

Constitution

1. NAME

The Orchestra shall be called the Harmony Sinfonia.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Orchestra shall be to promote, develop and maintain public education and participation in and appreciation of classical music by the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

3. MEMBERSHIP

(a) Membership of the Orchestra shall be open to all persons interested in furthering the objects of the Orchestra whether as playing or non-playing members. Applications for membership shall be subject to approval by the Committee.

(b) The constitution shall be available to all members on the website and all members shall be informed of its location.

4. THE ORCHESTRA

(a) Any orchestra shall be formed from those members of the Orchestra who may from time to time be invited to play by the Committee, in consultation with the conductor.

(b) Members of the Orchestra who wish to play in any orchestra shall, if required by the Committee, submit themselves for audition.

(c) Auditions shall be held in accordance with arrangements made by the Committee. The audition panel shall consist of the Musical Director and the relevant section leader. If either of these are unavailable, the committee shall nominate appropriate deputies to sit on the panel.

(d) The Committee may engage additional players or principals.

5. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

(a) The general business of the Orchestra shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the officers and other members.

(b) The officers shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian.

(c) Ordinary members may also be elected to the Committee, to a maximum of 5.

(d) The Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

(e) The quorum of the Committee shall be three, of which at least two shall be officers.

(f) The Chairperson or individual acting as Chairperson of the Annual General Meeting or Committee Meeting shall have a second, casting vote.

(g) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members.

(h) The Committee in their discretion may invite any individual to attend a meeting, who may speak but not vote on any matter.

(i) The income and property of the Group whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Group as set forth above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member or members of the group except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the group.

(j) The Committee has the power to employ such staff as are necessary for the proper pursuits of the objectives.

(k) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the custody of all funds of the Orchestra, the maintenance of proper accounts and the production of a financial statement at the Annual General Meeting. They shall on request prepare statements for the Committee necessary for their meetings.

(l) The Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman, shall be responsible for notifying members of meetings and sending them the agenda and accompanying papers beforehand. Minutes of General Meetings and of Committee Meetings shall be taken by the Secretary, circulated to members of the Committee and made available to members of the orchestra and other interested parties prior to the holding of the next following General or Committee Meeting as the case may be.

This version of the constitution adopted 16 May 2018.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) Members shall pay a termly subscription, the amount of which shall be decided by the Orchestra at a General Meeting after considering the recommendations of the Committee. The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of each term in respect of the orchestral year which shall be deemed to commence on that date.

(b) Members playing in any orchestra shall be required to pay such dues as the Committee shall decide as appropriate to meet the expenses of the Orchestra.

7. AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts of the Orchestra shall be audited annually if the turnover exceeds the threshold specified by the Charity Commission at the end of the financial year. In this situation, an official auditor shall be appointed by the Committee and his appointment shall be ratified at the Annual General Meeting. If the turnover is below the specified threshold, the Committee shall conduct an internal audit of all accounts. In both cases, the audit must take place within 6 months of the end of the financial year.

8. GENERAL MEETING

(a) Notice of the holding of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members not less than twenty-one days before the date of such meeting and such notice shall specify the business to be transacted at the meeting.

(b) Additional General Meetings may be called by the Chairman at any time on giving not less than twenty-one days notice and shall be called on similar notice at the written request of six or more members. The written request should state the nature of the business to be discussed.

9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

No individual shall be excluded from membership of the Society or de-barred from any official capacity on the Committee on the grounds of sex, race, colour, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation.

10. ALTERATION OF THE RULES

No alteration may be made to this constitution except at a General Meeting. The notice convening the meeting shall specify the nature of the proposed alteration which shall take effect only if not less than two-thirds of the members of the Orchestra are present and voting agree. No alteration to clauses two or eleven or this clause shall be made without the prior approval of the Charity Commissioners and no amendment or addition or deletion shall be made the effect of which would cause the Orchestra at any time to cease to be a charity at law.

11. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

(a) Any person may resign from the Orchestra on giving notice to that effect to the Secretary or Chairman.

(b) Any person who does not within a reasonable time pay the subscription or dues properly demanded of him shall be liable to have his membership terminated by the Committee.

(c) The Committee may, after due enquiry, terminate the membership of any member whose conduct is contrary to the interests of the Orchestra and the attainments of their objects PROVIDED THAT no decision to terminate membership shall be taken unless the member has received notice of the complaint against him and been accorded a reasonable opportunity of being heard by the Committee.

12. DISSOLUTION

The Orchestra may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21-days' notice shall have been given to members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by the Orchestra provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Orchestra but shall be given or transferred to such other institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Orchestra as the Orchestra may with the approval of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction determine.

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