

YORK MUSICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1765)

CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The Society shall be called the "York Musical Society" hereinafter referred to as the Society.

2. STATUS

The Society shall be a Registered Charity No. 504611 and shall be a member of Making Music (National Federation of Music Societies).

3. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be to encourage and educate the public in the appreciation of music, primarily by the study of choral works, the presentation of concerts and other activities.

4. MEMBERSHIP

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 and approved in General Meeting. Performing members shall provide such evidence of musical ability as the Committee may require and comply with the Rules laid down by the Committee and agreed in General Meeting.

A President and Vice-Presidents may be elected as honorary members and shall not be subject to annual re-election.

5. HONORARY OFFICERS

At the Annual General Meeting of the York Musical Society the members shall elect from among themselves a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting. They shall hold office for one year and be eligible for reelection for a maximum of ten years.

The Chairman shall act as chairman at meetings of the Executive Committee. If the chairman is absent from any meeting, the members of the Executive Committee present shall choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting before any other business is transacted.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the Annual General Meeting of the York Musical Society the members shall elect from among themselves The Executive Committee which shall consist of not less than three members nor more than seven members being:

- a) the honorary officers specified in the previous clause
- b) the Making Music (NFMS) Representative, the Membership Secretary, the Concert Coordinator and the Concert Secretary. They shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election for a maximum of six years.

7. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Executive Committee may appoint one or more persons for the purpose of performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by the persons) provided that all acts and proceedings of any such person(s) shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee. The Hon. Conductor shall be a permanent member of the Music Sub-Committee.

8. MANAGEMENT

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

9. FINANCE

- a) The financial year shall end on 31st January.
- 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.
- c) The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees and tickets for any or all of its concerts and any 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
- e) Society as set forth herein 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.
- f) In the event of the winding up or 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 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. MEETINGS

- a) An annual General Meeting shall be held within twenty six weeks of the end of the Financial Year. At least fourteen days' notice of the date shall be given in writing. Forty members (or 40% of the membership if *less*) shall form a quorum. Proposals to *be* put to the meeting, including nominations for the Committee and Officers, shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least seven days before the date of the meeting and shall be signed by two members of the Society.
- b) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or shall be called on receipt of a signed requisition by twelve or more members of the Society. The Notice convening the Meeting shall state the reason for the Meeting, and no business other than that stated shall be transacted. At least seven days' notice shall be given. A quorum will consist of 40 members, or 40% of the membership if less.
- c) Committee meetings shall be convened by the Chairman at frequent intervals. The Secretary shall give members seven days' notice. Five members of the Committee shall form a quorum, of whom two shall be Officers of the Society.

11. EXAMINED ACCOUNTS

The accounts shall be made up to the Financial Year End and shall be examined by two Independent Examiners appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

12. AMENDMENTS

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

RULES FOR PERFORMING MEMBERS

1. Prospective performing members shall apply to the Membership Secretary, who will arrange an audition at the earliest opportunity. Applicants will be notified in writing of the result of the audition by the Membership Secretary. Successful applicants shall pay the appropriate subscription before being admitted to membership.
2. In order to perform in each concert, members must attend at least two thirds of the rehearsals for that concert. Evidence of attendance shall be provided by personally initialling a register. Under no circumstances may any member sign on another member's behalf. Except in extenuating circumstances this must include the final rehearsal, Notification of such circumstances must be given to the Membership Secretary beforehand.
3. Each member shall be subject to re-audition at least once every five years or at the discretion of the Hon. Conductor. Members will be notified of the result by the Membership Secretary, Those who have not passed a re-audition shall cease to be performing members.
4. The Committee shall specify a uniform dress for the ladies of the Society. Gentlemen shall wear a dinner jacket or dark suit, white shirt with black bow tie and black shoes. These items shall be paid for by the individual member.
Unless otherwise laid down by the Committee, this dress shall be worn at performances. If for any reason the dress specified is to be varied either permanently or for a specific concert, at least six weeks' notice shall be given to the members. No permanent change shall be made without the assent of the majority of the members in General Meeting.
5. Subscriptions are due on admission to the Society and are renewable after the Annual General Meeting and must be paid not later than six weeks after the recommencement of rehearsals in the season following.
6. Members shall normally provide their own music in the approved edition or pay the appropriate hire charge.