

Honorary Presidents:

Sir Thomas Allen CBE, Michael Chance CBE, Nicholas Hytner  
Graham Johnson OBE, Dame Cleo Laine CBE, Niven Miller,  
Patricia Routledge CBE, Prof. Robert Saxton,



*The Association of English Singers & Speakers*

# The Association of English Singers & Speakers

Founded in 1913

*“to encourage the communication of English words,  
in singing and speech,  
with clarity, understanding and imagination.”*

Chairman: Graham Trew MVO

Association of English Singers & Speakers  
Charitable Status No. 1106279

[www.aofess.org.uk](http://www.aofess.org.uk)

**The Association of English Singers and Speakers** was formed in 1913 by the eminent laryngologist, Dr W.A. Aikin, to further study the principles of phonology as expounded in his book, 'The Voice'. This was an all-male society of well-known singers and teachers who met regularly to dine and discuss matters of vocal and professional interest. Two of the original members were Harry Plunket Greene, a singer famed for his English oratorio interpretations, and William Shakespeare, a leading singing teacher at the Royal Academy of Music.

During the 1920s the Society initiated publication of 'Fifty Modern English Songs', the first ever collection of songs by contemporary British composers. (The volume is available, as part of 'A Heritage of Twentieth Century British Song', published by Boosey & Hawkes.) Sir Percy Buck and Sir Henry Wood, among others, served as Presidents, and after the war the AESS opened its doors to include the speech and drama professions. In 1969 women were at last admitted to membership!

### **The AESS Today:**

1989 saw the AESS Constitution revised. Its purpose redefined as being 'to encourage communication of English words in speech and song with clarity, understanding and imagination'. The AESS has now achieved charitable status.

In 1982 the then chairman, Catherine Lambert, inaugurated the AESS English Song Prize that is still an annual event. It is the only vocal competition that combines a 'themed' recital of English Song, poetry and spoken introductions. From 1999 – 2002 the competition was generously sponsored by the Concordia Foundation, founded by the international Soprano, Gillian Humphreys. In 2003 the distinguished actress and singer, Patricia Routledge, one of our honorary presidents, graciously enquired if she could be of any assistance. Miss Routledge generously agreed to sponsor the Song Prize until 2012.

In 2003 the AESS and the British and International Federation of Festivals began the National Junior English Song Competition. The prizes were funded from a masterclass given at the Wigmore Hall by Thomas Hampson, the distinguished American baritone. Mr Hampson continued his generous support for a restructured Junior Recital Competition run solely by the AESS, the first final being held in London in 2006. In 2007 the name of the competition was changed to 'The Catherine Lambert Junior Recital Prize' as Catherine generously offered sponsorship until 2011. At the same time Coral Gould offered to fund a third prize for the competition.

Some time ago, at the instigation of John Bishop, the owner of Thames Publishing, the AESS began a ten volume series entitled 'A Century of English Song'. The first seven volumes, published by Thames, are now available from music shops and the AESS. Three volumes remain to be issued. We would welcome any help from publishers or possible sponsors, to complete the series.

The AESS organises many events each year. Artists who have recently given their time to promote the educational aims of the Association have included Joy Mammen, Julia McKenzie, Mary Hammond, Sir Thomas Allen, Andrew Motion, Graham Trew, Gabriel Woolf, Rosamund Shelley, Jonathan Miller, Sarah Walker, Richard Jackson, Graham Johnson, Stephen Varcoe, Robert Ponsonby, Norman Lebrecht, Adele Leigh, Lord Smith, Richard Suart and James Bowman.

*(Further details about the AESS are available on the website [www.aofess.org.uk](http://www.aofess.org.uk) )*

# AESS APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME.....

Joint member name,(if applicable)

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ADDRESS

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POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONE.....

EMAIL.....

PROFESSIONAL NAME, QUALIFICATIONS (if applicable)

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Please give a brief resumé of relevant experience/interests to support your application.

*Continued overleaf*

Members' support at meetings is most important to us and the Committee would like to ensure that appropriate activities are offered

Please show in order of preference, (1 = high 6 = low) which of the association's activities interest you.

Master classes/workshops	----
Talks	----
Competitions	----
Performances by fellow members	----
Social events	----
Other (please specify)	----

Please indicate any other way in which you may support the association.

Committee membership	-----
Skills/specialisms	----
Practical help (duties at meetings, admin., refreshments etc)	----
Facilities (hosting a meeting,etc)	----
Other (please specify)	----

The annual membership fee is £20 individual, £30 joint, £10 student. Your application will be considered by committee and upon acceptance you will be sent a letter of welcome and membership card. Should your application not be accepted your cheque will be returned.

**Please send your completed application form to:  
Patricia Williams, Membership secretary,  
53 Upwood Road London SE12 8AE**

Or for further information please telephone 020 8318 6187  
or email [williams.typhnigerror@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:williams.typhnigerror@tiscali.co.uk)

Please enclose a cheque for the correct amount, a stamped addressed envelope, and if you wish fill in the attached Gift Aid form. The Association gains a tax benefit from this without any further cost to yourself.

Your details will be kept on an address list for AESS use only (delivering newsletter, members contact, etc.) AESS undertakes not to give these details out to any other body.