

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The name of the Choir shall be “Helensburgh Oratorio Choir”, hereinafter referred to as “the Choir”.

2. Objects

The object of the Choir shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of choral music in all its aspects, by the presentation of public concerts, recitals, and be willing to help in the welfare of the community and by such other ways as the Choir, through its Committee, shall determine from time to time.

3. Membership

The members of the Choir shall be those who have satisfied the Conductor as to their musical ability, and who pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates, as shall be determined by the Committee, all subscriptions being payable in advance.

As the Choir is registered as a Charity, Members are encouraged to pay subscriptions as Gift Aid donations (adjusted annually in line with any increase in subscription).

The subscription rate for young persons and students shall be at a reduced level as determined by the Committee. All music is paid for by Members, and is not included in the subscription.

Membership is for the whole season and there is no selective or part-season membership. Members joining in January will be charged 50% fees for that year only.

4. Office Bearers and Committee

The management of the Choir shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, and one each of Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass Stewards, plus the Musical Director ex-officio. The Committee may co-opt, as required, additional members for specific duties. Five Committee Members (including co-opted members) form a quorum, and one of the following must be in attendance: Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer. The Office Bearers and Committee shall be elected by and out of the Choir’s members at the Annual General Meeting; they shall hold office for three years and are eligible for re-election.

5. Management

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

6. Finance

The financial year shall end on 30th June annually. A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Choir and cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other Member of the Committee (to be nominated) when the value is over £250.

The Choir may 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.

The income and property of the Choir, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Choir as set forth above, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, either directly or indirectly, to any Member or Members of the Choir, except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Choir. The Committee shall issue complimentary tickets and recommend the granting of honoraria.

7. Dissolution

In the event of the Choir 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 Choir.

Any proposal or disbursement of funds of the Choir shall be submitted to the Members, and such proposals must have the support of two-thirds of those present. The number present must represent three-quarters of the total membership.

8. General Meeting

Within three months of the end of each financial year, the Members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least fourteen days' notice shall be given.

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 a General Meeting.

10. Amendments

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

11. Choir Members

Members are expected to attend all rehearsals as detailed on the Rehearsal Schedule, and, if unable to attend, should notify the Section Steward. Any member absent on three consecutive rehearsals without good reason will be contacted by their Steward. Members are expected to have unbounded enthusiasm and loyalty, and support all activities of the Choir.