

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION (Registered Charity No: 265227)

1 The name of the Society shall be “Wantage Choral Society” (hereinafter referred to as the Society).

2 Aims and Objectives:

The aims and objectives of the Society shall be the study and rehearsal of choral music in order to educate the public in its arts and sciences, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

3 Membership:

Membership shall consist of:

- i) President or Honorary Life Members, as designated by the Annual General Meeting;
- ii) Patrons;
- iii) Performing Members;
- iv) Temporary Members.

Patrons and Performing Members shall satisfy the following requirements:

- a) the payment of an annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting, the subscription being payable in advance. Payment will be due after the Annual General Meeting;
- b) in the case of Performing Members the provision of such evidence of musical ability as the Committee may require;
- c) Temporary Members may join the Society for one or two terms. They will pay an enhanced subscription, as shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting, but can convert to full membership at any time during the year on payment of the balance of the annual subscription. Temporary Members may not have the same privileges as Full Members, are not entitled to vote on Society matters.

4 Officers and Committee:

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of a Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and not less than four other members shall be elected by and out of the Society’s members at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM held on 25 September 2007 decided that there would be no ceiling on Committee membership although succession planning would be taken into account. Committee Members shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election. The Society’s Representative to the Society of National Federation of Music Societies need not be a member of the Committee.

The AGM held on 25 September 2007 agreed that Officers should serve a maximum of 5 years in post. This would not preclude them from serving on the Committee afterwards.

The Musical Director, Conductor, Assistant Conductor and accompanists shall be appointed by the Committee as necessary. They should attend such meetings as the Committee request. All fees, honoraria or salaries shall be determined by the Committee.

5 Management:

All arrangements for rehearsals, concerts and other events, and control of finance shall be in the hands of the Committee. Five Committee Members shall form a quorum.

6 Music:

Members undertake to purchase or hire copies of music selected from time to time for study and rehearsal. Members are fully responsible for the replacement of any hired copies which are lost

7 Finance:

- a) The financial year shall end on 31 July;
- b) A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two Officers of the Society;
- c) The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees. Tickets for any or all of its concerts and other events shall be offered for sale to the public.
- d) The income and property of the Society, whensoever derived, shall be applied solely towards promoting the object of the Society as set out above, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any members or member of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.
- e) In the event of the winding-up or dissolution of the Society, any remaining assets, after all liabilities have been discharged, shall not be paid or transferred to any member or members of the Society but shall be transferred to a charitable organization whose objectives are similar to those of the Society and whose rules preclude the distribution of income and assets among its members.
- f) The Committee may invest such funds as are not required to be immediately available for meeting the Society's liabilities. Such investment may be on deposit with a bank or building society or in such other investment authorized by law for Charities as the Committee may decide after taking appropriate professional advice.
- g) The financial accounts shall be prepared and submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

8 Annual General Meeting:

The members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting in September of each year of which at least fourteen days notice in writing shall have been given. Agenda items shall be in writing and shall be handed to the Secretary at least 7 days before the meeting.

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by decision of the Committee or by written request to the Secretary signed by not less than 25% of the membership. Such meetings may be called by announcement at any rehearsal. At least 7 days notice shall be given before the proposed date.

9 Amendments:

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that 14 days notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members and provided also that nothing therein contained shall authorize any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity.

10 Interpretation:

The Committee shall be final arbiter on all matters relating to the interpretation of the Constitution.

16 March 2001

Revised 8 December 2009