



ELTHAM CHORAL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The name of the society shall be The Eltham 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 choral concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The membership of The Society shall comprise two categories; Members and Honorary Members. Reference to Members hereinafter, excludes Honorary Members unless specifically stated.
- 3.2 The members shall be those persons who pay such subscriptions as have been set by a General Meeting and who can provide such evidence of musical ability as the committee may require.
- 3.3 Honorary members shall be those persons who have demonstrated loyalty and support to The Society over a period of years and have been so nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting. Honorary members are not eligible to participate in rehearsals or performances unless also a current member.
- 3.4 At the discretion of the committee, the membership subscription may be reduced for an individual in the case of hardship.
- 3.5 Each member shall be required to undertake to contribute to the assets of The Society in the event of its being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, for payment of the debts and liabilities of The Society contracted before he/she ceases to be a member and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, This contribution shall not exceed a sum equal to the annual subscription at the time of the winding up.

4. COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

- 4.1 The management of The Society shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of a minimum of eight and maximum of 12 members elected by and out of the members of The Society at the AGM. Members of the committee shall serve for a period not exceeding three years, one third in number of the members of the committee retiring at each AGM by rotation, and being eligible for re-election for a further term.
- 4.2 The following officers shall be elected by, and out of, the committee:-

Honorary Chairman
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer

- 4.3 A quorum for a Committee meeting shall consist of four members of the committee.
- 4.4 Any member of the Committee may resign at any time on presentation of at least 21 days notice to the committee.
- 4.5 All arrangements for concerts and other events and the control of finance and other ancillary matters shall be in the hands of the committee.
- 4.6 A meeting of the committee shall be convened, when deemed necessary, with a minimum of one per academic term.
- 4.7 The Committee shall have the power to:-
 - (a) Co-opt members when necessary, to serve until the next AGM,
 - (b) Remove or replace any member of the committee where the majority of the members considers such action to be in the best interests of the society as a whole,

- (c) Inspect, after reasonable notice has been given, any of the records of The Society and to check and verify independently the existence and value of any cash or other assets being maintained for and on behalf of The Society,
- (d) Appoint a professional Musical Director, who is not eligible to be a member of The Society, to advise on musical matters and oversee musical activities. The Musical Director will be required to attend committee meetings in an advisory capacity,
- (e) Deal with any matter not otherwise referred to in this Constitution in the best interests of The Society.

5. FINANCE

- 5.1 The Financial Year shall end on 31st August.
- 5.2 A banking account shall be maintained in the name of The Society and cheques shall be signed by any two officers of The Society.
- 5.3 The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees. Tickets and/or programmes for any of The Society's concerts and other events shall be offered for sale to the public. Profits from such events may be donated to registered charitable organisations at the discretion of the committee.
- 5.4 The Committee, at its sole discretion, may issue complimentary tickets for any concert or other event to any persons who have promoted or may promote in any way the interests of The Society, provided that they are not members of The Society.
- 5.5 Except as provided in 5.3, 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 of The Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of The Society.
- 5.6 Activities outside the scope of the objects of The Society may be promoted purely for the purpose of raising additional income in support of the pursuit of those objects.
- 5.7 In the event of the winding up of The Society, any remaining assets after all liabilities have been discharged shall not be paid or transferred to any member of The Society. They shall be transferred to a charitable organisation or musical society whose objects are similar to those of The Society and whose rules preclude the distribution of income and assets amongst its members.
- 5.8 The honorary Treasurer shall keep books of accounts and prepare an annual financial statement which shall be independently audited by an Honorary Auditor appointed each year by the AGM.

6. ORDINARY AND GENERAL MEETING

- 6.1 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of The Society shall be convened within twelve weeks of the end of each financial year, at least fourteen days notice having been given to the members of The Society. The purpose of the AGM shall be to receive and approve an audited financial statement of The Society's affairs for the preceding financial year, to elect members of the committee and to transact other business of The Society.
- 6.2 Extraordinary General Meetings of the members of The Society may be convened by the committee or by two thirds of the members with not less than fourteen days written notice. The notice must include the special resolutions for which purpose the meeting has been called.
- 6.3 All resolutions to be moved at a General Meeting shall be sent to the Secretary with the name of the proposer at least 21 days before the meeting.
- 6.4 Minutes will be taken at every meeting at which any business concerning The Society is transacted.
- 6.5 Ordinary meetings shall be held weekly during the academic year on an evening and at a time and place mutually agreed.

7. GENERAL

- 7.1 The constitution of The Society may be amended by a special resolution placed before the members of The Society at a General Meeting and approved by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- 7.2 The Society undertakes to give all races, creeds and sexes equal opportunity to join in and share all the various activities of The Society.
- 7.3 Any person accepting membership of The Society shall be bound by the provisions of the Constitution and, in case of dispute, the interpretation given by the committee shall be decisive.