



WIMBORNE CHORAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

Reg. Charity No: 1072276

1. TITLE

The name of the Society shall be Wimborne Choral Society (Reg. Charity No. 1072276), hereinafter referred to as "The Society"

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public appreciation of the art and science of music in all aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals for the general purpose of such charitable bodies or for other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Society shall be those who pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates and (in the case of performing members) who provide evidence of musical ability as the Committee, as advised by the Musical Director, may require. The rates of subscription shall be recommended by the Committee and approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting. All subscriptions shall then fall due and be paid in full by the end of November following the AGM. Membership of the Society shall be deemed to be acceptance of the Rules of the Society, a copy of which shall be provided to all members.

Unreasonable behaviour by any member detrimental to the well-being of the Society, (as determined by the Committee) shall lead to termination of membership.

4. HONORARY PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS

The Society may appoint an Honorary President or Honorary Members on the recommendations of the Committee and confirmed by a majority vote at the AGM. The term of office shall be one year and election or re-election shall take place annually at the AGM.

a) Honorary President

The Society may elect as Honorary President of the Society a person who has rendered conspicuous and distinguished service to the Society, or whose presidency shall be deemed to be advantageous to the Society. An Honorary President shall be entitled to attend Annual General Meetings of the Society. Where a person elected is a paying member of the Society, he or she shall be entitled to the privileges thus afforded. An Honorary President can also, if requested by members, conduct that part of an Annual General Meeting relating to the election of the Chairman, after which the Chairman shall conduct the election of the Committee.

b) Honorary Members

The Society may appoint as Honorary Members persons who have been loyal and supportive members of the Society or who have given significant help to the Society in some way. Such persons may be members, former members or non-members of the Society. Honorary Members may attend Annual General Meetings and social functions held by the Society. They may also be granted other privileges as determined by Members.

5. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

While the principles of the policy of the Society shall be determined at Annual General Meetings, the management of the Society shall be in the hands of the Committee consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer (Officers) and not less than three nor more than ten other members. All members of the Committee are Trustees of the Society. The Trustees' meetings shall be held at a time and place, including by electronic means, as determined by the Trustees. A quorum for the Committee shall be at least 50 per cent + 1 members of the Committee, and shall include at least one of the three designated Officers. While the Society belongs to the National Federation of Music Societies (Making Music), one of the Committee shall be the designated contact with the Federation. The Committee's members shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting. With the exceptions of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, they shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should normally be in office for a minimum of three years after the initial election. Committee members should not normally hold office for a period of more than six years consecutively, nor be immediately re-elected. However, in the event of a replacement not being available for a retiring member, they shall be allowed, at the discretion of the Committee and if they so agree, to be re-elected to office, for up to three years in the case of Officers and one year for other Committee members. This process may be repeated as necessary.

The Musical Director, who will be appointed by the Committee, but who is not an elected member, will be invited to attend all General and Committee Meetings, except when his or her position or terms of contract are under consideration.

6. MANAGEMENT

All the arrangements for concerts and other events and the control of finance shall be in the hands of the Committee. The music shall be selected by the Musical Director and approved by the Committee.

7. POWERS

In furtherance of the Objects, but not otherwise, the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- a) The power to raise funds and to invite contributions provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial trading activities and shall conform to the relevant requirements of the law.
- b) The power to appoint and arrange a contract for the Musical Director of the Society.
- c) The power, subject to any consents required by law, to borrow money and to charge all or part of the property of the Society with repayment of the money so borrowed.

- d) The power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects or similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
- e) The power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the above Objects
- f) The power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Committee see fit.
- g) The power to co-opt a maximum of two members of the Society for specific purposes in furtherance of the Objects. Such members shall have full voting rights while they are members of the Committee.
- h) The power to create other permanent posts as recommended by the Committee and agreed at an AGM or EGM.
- i) The power to prepare a set of Rules of the Society which shall govern the day to day conduct of the Society and its members. These will be approved by the members.
- j) The power to do any other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects of the Society.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SAFEGUARDING

No individual shall be excluded from the membership of the Society or de-barred from any official capacity on the Committee on the grounds of sex, race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation or nationality. The Society is committed to supporting its members to participate in the choir safely and enjoyably. Where practicable, reasonable adjustments can be made to facilitate access and participation.

The Society is committed to the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults. A designated Safeguarding Officer is appointed. The full Safeguarding Policy can be viewed on our website or on request.

9. FINANCE

The Financial Year shall end on the 31st July.

The Financial Accounts shall be audited or examined as required by legislation, or, if there is no such requirement, scrutinised by a person who is independent of the Committee. These Accounts shall be submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

An Independent Examiner, having been duly proposed and seconded, shall be appointed by the members at each Annual General Meeting.

A Banking Account shall be opened in the name of the Society. Cheques shall be signed or authorisation made for online payment by any two of the following Committee members: the Chairman, Treasurer and one other nominated Committee member.

The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees. Tickets for all concerts shall be offered for sale to the public.

The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Society as set forth above and no portion thereof shall be paid either directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Within twelve weeks of the end of each Financial Year the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting, to which notice of at least fourteen days shall have been given. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at a time and place, including by electronic means, as determined by the Trustees. The presence, whether in person, electronically or through postal voting, of at least 50 per cent + 1 of the paid- up membership of the Society shall constitute a quorum.

11. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extraordinary General Meeting of which at least fourteen days' notice shall have been given to members may be called for by the Committee or upon written request to the Secretary, having been signed by at least twelve members of the Society. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held at a time and place, including by electronic means, as determined by the Trustees. The presence, whether in person, electronically or through postal voting, of at least 50 per cent + 1 of the members shall constitute a quorum.

12. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution, a copy of which shall be available to all members, may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present, as defined in Clauses 10 and 11 of this Constitution, at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that fourteen days' notice of the Amendment shall have been given to all members and provided that nothing therein contained shall authorise any Amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity.

13. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the charity trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

Any charity trustee participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the charity Trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.

Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

14. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the Society being wound up, any assets remaining upon dissolution shall be paid or transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar Objects to those of the Society