

Article I: Name

The name of this organization is the Middlebury Musicians Guild (MMG).

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Middlebury Musicians Guild is to unify the performing musical talent (and those concerned the campus's musical livelihood) at Middlebury College. By organizing Middlebury's musicians, the MMG will provide a forum encouraging discussion surrounding pertinent issues; represent its members through an empowered and unified voice; and create a network that will advocate activities central to its cause. Such issues include, but are not limited to:

- The unification of all Middlebury musicians for a common good
- The indexing of all interested in Middlebury college performers/groups
- The promotion of upcoming musical events on and off campus for its members
- The stimulation of the Middlebury music scene through meetings, concerts, and a student-run music publication about Middlebury musicians and music in general.
- The formation of an on-campus recording studio
- The opportunity for van rentals aiding transportation to off-campus gigs
- The increased cooperation with MCAB, WRMC, and other groups/organizations sharing interests with the MMG

Article III: Membership

Membership is open to all Middlebury College students.

- Granted upon receipt of application and activated upon payment of nominal dues
- Dues determined by unanimous vote of MMG officers after consultation with all members at an open meeting
- Revocation of membership possible if dues are not paid
 - o If member cannot pay, circumstances will be dealt with based on the specific instance
 - o Membership termination requires majority vote of the executive board and all members
 - Membership can also be revoked in the case of any violations of any aspect of this Constitution
 - Any infraction of any MMG policies can yield revocation if unanimously voted by executive board, consented by the Faculty/Staff Advisor, and received two-thirds of all MMG members' votes

Article IV: Officers

There will be five officers in the MMG. They are arranged according to chain of command as follows:

President

- Schedules and presides over all meetings
- Has the deciding vote in the case of a tie amongst the other officers' votes

- Speaks (or delegates the responsibility to do so) on behalf of the MMG
- Delegates administrative responsibilities to other members of the group, including the responsibility to create temporary committees that will function to serve the purposes of the MMG
- Contacts members regarding matters important to the group
- Possesses authority to exercise emergency decision making powers on behalf of the MMG in the event that the executive board cannot be reached for consultation *and* the situation presented is one in which immediate action on behalf of the MMG is required

VP Administrative

- Maintains the list of active members
- Approves each membership application and keeps it on file
- Receives member info and digests it for the dissemination to VP Tech
- Oversees the finances of the group and reports to this end at bi-weekly meetings
- Sends out MMG notification emails
- Acts as official liaison to the Finance Committee
- Advises the president

VP Public Relations

- Publicizes for MMG
- Assists VP Tech with posters and campus-mail flyers & oversees their distribution
- Assists the faculty advisor and speaks on his/her behalf in case of his absence
- Looks for guest speakers **VP**

Internal Operations

- Organizes social events for the group
- Organizes musical events for the group (multi-MMG artist concerts, etc.)
- Reports to the MMG body about issues brought to his/her attention by MMG members
- Handles members whose MMG status may become compromised

VP Tech

- Updates the MMG website on a weekly basis
- Designs MMG posters and campus-mail flyers (and can delegate responsibility for others to assist him/her in this process)

Article V: Elections

All executive offices are held for one semester at a time.

- There is no limit to the number of times offices can be held
- Potential officers must have at least one semester of MMG membership prior to running
- Fall positions will be elected by March 15th & will take power at the start of the fall semester
- Spring positions will be elected in the last three weeks of fall semester & and will take power after the first week of J-term
- *No executive board can be comprised of more than two members from the same MMG registered performing group.* (Should the creation of a group occur during the semester leading to this, executive voting must be limited to only the two highest ranking officers of the MMG (as decided upon by the Faculty Advisor)
- A simple majority shall elect all officers with a two-thirds quorum of MMG members

- Should any officer be absent from a meeting, the president may appoint someone to temporarily serve in his/her place if the absent executive officer has not done so already (in such a case, substitute officers may not vote as members of the executive board)
- If an officer has to step down and/or leave the group, the under-officer to the one who has left may choose if he/she would like to take the position held by the defected officer above them.

IMPORTANT: Prematurely leaving office for any reason that is not an emergency (recognized under the Faculty/Staff Advisor's discretion) precludes such an individual from holding executive office in the MMG again.

Article VI: Meetings

Meetings will be held every other week and will involve all matters pertinent to the group's aims.

Article VII: Committees

The following items detail the privileges extended to MMG members and the resulting areas in which the president has authority to form temporary committees to oversee their bettered operation.

- The MMG will create committees to extend to each of its members the once-a-semester privilege of approving the rental of a Middlebury College van for the *sole, explicit, and documented purpose* of transporting a registered MMG band and its equipment to/from gigs
 - o This request must be submitted to the VP Administrative in writing, and placed with enough advanced notice so that it may be processed at a bi-weekly meeting
 - o This request must also be majority-approved by the officers and consented by the Faculty/Staff Advisor
 - o Violation of any policy regarding van rentals is grounds for removal from MMG. The MMG pledges to follow all posted rules and regulations regarding Middlebury College vans as spelled out in the Middlebury College Handbook
- The MMG will create committees to promote the group through various public relations-related programs.
 - o The MMG provides its banners for the usage of its members during all shows
 - o The MMG will push to find other meaningful ways to help its artists gain visibility
 - o The MMG artists performing on campus can ask for support (in the form of advertising and emails from the MMG)
- The MMG will create committees with the intent to sponsor collaborative shows or special events (possibly in conjunction with the commons system) to promote live music on campus
- The MMG will create committees that will work towards securing an MMG mixer, software program, and necessary equipment for the use of its members at little/no cost

Article VIII: Faculty Advisor

The membership agrees to maintain an advisor from the faculty or staff, as required. A faculty/staff advisor will also aid the MMG, exempt from dues, whose job it is to:

- Lend insight into the opinions/policy of the administration
- Serve as a non-voting member/advisor to the executive board
- Orchestrate the appearance of one guest speaker/performer each semester to appear before the MMG and/or the college community
- Serve elected, one year term (there is no limit to the amount of terms one may serve)

Article IX: Affiliations

Currently, the Middlebury Musician's Guild is unaffiliated with any other local, state, national or international organization.

Article X: Discrimination Policy:

This student organization operates in full accordance with Chapter Four, Section II, A of the Middlebury College Handbook concerning Student Organization Policies of Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Anti-Hazing, Freedom of Inquiry and Expression, Student Publication, Funding, Advertising, and Scheduling. Any and all changes made to the Student Organization Policies section of the Middlebury College Handbook will immediately become policies adopted by the Middlebury Musicians Guild.

Article XI: Ratification:

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee

Article XII: Amendment:

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership
- B. The constitution must be approved by the student Government Constitution Committee

Approved as to form: February 21, 2005

Edited and approved as to form: April 10, 2006