

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY - CONSTITUTION

1 Title

The name of the Society shall be the Nantwich Choral Society, hereinafter referred to as the Society.

2 Objects

The objects of the Society shall be to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

3 Membership

a) The members of the Society shall be those persons who pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting, the subscription being payable in advance, and (in the case of the performing members) who shall provide such evidence of musical ability as the Committee may require. The Honorary Conductor(s) and the Accompanist shall be exempted from the requirement to pay a subscription.

b) Performing members. Applicants shall be admitted to membership on giving such evidence of musical ability as the Conductor shall require. A register of attendance at rehearsals shall be kept; members will be expected to inform the Registrar of any cause preventing their attendance. The Committee, in the event of unsatisfactory attendance at rehearsal, have the right to debar a member from singing in the next concert.

c) Non-singing members. These shall be entitled to one complimentary ticket during the season, and to attend rehearsals if desired.

4 Participation

Each singing member of the Society is expected to take part in all concerts outlined in the programme approved at the Annual General Meeting for the forthcoming season, and membership entails an agreement to attend all rehearsals if at all possible. Newcomers would be regarded as visitors for the first few rehearsals, then would become full members of the Society.

5 Subscriptions

a) Subscriptions shall be determined at each Annual General Meeting for the following year. Members under eighteen years of age, students in full-time education, Senior Citizens and those joining after 31st December each year shall be entitled to pay a reduced subscription, normally payable each week during rehearsal periods.

b) Subscriptions shall be payable at the commencement of each annual season, the season commencing with the first rehearsal in the autumn. Subscriptions outstanding, unpaid for twelve months, shall involve removal from the Register of Members, and membership shall be forfeited.

6 Management

The sole management and control of the Society, both financial and otherwise, shall be vested in the Committee hereinafter defined.

7 Committee

The committee shall consist of a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Conductor(s), Honorary Conductor(s) Elect and four other members. The officers and other Committee members shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting; they shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election and the Conductor(s) shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall take office twelve months hence.

A quorum of the Committee shall be four. The Committee shall have power to co-opt, appoint sub-committees and officials other than those specified in the Constitution, and take any other action not covered by the Constitution and which is in their opinion considered necessary for the benefit of the Society. Vacancies arising on the Committee shall be filled by the Committee, such members to serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Committee members may not serve for more than three consecutive years.

8 President and Vice-Presidents

The society may elect persons of standing as President or Vice-Presidents. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all Committees.

9 Finance

- a) The financial year shall end on 31st August.
- b) A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and either the Chairman or Honorary Secretary.
- c) The Society may receive donations, grants in aid of 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 Society whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Society as set out above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Society except in payment of reasonable and legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.
- e) In the event of the winding-up or the 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, subject to the prior approval of the Charity Commissioners, to a charitable organisation whose objects are similar to those of the Society and whose rules preclude the distribution of income and assets among its members.

10 Audited Accounts

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

11 General Meeting

Within six weeks of the end of each financial year the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least fourteen day's notice in writing shall have been given.

12 Extraordinary Meetings

Extraordinary General Meetings may be called at the discretion of the Committee. The Committee shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting of which seven days written notice shall be given, within twenty-one days after receipt by the Secretary of a written request signed by not less than ten members. No business shall be discussed at the Meeting except that specified in the request.

13 Amendments

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a Formal Meeting, provided that fourteen days notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members and that 50% of the members are present, and provided also that nothing herein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity.

14 Choice of Works

The selection of works to be performed shall be the responsibility of the Committee. The Conductor shall have the right of veto.

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