

ASHBOURNE SINGERS CONSTITUTION

TITLE

The name of the Society shall be the Ashbourne Singers, hereinafter referred to as the Society.

OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be:

- 1) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals;
- 2) To further such charitable purpose or purposes as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society shall be open to any person over the age of 18 interested in furthering the objects of the Society, and who has paid the termly subscriptions at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Trustees. All subscriptions being payable during the first two weeks of term.

Membership of the Society shall also be open to any young person from age 8 to 18 interested in furthering the objects of the Society and who pays the subscription for each term at the appropriate rate or rates as determined by the Trustees. These members will be known as the Young Ashbourne Singers.

Where it is deemed valuable in widening an individual's musical development and experience, musicians (instrumental or choral) under the age of 18 may be invited to join rehearsals and perform with the Ashbourne Singers. This will be at the discretion of the Musical Director and with a majority approval from the Trustees.

Every member shall have one vote.

Trustees have the power to terminate the membership of any individual, provided that the decision of the Trustees (with the exception if (i) the individual concerned is a Trustee and (ii) any Trustee is making or connected with the complaint against the individual) is unanimous both as to the termination and as to there being good reason for it, and provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Trustees, accompanied by a friend if desired, before a final decision is made.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of Trustees consisting of the following officers - Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Child Protection Representative. The Society shall not have more than eight Trustees as the Annual General Meeting shall from time to time determine.

The Officers and the other Trustees shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting; they shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and be eligible for re-election, provided that no Officer shall hold office for more than three years consecutively. If an Officer has held office for a period of three years and there is no other Society member willing to stand for that Officer post, any Annual General Meeting or Special

(Extraordinary) General Meeting may agree to the three year rule being waived and such existing Officer can become eligible for re-election for a further term of three years.

Other Officers may be appointed as seen fit by the Trustees either from within the group of Trustees or co-opted from the Society as a whole.

A quorum shall be five Trustees.

MANAGEMENT

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

POWERS

In furtherance of the objects, but not otherwise, the Trustees may exercise the following powers:

- power to raise funds and to invite contributions provided that in raising funds the Trustees shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
- power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;
- power subject to any consents required by law to borrow money and to charge all or part of the property of the Society with repayment of the money so borrowed;
- power to employ such staff (who shall not be Trustees) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation for staff and their dependents;
- power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;
- power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;
- power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Trustees may think fit;
- power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

MEETINGS & PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall hold at least two ordinary meetings each year. A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chair, or by any 2 Trustees, upon not less than 4 days' notice being given to the other Trustees of the matters to be discussed but if the matter includes the appointment of a co-opted member then not less than 21 days' notice must be given.

The Chair shall act as Chair at meetings of the Trustees. If the Chair is absent from any meeting, the Trustees present shall choose one of their number to be Chair before any other business is transacted.

There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the Trustees for the time-being, or five Trustees (whichever is the greater), are present at a meeting.

Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Trustees present and voting on the question, but in the case of equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or 'casting vote'.

Trustees shall keep minutes of the proceedings at meetings of the Trustees and any sub-committee, and shall ensure that these are stored safely, and that they are available for inspection as required.

Trustees may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings, and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

Trustees may appoint one or more sub-committees, consisting of two or more Trustees, for the purpose of making any enquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which, in the opinion of the Trustees, would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee: provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be fully and promptly reported to the Trustees.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCE

The financial year shall end on 31st July.

A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by two Trustees as nominated by the Trustees.

The Society 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 Society whence so ever 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 or members of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

ANNUAL 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 21 days' notice in writing shall be given to all members.

The Trustees shall present to each AGM the reports and accounts of the Society for the preceding year.

Nominations for election as a Trustee must be made by members of the Society in writing and must be in the hands of the Secretary of the Society at least 14 days before the AGM. Should nominations exceed vacancies, an election shall be held.

SPECIAL (Extraordinary) GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting (also known as an Extraordinary General Meeting), of which at least 21 days' notice in writing must be given to members, may be called for by the Trustees or upon written request to the Secretary signed by at least 10 members of the Society. The notice must state the business to be discussed.

PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

The secretary or other person specially appointed by the Trustees shall keep a full record of proceedings at every general meeting of the Society.

There shall be a quorum when at least 10% of the members of the Society at the time or 10 members, whichever is the greater, are present at any general meeting.

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 the Annual General Meeting

ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution may be altered by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at any General Meeting, provided that fourteen days' notice of the proposed alteration 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.

No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of the charity), clause 2 (the objects) or clause 16 (dissolution), without the prior written consent of the charity commission.

DISSOLUTION

In the event of the Society 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 aims to those of the Society.

Signed


(MAURICE S. COEY)

Acting Chair, Ashbourne Singers

Date 22nd March 2016