

Sample Wording for Bequests

Plan to make a bequest to the American Musicological Society? The following is suggested language provided as a guide for your attorney to use in the preparation of your will or living trust. The American Musicological Society strongly urges interested donors to consider making **unrestricted bequests**(*), as these provide the greatest long-term flexibility and will allow the Society to apply your gift where it is needed most.

REMINDER: If you are making a **restricted bequest**, we strongly recommend that you schedule a consultation with a member of the AMS Development Committee or staff, so we can help ensure that the terms of your bequest will best achieve your charitable goals.

*1. An **unrestricted bequest** is a gift that is made available to support any legitimate purpose of the Society. It allows the AMS to use your gift wherever the need is greatest. Sample language:

I give [_____ percent of my estate, or description of asset, or _____ dollars] to the American Musicological Society, Inc., a New York State nonprofit corporation, for its general and unrestricted use.

2. A **restricted bequest** is a gift that may be used only for the purpose or purposes you specify. Sample language:

I give [_____ percent of my estate, or description of asset, or _____ dollars] to the American Musicological Society, Inc., a New York State nonprofit corporation, to be used exclusively for the following purpose: _____ [description of restriction _____. If, in the future, the Board of Directors of the American Musicological Society determines that the restriction placed herein will result in an impractical or unintended use of this bequest, it may designate another purpose for its use that most nearly accomplishes my wishes. Furthermore, if the total amount of my bequest when received by the Society does not reach the funding level required for my designated purpose, the Society may choose to let the fund accumulate income and interest until the appropriate amount is reached.

3. A **residual bequest** is a gift of all or part of your estate after other bequests have been fulfilled. Sample language:

I give all [or a percentage] of the rest of the property or wealth that I may own or be entitled to at my death to the American Musicological Society, a New York State nonprofit corporation, for its general and unrestricted use.

4. A **contingent bequest** stipulates that, if your heirs die before you, your estate and property will pass to the American Musicological Society. Sample language:

If [insert name of heir(s)] is/are not living at the time of my death, I bequeath all [or a percentage] of the property or wealth that I may own or be entitled to at my death to the American Musicological Society, a New York State nonprofit corporation, for its general and unrestricted use.