

TAUNTON CHORAL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The name of the Society shall be Taunton Choral Society (hereinafter referred to as the Society)

2. OBJECTS

The object of the Society shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of choral music in all its aspects, by the presentation of public concerts; and the general purposes of such charitable bodies, or such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable, as the Committee may from time to time decide

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 by the Committee, all subscriptions being payable in advance; and (in the case of performing members) who provide such evidence of musical ability as the Committee may require
- b) Honorary Membership of the Society shall be reserved for those members who have given long and exceptional service to the Society. Honorary members may not be performing members, shall not hold office and shall not be entitled to vote at a general meeting of the Society. Candidates for Honorary Membership shall be nominated by the Committee and shall be deemed to be elected at the Annual General Meeting if two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote, are in favour
- c) The Society's season shall be from 1st September to 31st August

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

No individual shall be excluded from membership of the Society or debarred from any official capacity on the Committee on the grounds of age, disability, sex, race, colour, religion, sexual orientation or political affiliation; except that members under the age of 18 years shall not be eligible to hold office until they attain that age

5. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

- a) The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of the Officers, ie Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and not more than six or less than three other members. The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Vice-Chairman from within its number. The Officers and ordinary Committee members shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office from the conclusion of the AGM. They shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election. No Officer or Committee Member shall serve for more than 6 consecutive years
- b) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two additional members as may be required. Co-opted members shall serve until the next AGM and be eligible for election. All members of the Committee shall be over 18 years of age
- c) The Musical Director shall be entitled to attend Committee meetings
- d) The Committee shall have the power to appoint a President and Vice-Presidents, who shall be entitled to attend General Meetings of the Society, but shall not be entitled to vote at these meetings

6. MANAGEMENT

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

7. POWERS

In furtherance of the Society's objects, but not otherwise, the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- a) power to raise funds and to invite contributions, providing that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law
- b) power to buy, take on or lease in exchange, any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use
- c) power, subject to any consents required by law, to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Society
- d) 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
- e) power to employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects
- f) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies or statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects, or of similar charitable purposes, and to exchange information and advice with them
- g) power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects
- h) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Committee may think fit
- i) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects

8. FINANCE

- a) The financial year shall end on 31st August, after which date, a statement of financial affairs shall be prepared for approval following independent examination to the extent required by legislation or, if there is no such requirement, scrutinised by a person who is independent of the Committee, and then submitted to the members at an AGM
- b) A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two Officers of the Society or by an Officer or any other Committee Member authorised by the Committee to sign
- c) The Society 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
- d) The income and property of the Society, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Society as set forth above, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member of the Society, except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society

9. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution or winding-up of the Society, any assets remaining after the payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to a charitable institution having similar objects to those of the Society

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Within six months of the end of the financial year, the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least 14 days' notice in writing shall be given

11. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extraordinary General Meeting, of which at least 14 days' notice in writing must be given to members, may be called for by the Committee or upon written request to the Secretary, signed by at least 15 members of the Society

12. 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 authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity

This constitution was adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th January 1998 and amended on 2nd November 2004.