

Opera Club Membership subscriptions - Tax

Now that the Opera Club is a registered charity, we are entitled to claim back the tax you have already paid on the money you pay: for your annual subscription, give as a patron's donation, or give as any other donation. See below for details. This will significantly help our finances at no cost to yourself. **Note especially the details for higher rate tax payers.**

However, to do this you must fill out a charity Gift Aid form. One of these is attached along with the membership renewal form for your convenience. This form can either be used for a one off donation or to cover all future donations. Thus once you have filled one in you won't need to again for future years. It can be cancelled at any time and does not hold you to any future payment to the club.

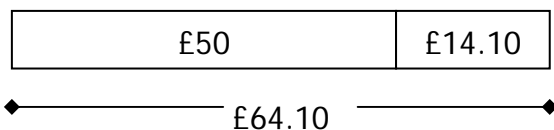
Also, given the club effectively became registered from the date of the original EGM where we agreed to become a charity, we are also allowed to reclaim tax on any subscription payment or donation you made last year as well. Thus please delete the declarations as appropriate.

What we get back

Assuming you pay the full adult acting membership, currently £50, we can claim as follows. For lower subscription rates the tax reduces proportionally.

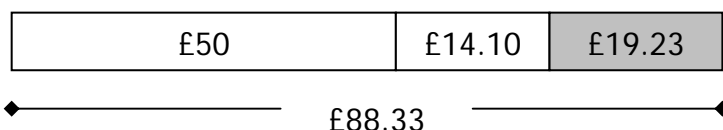
If you are a **basic rate** tax payer, you will have actually earned £64.10 gross of which 22% tax will have already been deducted [$£64.10 * (1 - 0.22) = £50$]

This £14.10 tax we can now claim back if you fill out a gift aid form:



If you are a **higher rate** tax payer, you will have actually earned £83.33 gross of which 40% tax will have already been deducted. [$£83.33 * (1 - 0.40) = £50$]

Here we can still only assume that you are a basic rate tax payer and claim back as if you'd earned £64.10 as above, but if you fill out a tax return you will personally be able to reclaim the additional amount up to the 40% paid. At this point you will have effectively only paid just over £30 for your acting membership, so we leave it to your conscience if you want to help the club out by passing the £20 saving on as an additional donation. (All payments received in full confidence.)



Why we can claim

In the HMRC guidance on Gift Aid and the reclaiming of tax, it states that charity membership subscriptions can be treated as gifts (donations) to the charity (and thus be eligible for Gift Aid tax relief) so long as that membership is only providing: "the opportunity to take part in activities by which the charity carried out its charitable objectives" (See detailed guidance notes chapter 3 - Gift Aid section 3.46.7 and surrounding sections.)

In our new constitution we have several charitable objects. The constitution states that in furtherance of these objects we will "give amateur performances of Operas, Operettas and other musicals". Thus the full acting membership subscription which entitles you to take part in these productions can be classed as a donation in the same way as any other gift to the club.

Gift Aid Declaration for The Opera Club of Reigate and Redhill

("The Opera Club") Registered Charity no.1122724

Details of donor

Title

Forename(s)

Surname

Home address

.....
.....
.....
.....

Post Code

Date of declaration

I want the Opera Club to treat:

* the enclosed donation / subscription of £ as a Gift Aid donation.

* all donations / subscriptions that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

* all donations / subscriptions I have made for this tax year and the year prior to the year of this declaration, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

*delete as appropriate

Signed

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).