

International Viola Society

Guidelines for forming an IVS Section

The International Viola Society is a non-profit organisation and has seven viola society sections (as of 2006). They are: *The American Viola Society*, the *Australian and New Zealand Viola Society*, the *Canadian Viola Society*, the *China Viola Society*, the *German Viola Society*, the *Nordic Viola Society (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden)* and the *South African Viola Society*. It is one of the largest organisations of its kind worldwide with over 2000 violists belonging to one or more of our IVS sections.

This document is designed to assist individuals or organisations to form a viola society in their country. It also outlines how a viola society can apply to join the IVS.

Forming a Viola Society:

- 1.) **Membership** - the IVS requires that a viola society has at least seven members.
- 2.) **Officers** - It is recommended that a viola society have at least three officers. The usual titles are: President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Societies with larger membership numbers may wish to have a separate secretary and treasurer and additional officers.
- 3.) **Constitution** - The viola society needs to have a constitution similar to the ones of our present IVS sections. An example can be found by looking at the *Canadian Viola Society's* Constitution and By-Laws at <http://www.viola.ca> The IVS Constitution can be found at http://www.viola.ca/ivs/ivs_home.html A viola society constitution must support the aims of the IVS as stated in the IVS Constitution By-Laws.
- 4.) **Dues** - Annual dues must be set and collected from all viola society members. Each viola society sets its own membership fees (the standard at present is between US\$15 to US\$60 per member per year). Once a viola society has been accepted as an IVS section, 7% of its annual membership dues are to be sent to the IVS treasurer for IVS membership.
- 5.) **Activities/Publications** - Each viola society decides what activities and/or publications it offers its membership for their dues. Most viola societies publish a Newsletter or Journal (and/or e-mail news) for their members. Some offer discounts for viola events and offer other activities.
- 6.) **Viola Society Name** - The IVS prefers that IVS sections take the name of their country, countries or area. However, this is only our preference. If a society already exists with a name, it may wish to maintain this. In such a case, the IVS would like to see the name of the country in parentheses included.
- 7.) **Chapters** - Each viola society is welcome to form chapters within its viola society.

Joining the IVS:

- 1.) **Application** - Once a viola society has been formed, it may apply for IVS membership. This can be done by letter, in person or by e-mail, and needs to include the viola society name, organiser, list of seven or more members, the officers (or when they will be known), the

constitution (or when it will be submitted to the IVS) and when the first dues to the IVS will be received.

2.) **Approval - Provisional** - The IVS officers, once a viola society has been formed with a minimum of seven members, discusses and votes on provisionally accepting the society as a IVS section. If accepted, a second vote is needed from the IVS Delegates (country sections).

3.) **Approval - Official** - Once the viola society has been provisionally approved by both the IVS and the IVS Delegates and the new viola society has appointed or elected its officers, submitted a Constitution for approval to the IVS and paid its first annual dues, membership in the IVS is confirmed.

As a new IVS section:

1.) The member, as an official IVS section, can place a bid to host an *International Viola Congress*.

2.) The member society can participate along with all the other IVS sections regarding IVS matters.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact: Dr Michael Vidulich,
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