

WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY

RULES

17th SEPTEMBER 2012

I. NAME AND OBJECT

1. The Society shall be called the Worcester Festival Choral Society.
2. The objects of the Society shall be to educate the Public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of choral music, by the presentation of choral concerts and other activities during a festival season and at other times as the occasion may arise.

II. CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

3. The Society shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Patrons, singing and non-singing members.

III. MEMBERSHIP

4. Prospective singing members shall be required to pass an audition. On completing this to the satisfaction of the Director of Music or their accredited representative, a prospective member shall become a member on payment of the appropriate subscription.
5. New singing members will be admitted normally in September or January, at the first or second rehearsal.
6. All members shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be fixed by the Annual General Meeting and shall, if required, provide their own music. Subscriptions shall be due on joining the Society and thereafter annually by 1st October. They may be paid in two instalments, in which case the second payment must be received by 1st February. It is the responsibility of members to ensure that their subscriptions are paid by the due dates. A member, having been accepted into the Society, shall remain liable for the full subscription each season, unless written notice of resignation is given to the Secretary.
7. No member may order any article or enter into any engagement or transaction on behalf of, or in the name of, the Society, without the authority of the General Committee.
8. Each member of the Society shall be deemed to sanction the contracts and obligations entered into by the General Committee, or under its authority.
9. The General Committee shall have the power to remove the name of any member from the Society's list on due cause being shown, but such a member will have the right of appeal to a General Meeting.
10. The General Committee will from time to time require a member of the Society to have a further audition and shall have the power to remove from the Society's list of members the name of any member failing to reach the required musical standard.

11. A copy of the Rules shall be given to each member.

12. All members shall agree to accept the Rules of the Society of which the General Committee shall be the interpreters.

IV. MUSICAL DIRECTORSHIP

13. A Musical Director/Principal Conductor shall be engaged by the General Committee by written contract, which may be reviewed annually. An Assistant Conductor/Accompanist shall be similarly engaged.

V. PATRONS

14. A Patrons Scheme may be run by the Society and shall be administered annually by the General Committee.

VI. OFFICERS AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

15. At each General Meeting, the President, Senior Vice-President, and the other Vice-Presidents shall be confirmed. The following Officers shall be elected : Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Ticket Secretary, Patrons Secretary and other such Officers as are deemed necessary. Such Officers are members of the General Committee ex-officio.

16. The General Committee shall consist of the officers and at least two general members of the chorus, with the Musical Director as an advisory member. At each Annual General Meeting, at least one chorus member shall, subject to the agreement of the Committee, retire from it and be replaced by a new chorus member. Retiring members shall not be eligible for re-election until one year has elapsed.

17. The General Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than five persons, either for the whole of its period of office, or for special occasions.

18. General Committee shall fill any vacancy occurring during the year among its ex-officio and elected members.

19. An executive Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer plus a non-officer member appointed by the General Committee, with the Musical Director acting in an advisory capacity, shall have the power to conduct the business of the Society on a day-to-day basis. This Executive Committee shall also meet from time to time to review the activities of the Society. All decisions shall be subject to the constraints of Rule 20 and must be ratified at the next meeting of the General Committee.

20. The General Committee shall conduct the ordinary affairs of the Society and shall have the power to make any decision which is not contrary to, and involves no change in, or addition to, the rules of the Society.

21. Subject to the agreement of the General Committee, a Music Committee comprising a minimum of the Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer and Music Director shall be responsible for choosing the works to be performed.

22. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman from any Committee meeting, the General Committee shall elect its own chairman for that meeting.

23. At the request of any two members of the Committee, the Secretary shall convene a Special Meeting of the General Committee.

24. Seven days notice of General Committee Meetings shall be given to all its members. In an emergency this rule shall be suspended, provided that a quorum concurs in its suspension.

25. A quorum of the General Committee shall consist of six members, including a non-officer member. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be four members.

26. At Committee meetings, decisions shall be made by the vote of the majority of those present, the Chairman having a casting vote.

VII. FINANCE

27. The Financial Year shall end on 31st May

28. A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two of three officers of the Society nominated by the General Committee.

29. The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees. It may also undertake fundraising activities on its own behalf. Tickets for any or all of its concerts and other events may be offered for sale to the public.

30. The income and property of the Society, wheresoever derived, shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Society as set forth above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member of the Society.

31. In the event of the winding up or dissolution of the Society, any remaining assets, after all liabilities have been discharged, shall not be paid or transferred to any member of the Society, but shall be transferred to a charitable organization whose objects are similar to those of the Society and whose rules preclude the distribution of income or assets amongst its members.

VIII. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

32. An Annual General Meeting shall be held to:

- i) Receive the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports
- ii) Adopt the Statement of Accounts
- iii) Elect Officers and the Committee as shown in Rules 15 and 16 above
- iv) Elect an Auditor
- v) Consider any other business

33. Special General Meetings shall be held

- i) Whenever the General Committee thinks it advisable
- ii) Within one month of the delivery to the Secretary of a notice signed by not less than ten members of the Society requesting that such a meeting be held and specifying the business to be brought forward.

34. At least fourteen days notice shall be given of every Annual General Meeting. The same minimum fourteen days notice shall be given of every Special General Meeting, unless two-thirds of the members of the Society are present at such meetings and unanimously agree to suspend the minimum notice rule.

35. Any General Meeting shall be competent to make, amend or delete rules but no such alteration of the Rules shall be deemed to be carried unless:

- i) The members of the Society have been notified of the proposed alteration not less than fourteen days before the general meeting at which it has been discussed.
- ii) At least two-thirds of those present have voted for it.

36. At General Meetings, decisions not involving any alteration to the Rules of the Society shall be made by the vote of the majority of those present, the Chairman having a casting vote.

IX. REHEARSALS

37. Rehearsals will normally be held once a week throughout the season but members may be required to attend additional rehearsals.

38. It is expected that members will seek to attend all rehearsals. Before members can sing in a concert, they must have attended not less than 80% of all rehearsals, the exact number to be determined by the General Committee in conjunction with the Music Director. Failure to meet this requirement will mean that members will only be allowed to participate in the relevant concert at the discretion of the Music Director and may be required to undergo an additional audition.

X. PERFORMANCES

39. In connection with each performance, the General Committee shall be empowered:

- i) To fix the price of all tickets
- ii) To issue a limited number of complimentary tickets
- iii) To enter into written contacts with soloists and orchestras on behalf of the Society

40. Attendance of singing members at the final rehearsal on the day of the concert is not optional.

41. Concert Dress for singing members for all concerts, unless otherwise indicated, is as follows:-

- Men - Black suit, white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes
- Women - Ankle-length black skirt or trousers, long-sleeved black top with collar or high neck (unadorned). Shoes and all accessories are to be black.

XI. OTHER MATTERS

42. The General Committee shall develop policies as required by statute or national guidelines, publish them to members and lodge them with the minutes of the next AGM.