



DONCASTER CHORAL SOCIETY

www.doncasterchoralsociety.org.uk

DONCASTER CHORAL SOCIETY

Constitution

1 Title

The name of the Society shall be “Doncaster Choral Society”, hereinafter referred to as the Society.

2 Objects

The objects of the Society shall be to educate the public in the art and science of music by the presentation of public concerts and other activities; and for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee (as hereinafter defined) may from time to time decide.

3 Membership

The members of the Society shall be those who pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Committee and ratified by the members at the Annual General Meeting. All appropriate subscriptions shall be payable in advance and at the latest before the first concert of the season. Admission to the Choir shall be by audition.

4 Officers and Committee

- i The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of the following Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Making Music Representative, any other Officers that the Committee shall deem necessary, plus three other members as representatives of the choir.
- ii The Officers (excluding the Making Music Representative) and the other Committee members shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting. The Officers shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and be eligible for re-election; other members shall serve for three years and not be eligible for re-election for at least one year.
- iii The date of committee meetings shall be arranged in advance by the Committee or on reasonable notice by the Chair. Other meetings may be called on written request to the Secretary signed by at least 30% (thirty per cent) of the Committee giving at least fourteen days notice in writing; such notice to include the issue to be considered.
- iv The quorum for a committee meeting shall be not less than 30% (thirty per cent) of the members of the Committee. No decisions shall be taken unless a quorum is present.
- v Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- vi Whenever a committee member has a personal interest in a matter to be discussed at a meeting, and whenever such a person has an interest in another organisation whose interests are reasonably likely to conflict with those of the Charity in relation to a matter to be discussed at a meeting, he or she must:

- a) declare an interest before discussion begins on the matter
- b) have no vote on the matter.
- v The Conductor and Deputy Conductor (when applicable) shall be appointed by the Committee following consultation with the membership of the Society and subject to the signing of an agreed contract.

The Conductor (and Deputy Conductor) may attend Committee meetings except when their positions are being considered, but may not vote.

5 Management

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

6 Powers

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

- i 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;
- ii power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;
- iii power to insure the property of the Charity against any foreseeable risk and to take out other insurance policies to protect the Charity as the Committee thinks fit.
- iv 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;
- v power to appoint such paid persons as it considers necessary. The Committee shall appoint and fix the remuneration of such persons as may be necessary to conduct the business of the Society. They shall not be members of Committee and will have no right to vote at meetings.
- vi power to provide indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the Committee which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Charity: provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Committee knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Committee in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not; provided also that any such insurances shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Committee in their capacity as Committee of the Charity;
- vii power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Committee may think fit;
- viii power to terminate the membership of any individual, provided that the decision of the Committee (with the exception of (i) the individual concerned if a member of Committee and (ii) any member of the Committee making or connected with the complaint against the individual) is

unanimous both as to the termination and as to there being good reason for it, and provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the committee, accompanied by a friend if desired, before a final decision is made;

- ix. power to fill any vacancy occurring on the Committee during the year until the next AGM and to appoint any other officers deemed necessary under Clause 4(i) hereof for the same period;
- x. power to do all such lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

7 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 sex, race, colour, religion, physical disabilities, sexual orientation or political affiliation.

8 Finance

- i The financial year shall end on 31st July.
- ii A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two of the three Officers named by the Committee.
- iii 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.
- iv 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 or members of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

9 Accounts

The financial accounts shall be audited or examined 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 the Annual General Meeting.

10 Indemnity

Without prejudice to any indemnity to which a Committee member may otherwise be entitled, every Committee member or other officer of the Charity shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Charity against all costs, charges, expenses or liabilities incurred by him or her: in defending any civil or criminal proceedings in which judgment is given in his or her favour or in which he or she is acquitted; and in connection with any application in which relief from liability is granted to him or her by the court where such proceedings or application arise as a result of any actual or alleged negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the Charity Committee members' indemnity insurance

10 Annual General Meeting

Within six months of the end of each financial year the members of the Society shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting, of which at least fourteen days' notice in writing shall be given. The quorum for an AGM shall be 30% (thirty percent) of the membership of the Society. All decisions shall be made by simple majority.

11 Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting, of which at least fourteen days' notice in writing must be given to members of the Society, may be called for by the Committee or upon written request to the Secretary signed by at least 30% (thirty percent) of the members of the Society. Such notice to include the specific resolution to be considered. The quorum for an EGM shall be 30% (thirty percent) of the membership of the Society.

All decisions shall be made by simple majority.

12 Dissolution

In the event of the Society 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 those of the Society. The decision to wind up the society shall be made by the Committee and ratified by a two thirds (66%) majority of members at an Extraordinary General Meeting, of which at least fourteen days' notice in writing must be given to Members.

13 Amendments

The constitution 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 sent to all members and provided that nothing therein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity.

Revised & Approved 27.01.09

DONCASTER CHORAL SOCIETY

Choir Rules

1 Rehearsal Attendance

It is important that members attend all rehearsals.

If this is not possible please discuss the matter in the first instance with the Registrar and/or the Chairman.

If you are unable to attend a rehearsal or sing in a concert please let the know Registrar as soon as possible.

Her numbers are: 01302 361754 or 07930340649

2 Concert Dress

Women Ankle length plain black skirt or formal ankle length black trousers and plain black long-sleeved top or full-length black dress with long sleeves; black stockings or tights; black shoes; black handbag

Men Plain black dinner suit; white shirt; plain black bow tie; black socks; black shoes.

3 Music Requirements

Members are required to purchase a music folder.

This can be ordered through the Librarian.

Members should also have a pencil (HB) for all rehearsals.

Updated October 2012