

CONSTITUTION OF THE ABINGDON AND DISTRICT MUSICAL SOCIETY

Revised May 2022

NAME

1. The name of the Society shall be "The Abingdon and District Musical Society", hereinafter known as "the Society".

AIMS

2. The aims of the Society are to foster public knowledge and appreciation of the art of vocal and instrumental music and to encourage and develop local amateur musical talent both choral and instrumental.

To this end the Society

- (a) will study vocal and instrumental music in regular rehearsal and give public performances in the Abingdon area,
- (b) will encourage and support other local musical activities,
- (c) will strive to limit its dependence on professional or non-local talent to the minimum consistent with a proper standard of performance,
- (d) may request and receive subscriptions, donations, grants in aid, financial guarantees and gifts of all kinds.

INCOME AND PROPERTY

3. The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Aims of the Society and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Society, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the repayment to any member of legitimate expenses incurred in the furtherance of the work of the Society at the request of the Executive Committee or prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of the society or to any member of the Society in return for any services actually rendered to the Society.
4. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society, but shall be transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having aims similar to the aims of the Society and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent as great as is imposed on the Society by virtue of the first part of this clause: such charitable institution or institutions to be determined by the members of the Society at or before the time of dissolution, and if effect cannot be given to this provision then the remaining property shall go to some charitable object.

MEMBERSHIP

5. Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons who reside in Abingdon and district and who wish to further the aims of the Society, subject to clause 6 and to

payment of the appropriate subscription. Membership shall be in the following categories :

- (a) Full members.
 - (i) Choral
 - (ii) Orchestral
- (b) Junior members (aged under 18 years or full-time students)
- (c) Subscriber members, to be known as Friends of the Society
- (d) Honorary members (see clause 16)

All members may attend General Meetings of the Society and each shall have one vote.

6. Full membership may be restricted, at the discretion of the Musical Director in consultation with the Committee (see clause 12), although every reasonable effort shall be made to accept all applications,

The Committee has the power to terminate the membership of any individual, 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.

7. All Full, Junior and Honorary members may participate in rehearsals, but payment of the appropriate subscription shall not of itself entitle any member of the Society to take part in any public performance. Permission to do so may be withheld by the Musical Director on grounds of general technical ability or, if in his/her opinion, the member has attended an insufficient number of rehearsals.
8. Subscriber members may attend all rehearsals without participating. They shall be entitled to one free ticket at each of the Society's fee paying concerts plus such other benefits as the General Meeting, or the Committee, may from time to time authorise.
9. Rates of subscription shall be determined from time to time by a General Meeting of the Society and shall be due for renewal in September of each year. Subscriptions may be for a whole year or part thereof and may be paid by such instalments and at such intervals as the General Meeting may authorise.
10. The Society may have a President and the Committee may invite interested parties to become Patrons of the Society. Patrons will be invited to pay a subscription, the rate of which shall be determined from time to time by a General Meeting of the Society, and shall be entitled to such benefits as the General Meeting or Committee may from time to time authorise.

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11. The officers of the Society shall be a Chair, two Vice-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer. The two Vice-Chairs shall be drawn from each of the Choral and Orchestral Sections.
12. The Society shall be managed by an Executive Committee, herein known as "the Committee", consisting of the five officers together with the Musical Director, a Concert Manager, a Publicity Manager, Music Librarians for Choir and Orchestra, two representatives from the Choral Section and two representatives from the Orchestral Section. The Committee shall have power to co-opt not more than three additional members. The Committee may appoint one member (who may be a co-opted member) as Membership Secretary, one as Assistant Treasurer and one as

Making Music representative. A quorum shall be five members, two of whom shall be officers, provided always that it shall include at least one member from each of the Choral and Orchestral Sections. Meetings of the Committee may be attended in person and/or, with the agreement of the Trustees, by electronic means. In meetings held partly or wholly electronically, all participants must have equal access, are counted as present, and are subject to the normal rules of order.

13. All officers and members of the Committee shall be elected for one year at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.
14. The Committee shall from time to time appoint a Musical Director, an Accompanist and an Orchestral Leader. It may also appoint associate conductors and accompanists. The Committee shall have the power to terminate appointments.
15. The Committee shall be responsible for the arrangements for all concerts, including choice of music to be performed and choice of soloists, and any other events plus the control of finances.
16. The Committee may offer Honorary membership of the Society to any member for exceptional services to the Society. This shall entitle the Honorary member to participate in all activities of the Society and to vote at General Meetings without payment of a subscription.
17. The accounts of the Society shall be examined annually by a person who may be a member of the Society but who is independent of the Committee and is appointed at each Annual General Meeting.
18. The Committee shall deal in the best interests of the Society with any situation not covered by the Constitution.

SUB-COMMITTEES

19. The Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of three or more members of the Society, including at least one member of the Committee, to make any enquiry or perform any function or duty which, in the opinion of the Committee, would be more conveniently undertaken by a sub-committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be fully and promptly reported to the Committee.

GENERAL MEETING

20. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Society. The Meeting may be attended in person and, optionally and with the agreement of the Trustees, by electronic means. Any remote participants must have equal access to those present, are counted as present, and are subject to the normal rules of order.

The meeting shall:

1. Receive the annual reports of the Chair, Vice-Chairs and Musical Director.
2. Consider the Treasurer's report and accounts for the year.
3. Elect the officers and members of the Committee, (The two orchestral and two choral Section representatives shall be elected by their respective sections).
4. Appoint the Independent Examiner.

5. Any other business.

21. At least 14 days notice in writing, which may be in electronic or hardcopy form, shall be given by the Secretary of all General Meetings and of the business to be discussed.
22. Any member wanting to propose an alteration in this Constitution at the Annual General Meeting shall give notice of such intention (in electronic or hardcopy form), with details of changes proposed, signed by at least six voting members of the Society, to be in the hands of the Secretary at least 21 days prior to that Meeting.
23. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called within 21 days at the request, in electronic or hardcopy form, of not less than 10 members of the Society. The request shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other business may be transacted at the meeting. An Extraordinary General Meeting may not be held during July or August.
24. Nominations for Office and for membership of the Committee, signed by two voting members, should be received by the Secretary at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting, but additional nominations may be accepted by the Chairman at that meeting.
25. There shall be a quorum when at least 10% of the members of the society or 10 members (which ever is the greater), are present at any General Meeting.
26. The Secretary, or other person appointed by the Committee, shall keep a full record of proceedings at every General Meeting..

FINANCES

27. The financial year shall end on 30 June.

Bank accounts shall be opened in the name of the Society, all cheques to be signed by two officers of the Committee.

Arrangements may be made for Internet banking, with the Treasurer identified as the Primary User and one or more other officers of the Committee identified as Secondary Users. The Treasurer must have prior authority from one other officer of the Society before making any payment using Internet Banking.

Tickets for any or all of its concerts and other events shall be offered for sale to the public.

ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

28. The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that fourteen days notice of the proposed alterations have been sent to all members and provided that no alteration shall be made so as to permit the application of the funds to any purpose which is not charitable.

No amendment may be made to clause 1 (name), clause 2 (aims), clause 3 (distribution of assets or clause 4 (dissolution) without prior written consent of the Charity Commission.

The Committee shall send the Charity Commission a copy of any amendments made under this clause.

10 May 2022.