



# PRISM MEMBERSHIP

## Levels of Distinction

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### MEMBER

#### Who is eligible?

Anyone who registers with us to join PRISM, whether from the LGBTQIA+ community or as an ally, is entitled to call themselves a Member of PRISM (MPRISM) once their application has been approved by the Board of Directors.

#### Are there any prerequisites?

We welcome anyone involved in the practice or enjoyment of sacred music. There is no need to hold any formal certification or degree in music, and there is no minimum length of time that an applicant must have been involved in the sphere of sacred music. This category is open to all who are interested in supporting the association, sharing their knowledge, contributing to the work of the organisation, and are willing to promote the object of PRISM and share its ethos.

#### What does this entitle me to?

Often this is first question to be asked when joining an organisation. We'd like to turn it around and focus on what you, the Member, can bring to PRISM, and how your ethos, generosity, and special skillset can help those around you. As an outward sign that you are part of our global organisation, all Members are entitled to wear a Member's hood as part of their academic or ceremonial dress, the specifications for which can be found on our website. All Members are eligible to stand for office at times when elections are required.

#### What are my responsibilities?

With entitlements come responsibilities. Making a commitment to be part of PRISM means to help ensure the safety, visibility and inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in places of worship, communities of faith and religious institutions through our roles as musicians or advocates for sacred music. It also means to offer support, fellowship, and a sense of solidarity amongst our members for the safe sharing of knowledge, experiences, and resources. All Members are required to abide by PRISM's Code of Conduct.

## **ASSOCIATE**

### **Who is eligible?**

Anyone registering to join PRISM, whether from the LGBTQIA+ community or as an ally, is entitled to apply at the level of Associate of PRISM (APRISM), so long as they meet the pre-requisite criteria. Associates are enthusiasts and/or practitioners of music at places of worship, communities of faith, or religious institutions, who are willing to promote the objectives of PRISM, and who share its ethos. There is no requirement to first be a Member before applying for Associate. All applications must first be approved by the Board of Directors before an applicant becomes an Associate.

### **What are the criteria for Associate?**

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria when applying for Associate of PRISM:

1. Demonstrate a commitment to the practice and/or enjoyment of sacred music by providing evidence of continuous membership for at least a year of a community of faith, religious, or musical institution involved in the practice and support of sacred music, and
2. Provide a short, written statement of endorsement from a colleague, teacher, or other person in a position of authority that states how the applicant's ethos aligns with the goals and aims of PRISM, and
3. Offer a personal written reflection of around 500 words on what led the applicant to join PRISM, their relationship with sacred music, and what being part of PRISM means for their personal growth and the growth of others around them.

### **What does being an Associate entitle me to?**

Being part of PRISM means sharing in our ethos and aims. This is an opportunity for your generosity of spirit and special skillset to shine in helping those around you. As an outward sign that you have shown commitment and dedication to our cause, all Associates are entitled to wear an Associate's hood as part of their academic or ceremonial dress, the specifications for which can be found on our website. All Associates are eligible to stand for office at times when elections are required.

### **What are my responsibilities?**

Making a commitment to be part of PRISM means you have responsibilities to help ensure the safety, visibility and inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in places of worship, communities of faith and religious institutions through our roles as musicians or advocates for sacred music. It also means to offer support, fellowship, and a sense of solidarity amongst our members for the safe sharing of knowledge, experiences, and resources. All Associates are required to abide by PRISM's Code of Conduct.

## **FELLOW**

### **Who is eligible?**

As is the case with Member and Associate, anyone registering to join PRISM, whether from the LGBTQIA+ community or as an ally, is entitled to apply at the level of Fellow of PRISM (FPRISM), so long as they meet the pre-requisite criteria. It is envisaged that Fellows shall be musicians, academics, music or divinity

teachers, or students of music or religious studies, who are willing to promote the object of PRISM, and who share its ethos. There is no requirement to first be a Member or an Associate before applying for Fellow. All applications must first be approved by the Board of Directors before an applicant becomes a Fellow.

### **What are the criteria for Fellow?**

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria when applying for Fellow of PRISM:

1. Outstanding and/or original contribution in furtherance of the aims of PRISM in the area of inclusivity in sacred music through publication, composition, leadership, practice, or advocacy, and
2. Upon the recommendation of at least two other persons, be they existing PRISM members, colleagues, teachers, or other persons in positions of authority, for service or experience already satisfying the first criterion. Such written endorsements should state how the applicant's ethos aligns with the goals and aims of PRISM, and should accompany the application to the Board of Directors, and
3. Offer a personal written reflection of around 500 words on what led the applicant to join PRISM, their relationship with sacred music, and what being part of PRISM means for their personal growth and the growth of others around them. If such a reflection was already part of a prior successful application for Associate, then this need not be undertaken a second time.

### **What does being a Fellow entitle me to?**

As with Associate, this is an opportunity for your generosity of spirit and special skillset to shine in helping those around you. As an outward sign that you have shown commitment and dedication to our cause, all Fellows are entitled to wear a Fellow's hood as part of their academic or ceremonial dress, the specifications for which can be found on our website. All Fellows are eligible to stand for office at times when elections are required.

### **What are my responsibilities?**

Making a commitment to be part of PRISM means you have responsibilities to help ensure the safety, visibility and inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in places of worship, communities of faith and religious institutions through our roles as musicians or advocates for sacred music. It also means to offer support, fellowship, and a sense of solidarity amongst our members for the safe sharing of knowledge, experiences, and resources. Fellows are encouraged to act as mentors to Members and Associates, and as role-models in their communities, organisations, or institutions. All Fellows are required to abide by PRISM's Code of Conduct.

## **HONORARY FELLOW**

### **Who is eligible?**

This level of recognition is reserved for those persons deemed to have made a significant personal contribution to PRISM and its aims. The awarding of an Honorary Fellow of PRISM (HonFPRISM) is by way of recommendation to and upon the discretion of the Board of Directors.

### **What are the criteria for Honorary Fellow?**

Recommended candidates are considered according to the following criteria:

1. Outstanding and original contribution in furtherance of the aims of PRISM in the area of inclusivity in sacred music on a national or international platform, or

2. Outstanding service to PRISM by helping to further the mission of the organisation through personal dedication and commitment or by serving on its governance structure for a minimum of two years and in that time having made a significant contribution as determined by the Board of Directors, or
3. Such Patrons or Vice-Patrons as may be appointed by the Board of Directors.

### **What does being an Honorary Fellow entitle me to?**

As with all other levels of distinction, this is an opportunity for your generosity of spirit and special skillset to shine in helping those around you. As an outward sign that you have shown commitment and dedication to our cause and have become an esteemed and valued member of PRISM, all Honorary Fellows are entitled to wear an Honorary Fellow's hood as part of their academic or ceremonial dress, the specifications for which can be found on our website. All Honorary Fellows are eligible to stand for office at times when elections are required.

### **What are my responsibilities?**

Having been awarded this level of distinction means that you have already shown dedication, leadership, and outstanding achievement in the furtherance of PRISM's aims and goals - ensuring the safety, visibility and inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in places of worship, communities of faith and religious institutions, and offering support, fellowship, and a sense of solidarity amongst members for the safe sharing of knowledge, experiences, and resources. Honorary Fellows are encouraged not only to act as role models in their communities, organisations, or institutions, but also as ambassadors of PRISM to the wider local, national, or international community. All Honorary Fellows are required to abide by PRISM's Code of Conduct.

## **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

From time to time, as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, a person may be awarded any of PRISM's levels of distinction either posthumously or honoris causa. As with Honorary Fellow, this shall be on recommendation to and at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

To date, the following are the only persons to have been bestowed this honour:

- Dr Nicholas Groves HonFPRISM posthumous
  - For his unparalleled dedication and effort to design and bring to fruition a full set of academic hoods for PRISM, of which he was an ardent supporter from its inception.
- The Rev. Canon Jennifer Chalmers FPRISM honoris causa
  - For her stalwart support of PRISM and its values, and her tireless efforts on national, international, and at times inter-denominational levels to make the Anglican Church in New Zealand, its ministry, its choirs and musical ensembles more inclusive.

## **Subscription / membership fees**

Although PRISM is a Not-for-Profit organisation, there are associated running costs. Following a decision by the Board of Directors back in 2021, a three-year hiatus on membership fees was instituted. This was in acknowledgement of the growing unfavourable economic climate and global disruption in the wake of Covid-19. The Board is due to revisit this decision in 2025. Any decision to re-institute a membership fee will be communicated via our social media platform.

Meanwhile members and others are welcome to donate to PRISM – see our [Join → Support](#) page.

*Thank you for your interest in membership of PRISM.*