

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR – CONSTITUTION

Registered Charity 1003687

1) TITLE

The name of the Choir shall be the Somerset Chamber Choir, hereinafter referred to as the Choir.

2) OBJECTS

The objects of the Choir shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Choir, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.

3) MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Choir shall be those persons who pay the appropriate annual subscription, at such rates as shall be determined by the Committee, the subscription being payable in advance and (in the case of performing members) who shall provide such evidence of musical ability as the Committee shall require. The Committee shall have the right to stipulate a minimum attendance at rehearsals to make a member eligible to sing at a performance. Any member of the Choir who is not able to sing at a performance (which is being administered directly by the Choir) shall have the right to free admission to that performance.

4) TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

There shall be two types of membership:

- a) Full member: This shall be the normal level of membership. A full member shall be eligible to sing at the Choirs' performances (provided that the conditions above are fulfilled).
- b) Student member: This carries the same benefits as a full member. The subscription rate is reduced for those in full-time education or for those who are unwaged. Application should be made to the Committee for acceptance as a student member instead of a full member.

5) OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

- a) The management of the Choir shall be in the hands of a Board of Trustees which comprises no fewer than seven and no more than twelve people; no less than two-thirds of the Board shall be Choir members. In addition, the Treasurer shall be an ex-officio (and non-voting) member of the Committee and the Conductor shall be co-opted as and when required, but shall also have the right to attend meetings and address the Committee at any time.
- b) The Committee shall be elected for the period of one year by the members of the Choir present at the Annual General Meeting. All are eligible for re-election.
- c) A Chairman shall be appointed at the first meeting of the new Committee. A quorum shall be four Committee members.
- d) The Committee has the power to co-opt extra people (from within or without the Choir) to perform specific duties. The co-option may be terminated at any time by the Committee, but in any case will cease at the time of the Annual General Meeting. It can be reinstated by the Committee after the AGM if appropriate. The co-opted members shall have no voting rights.
- e) If a member wishes to raise an issue at a Committee meeting, this can be done by letter or in person by arrangement with the Choir Secretary.

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6) FINANCE

- a) The financial year shall end of 31st January in each year.
- b) A banking account shall be maintained in the name of the Choir and cheques shall be signed by any two of the Treasurer and the Choir Chairman and Secretary.
- c) The Choir may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees and tickets for any or all of its concerts and other events may be offered for sale to the public.
- d) The income and property of the Choir whence so ever derived shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Choir as set forth above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Choir except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Choir.

7) DISSOLUTION

The Choir may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Choir, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such properties shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Choir, but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Choir as the Choir may determine and if and in so far as effects cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

8) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Before the expiry of seven months following every financial year-end, the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least one calendar month's notice shall have been given (which is to be specific as to time and place of the meeting). Nominations for Committee members shall be sent to the Secretary to arrive at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. If insufficient nominations have been received in good time, nominations from the floor of the meeting shall be accepted. All paid-up members (full and student) shall have voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.

9) ACCOUNTS

The financial accounts are subject to approval by an independent examiner and shall be submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

10) AMENDMENTS

Alterations to this Constitution shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Choir at least 21 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. Provided that no alteration to Clause 2 (Objects), Clause 7 (Dissolution) or this Clause shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alterations shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Choir to be a Charity in Law.

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