

LANCASTER AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTIONAL RULES

OBJECTS

1. The title of the organisation shall be the "Lancaster and District Choral Society" hereinafter referred to as "The Society".
2. The objects of the Society shall be the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance, and to support any other charitable purpose as the Committee shall from time to time decide.
3. In furtherance of the above purpose, but not further or otherwise, The Society may:
 - i) Assist any other charitable body or bodies financially or otherwise.
 - ii) Obtain, collect and receive money and funds by way of contributions, donations, affiliations fees, subscriptions, legacies, grants and any other lawful method, and accept and receive gifts of property of any description (whether subject to any special trusts or not). Provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable objects.

MEMBERSHIP

4. Membership of The Society shall be open to any person interested in the objects of the Society and who pays the required fees.
 - i) New and existing members must pay their full subscription no later than three weeks after the first rehearsal attended. Membership of the Society will by no means be granted if this condition is not met.
 - ii) Only singing members have voting rights.
 - iii) Members shall be prepared to sing at all concerts promoted by The Society and have attained a minimum of 75 per cent of possible attendance at rehearsals. Reasons for absence must be reported to the Secretary of the Society as soon as possible, and these will be noted in The Society Register. Any member not attaining the minimum attendance required and still wishing to sing should apply to the Society Conductor and officials for permission to do so.
 - iv) The Committee may by unanimous vote and for good reason terminate the membership of any individual: provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Committee, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.
 - v) New Members: A full audition is not normally required but a simple voice test may be necessary. Applicants who are considered to be musically unsuitable may have their membership refused by the Committee. In the event of a dispute the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Committee, accompanied by a friend before a final decision is made.
5. The Society normally lends music to members free of charge, but it is the responsibility of each member to keep this in good condition and to return the music on the date and time specified by the Librarian. If any music is damaged or lost which may incur a cost to The Society, The Society reserves the right to pass the charges on to the member. All members are reminded that unauthorised copying of the whole or any part of music is

illegal.

FRIENDS OF THE "SOCIETY"

6. Individuals willing to support the objects of the Society in a non-singing capacity will be designated as Friends of the Lancaster and District Choral Society without any financial obligation. A register of Friends will be kept.

VICE-PRESIDENTS AND PATRONS

7. The Society welcomes Vice-Presidents and Patrons interested in the objects of The Society. The minimum amount of Vice-Presidents' and Patrons' subscriptions will be determined by The Society.

THE COMMITTEE

8. The organisation of The Society's activities shall be carried out by a Committee consisting of a Chairman and other Officers of the Society and seven ordinary members.
 - i) The Committee shall act in accordance with all resolutions carried at General Meetings of the Society
 - ii) Sub-committees may be formed, as and when required, for specific duties to aid and support the organisation of the Society. The outcome of any sub-committee's activities shall be conveyed promptly to the Committee.
 - iii) All committees have the power to co-opt members.
 - iv) The Committee will engage, within the terms of an agreed contract, a Conductor and an Accompanist who may attend meetings in an advisory capacity. They do not have voting rights.
 - v) The quorum at a General Committee Meeting shall be 60 per cent of the Committee members.

FINANCE

9. Members shall pay the required fee as laid down by The Society, this fee being subject to yearly revision.
10. A bank account shall be kept in the name of The Society and any two of the three following officials shall sign cheques or withdrawals, namely, the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
11. The financial year shall end on 30 April.
12. The Auditor(s) shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
13. The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days notice shall be given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as the Society may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision, then to some other charitable purpose.
14. The income and property of The Society, whenever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects as set forth in Rule (2), and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or by payments of a professional fee to any member or members of the Committee.

GENERAL MEETINGS

15. The Annual General Meeting will be held as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year.
- i) The Committee will be elected annually at this meeting. Any Member of the Society may nominate any other member to serve on the Committee, subject to the said member's consent.
 - ii) The Committee will recommend and invite a person for the honorary position of President of the Society. This appointment is to be ratified by the voting members at the Annual General Meeting.
 - iii) Any resolution for the Annual General Meeting must be given in writing to the Secretary, at least 21 days prior to the meeting.
16. Subject to the following provisions of this clause the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.
- i) No amendments may be made to clause 1 (the name of the charity clause), clause 2 (the objects clause), clause 13 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without prior consent in writing of the Commissioners.
 - ii) No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law.
 - iii) The Committee should promptly send to the Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.
17. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time at the request of not less than 12 members and provided that 21 days notice has been given in writing to the Secretary of The Society who shall notify all members. No business shall be transacted at such an extraordinary meeting except that for which it shall have been called.

Last amended and approved by Charity Commission June 2001.