

Constitution



1 Title

The name of the Society shall be the Brighton Chamber Choir (herein 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 (particularly choral music) in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals; and for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee of the Choir (defined below) may from time to time decide.

3 Membership

The members of the Choir shall be those who pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Committee (all subscriptions being payable in advance) and who provide such evidence of musical ability as the Committee shall require.

4 Officers and Committee

The management of the Choir shall be in the hands of an Executive Committee (herein called "the Committee") consisting of a Chair, an Hon. Secretary, an Hon. Treasurer and three other members. The Officers and Committee members shall be elected by and out of the Choir's members at the Annual General Meeting, and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall be eligible for re-election. One of the Committee shall be appointed by it to be the Society Contact with the National Federation of Music Societies. No person to whom the Choir pays fees (such as Musical Director, Conductor, Accompanist or Soloist) shall be eligible to serve on the Committee, but may be invited to attend meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

5 Management

All the arrangements for concerts and other events and the control of finance shall be in the hands of the Committee.

6 Powers

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

- 6.1 power to raise funds and to invite contributions, provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law:
- 6.2 power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use:
- 6.3 power subject to any consents required by law to borrow money and to charge all or any part of the Choir's property with repayment of the money so borrowed:
- 6.4 power to employ or hire such staff or to engage the services of such musicians on a fee-paying basis (who shall not be members of the Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects of the Choir:
- 6.5 power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them:
- 6.6 power to establish or support any charitable trusts associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects of the Choir:
- 6.7 power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Committee shall think fit:
- 6.8 power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

7 Equal opportunities

No individual shall be excluded from membership of the Choir or be debarred from election to the Committee on the grounds of sex, race, colour, religion, sexual orientation or political affiliation.

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8 Finance

In furtherance of the objects of the Choir but not further or otherwise, the following provisions shall be of effect:

8.1 The financial year shall end on 31st August.

8.2 A Bank Account shall be opened and operated in the name of the Choir and cheques shall be signed by any two Officers of the Choir.

8.3 The Choir shall 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.

8.4 The income and property of the Choir from wherever 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.

9 Dissolution

In the event of the Choir being wound up, any assets remaining upon dissolution after the payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to the Choir.

10 Annual General Meeting

Within six weeks of the end of each financial year the members of the Choir shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least fourteen days notice in writing shall be given.

11 Extraordinary General Meetings

An Extraordinary General Meeting (of which at least fourteen days notice in writing must be given to members) may be called for by the Committee OR upon a written request to the Hon. Secretary signed by at least ten members of the Choir.

12 Accounts

The financial accounts of the Choir shall be independently audited and submitted to the members of the Choir at each Annual General Meeting.

13 Amendments to the Constitution

The Constitution of the Choir may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that fourteen days notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing to all members, and provided that nothing therein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Choir's ceasing to be eligible for charitable status.



STANDING ORDERS AND RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

1. The Committee's decision as to the sufficiency of musical ability of any applicant for membership of the Choir or any existing member of the Choir (after consultation with the Conductor) shall be final.
 2. The Committee shall have power to co-opt up to two further members of the Choir eligible under Clause 4 of the Constitution as voting members of the Committee.
 3. Any casual vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the Committee's co-opting a replacement Committee Member or appointing a replacement Officer to serve until the next Annual General Meeting, when any such person so appointed will be eligible for election.
 4. The quorum for any General Meeting of the Choir shall be ten members.
 5. The quorum for any Committee meeting will be three Committee members.
 6. The Committee shall from time to time have power to select the following appointees:
 - 6.1 a Conductor for the Choir, who shall take responsibility for maintaining and developing the standard of musical performance of the Choir and (in consultation with the Committee) for the content and venue of concert and recording programmes; will normally take Choir rehearsals; and will tender advice to the Committee on the sufficiency of musical ability of any applicant to join the Choir or any existing Choir member and any other musical matters:
 - 6.2 an Accompanist, who shall normally accompany rehearsals of the Choir:
 - 6.3 appropriate deputies for the above, in consultation with the Conductor, for occasions when the Conductor or Accompanist are unavoidably unable to attend.
- The Committee shall have power to pay fees to each of the above appointees at an appropriate professional rate or as agreed between the Committee and the relevant appointee.
7. Minutes shall be kept of all Committee Meetings and General Meetings of the Choir, to be approved at the next following respective meeting and signed by the Chair.
 8. Only those present at any meeting of the Committee or any General Meeting of the Choir shall be eligible to vote on any resolution or in any election thereat.
 9. Any candidate for Officer or Committee member, and any motion for consideration by the Choir in General Meeting, shall be duly proposed and seconded by members of the Choir and (subject to Clause 13 of the Constitution) shall be elected or passed by a simple majority of those members of the Choir present and voting.
 10. The Chair shall not have a casting vote at any Committee meeting or General Meeting of the Choir.