

AXMINSTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

1 Title

The name of the Society shall be the "Axminster & District Choral Society", hereinafter referred to as "the Society"

2 Aims and Objectives

The object of the Society shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society through its committee shall determine from time to time

3 President

The Society may appoint a President and one or more Vice Presidents.

4 Director of Music

The Society shall invite a suitably qualified person to be Director of Music who shall have responsibility for the supervision of any musical performances by the Society.

5 Assistant to the Director of Music

The Society may appoint an Assistant to the Director of Music

6 Membership of the Society

- (i) Membership of the Society shall be open to all who support the aims of the Society as described above
- (ii) Members who take part in performances by the Society are expected to be capable of making an acceptable musical contribution to the works performed. Any problems arising in this respect shall be referred to the Director of Music
- (iii) The annual subscription shall be decided by the Annual General Meeting and shall be paid for the Society's year not later than 31st December in that year. Members joining after 1 January shall pay half the annual subscription for the remainder of the financial year. Membership shall be free for persons under eighteen years of age.

7 Committee

- (i) The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a committee which shall consist of four officers - namely the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer - and five ordinary committee members
- (ii) The committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three other members who

shall serve until the next General Meeting

- (iii) Five members shall constitute a quorum
- (iv) The committee members shall be the Trustees of the Society
- (v) The officers and ordinary committee members shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting
- (vi) Nominations for the election of officers and committee members shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary before the Annual General Meeting and shall be signed by the proposer, seconder and countersigned by the nominee, all of whom shall be paid-up members of the Society
- (vii) The President, Vice-Presidents, the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music may attend and speak at committee meetings but shall not vote on any matter
- (viii) The Chairman of the committee shall have a second vote or casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.

8 Music

- (i) Members shall be individually responsible for the cost of any hired copies of music which are lost while on loan to them
- (ii) Members may be encouraged to purchase copies of music selected for study and rehearsal
- (iii) Suggestions of music to be performed shall be welcomed from individual members of the Society but the final selection shall be the responsibility of the committee with the guidance of the Director of Music.

9 Finance

- (i) The financial year shall end on 31st July annually
- (ii) A banking account shall be maintained in the name of the Society and all cheques shall be signed by any two nominated officers
- (iii) The Society may receive donations, grants-in-aid and financial guarantee, and tickets for any or all of its concerts and events shall be offered for sale to the public
- (iv) The income and property of the Society, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely toward promoting the objects of the Society and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Society except in payments of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society
- (v) 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

- (vi) The financial accounts shall be examined as required by law and presented to the members at an Annual General Meeting. Independent examiners who are not members of the Society shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting
- (vii) Any expenditure of sums greater than £500 shall require the prior approval of the committee.

10 Annual General Meeting

- (i) An Annual General Meeting of members shall be held during October of each year
- (ii) Members shall be given twenty-one days' notice of the convening of the Annual General Meeting
- (iii) The Annual General Meeting shall be for the purpose of
 - i) receiving the Chairman's report
 - ii) adopting the examined accounts which shall have been circulated with the notice of the meeting
 - iii) electing the officers and committee for the ensuing year
 - iv) appointing the examiners
 - v) dealing with any other relevant business which shall have been notified to the Honorary Secretary in writing not less than two weeks before the date of the meeting.

11 Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the decision of the committee or by a written request to the Honorary Secretary, signed by not less than twelve members. At least fourteen days' notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given to all members.

12 Amendments to the Constitution

The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, providing that notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members and provided that nothing contained in the amendment shall have the effect of causing the Society ceasing to be a charity.

13 Interpretation

The committee shall be the final arbiter on all matters relating to the interpretation of this constitution.