

WELLINGBOROUGH SINGERS

CONSTITUTION 2018

1 Name

The name shall be called “WELLINGBOROUGH SINGERS”, hereinafter referred to as “The Singers”

2. Objects

The objects of The Singers are to promote and develop contact with, and appreciation of, choral music, locally.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership shall be open to any person interested in furthering the objects of The Singers, and who has paid the annual subscription near the beginning of each season (or a proportionate subscription at the start of each term), subject to paras. 3.2, 3.6, 3.7.

3.2 The annual subscription is waived for those under the age of 30, though no-one below the age of 18 may join.

3.3 Those joining as members of The Singers are not required to audition, though, if warranted by unusual circumstances, the Director may require a member to produce evidence of musical ability.

3.4 Regular attendance is required from members wishing to perform in concerts.

3.5 In addition, the following persons shall be members: the Music Director; any accompanist/s appointed by The Singers. A member in this category shall not be entitled to vote in Committee or General Meeting on any resolution concerning his/ her appointment or honorarium.

3.6 Any membership may be terminated by the Committee after due consideration.
Membership may be terminated:

3.6.1 If a subscription is not paid when it is due,

3.6.2 If a member conducts himself/ herself in a manner inconsistent with the objects of the Society, or hinders the Society in fulfilling its objects, and the Committee resolves that membership shall be terminated on that account, providing that the member has been given the opportunity of being heard before any such resolution is passed; or

3.6.3 If a member fails to provide, on being requested to do so, such evidence of musical ability as the Musical Director may reasonably require.

3.7 Honorary Life Members: The Committee may elect as an honorary Life Member, without payment of any subscription, anyone who has, in their opinion, rendered services to The Singers. Each candidate for honorary life membership must be proposed and seconded by members of The Singers.

4. Management

4.1 The management will be entrusted to an honorary Committee dealing with the tasks of :

- Director of Music
- Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Librarian
- Membership List
- Publicity Officer
- School Liaison

4.2 The Committee will be elected at the annual general meeting in each year, and, subject to termination of office by resignation, removal or otherwise, the members remaining in office until their successors are elected at the annual, or a special, general meeting, following their election.

4.3 The Committee will meet such days and at such times as it determines, at least four times per year, with at least one week's notice, an agenda being published in advance. The Music Director and the Accompanist will be entitled to be in attendance, except when one or more of their positions or remuneration is/are being considered, when those concerned will be asked to leave the meeting.

4.4 The Committee may ask up to four additional members of The Singers to attend a Committee Meeting for discussion of particular topics. Those co-opted in this manner will be accorded voting rights.

Voice Representatives appointed have the right to attend the Meetings.

These may be invited to serve in their capacity be the Committee or, if deemed preferable, voted for by their voice section.

4.5 At Committee Meetings and at General Meetings, the Chairman will have a casting or additional vote in the event of any equality of votes.

4.5 The Committee may fill any casual vacancy that occurs.

4.7 The Committee will annually discuss and set the honorarium paid to the Director of Music and Accompanist/s.

5. Music Directors and Accompanists

5.1 The Committee shall be responsible for appointing a Music Director and an Accompanist.

5.2 The Music Director shall have final responsibility for all aspects of the artistic direction of The Society, including the selection of music for rehearsals and performance, the selections of additional professional musicians for concerts and any commissioning of new music.

5.3 The Music Director will plan events within the budget guidelines outlined by the Hon Treasurer.

5.4 The Music Director shall be appointed initially for a probationary period of 12 months, and the responsibilities and honorarium laid out in a letter of appointment. The Committee shall review the appointment at least 3 months before its expiry. Thereafter the committee can re-appoint for a further period of 5 years. Notice in writing can be given to end the appointment by the Director or the committee during this period with at least three months notice required. After this period, the appointment may be terminated at the end of each session, by either party, with a minimum 3 months' notice given.

5.5 The honorarium given to the Music Director and Accompanist shall be paid as arranged and reviewed on an annual basis.

5.6 The Music Director may recommend to the Committee the appointment of a Deputy Music Director, to assist with rehearsals and concerts. The Deputy Director shall be appointed for one year only, but may be re-appointed for any subsequent year. An honorarium would be agreed by the Committee.

6. Subscriptions

6.1 The annual subscription will be reviewed by the Committee each year.

6.2 Subscriptions are due by the beginning of rehearsals in September (or January for anyone joining for that term only).

6.3 Newly joining members may pay after a trial period of three weeks.

6.4 If any member fails to pay his / her subscription within 30 days after it becomes due, and the treasurer/ membership secretary gives notice to him/her to pay within seven days, the Committee may terminate his/her membership without further notice if he/she fails to pay.

7. Alteration of Rules

The Committee may alter the rules, but no alteration takes effect until it has been confirmed at the next annual general meeting or a special general meeting convened for the purpose.

8. General Meetings

8.1 An annual general meeting must be held in every year, no later than the end of October and must:

8.2 Be preceded by a notice convening this meeting not less than 14 days before the set date, specifying the matters to be dealt with. This will include an invitation for nominations to the Committee by The Singers which are to be submitted to the Secretary in writing, with the approval of the Nominee.

8.3 Receive and, if approved, adopt a statement of the Singers' accounts, which will have been circulated via the internet beforehand.

8.4 Consider and, if approved, sanction any alteration of the rules.

8.5 Appoint the officers and others members of the Committee.

8.6 Deal with any special matters which the Committee desires to bring before the members and receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee.

9. Special General Meetings

9.1 A special general meeting may be convened at any time by the Committee and must be convened within 21 days from receipt of a requisition in writing signed by not fewer than 5 members specifying the object of the meeting.

9.2 A special general meeting may be convened:

9.2.1 to consider and, if approved, sanction any duly made alteration of the rules,

9.2.2 to deal with any special matter which the Committee wish to place before the members,

9.2.3 to remove any member or members of the Committee from office and to fill any vacancy or vacancies caused by the removal, or

9.2.4 to deal with any special matters which the members requiring the meeting wish to place before the Singers.

9.3 Notice convening a special general meeting must be given to members not less than 14 days before the meeting and must specify the matters to be dealt with.

10. Quorums

10.1 The following numbers are required to form a quorum:

10.1.1 at Committee meetings: 4

10.1.2 at general meetings: half the number of paid-up Members.

10.2 Honorary members may attend general meetings, but they are not entitled to vote and must not be counted as part of the necessary quorum.

11. Finance

11.1 The financial year shall end at the end of May.

11.2 A banking account shall be kept in the name of the Singers and cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman jointly.

11.3 The Singers may receive donations, grants in aid, and tickets for any or all of its concerts may be offered for sale to the public.

11.4 The income of the Singers, howsoever derived, shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Singers as set forth above, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly to any member or members of the Singers except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Singers.

11.5 In the event of the winding-up or the dissolution of the Singers, any remaining assets, after all liabilities have been discharged, shall not be paid or transferred to any member or members of the Singers but shall be transferred to a charitable organisation whose objects and rules are similar to those of the Singers. This is to be decided by the Committee.

12 Accounts

Full accounts of the financial affairs of the Singers duly audited by the appointed Auditor must be made available to every member at the annual general meeting and upon demand.

Adapted copy of the original Constitution of the Wellingborough Singers (drawn up in 2000, re-written in 2016 and re-written again in 2018), approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman:

Mrs. Gesa Beales

Date