

# MILTON KEYNES YOUTH CHOIR CONSTITUTION

ADOPTED ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1998

## 1. Title

The name of the society shall be the Milton Keynes Youth Choir, hereafter referred to as 'the Society'.

## 2. Objects

The objects of the Society shall be the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music, in the Milton Keynes area, by means of public performance: and for the general purposes such charitable bodies or for such purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.

## 3. Membership

There shall be two categories of membership – adult (non-singing) members who pay an annual subscription, and singing members (aged 8 to 18 years), who pay subscriptions on a half termly basis. The members of the Society shall be those who pay the half termly or annual subscription at the appropriate rates as shall be determined by vote at the Annual General Meeting, all subscriptions being payable in advance.

## 4. Officers and Committee

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of a Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, plus not less than three and not more than six ordinary Committee members. (A quorum shall be formed by 3 members of the Committee, including two of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, or one third of the total members whichever is greater.)

The Officers and other committee members shall be elected by and out of the Society's adult members at an Annual General Meeting. The Officers shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election. Two ordinary Committee members shall retire each year, in rotation, and thereafter be ineligible for re-election for one year. Nominations for Officers and Committee members shall close one week before the meeting.

## 5. Management

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

## 6. Musical Director

The Society shall appoint a suitably qualified person to rehearse, educate and inspire members in preparation for and in performance at public concerts. The Musical Director shall be paid an honorarium, which shall be agreed annually by the Committee at the recommendation of the Chairman, immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Society shall similarly appoint and pay competent persons to act as Deputy Conductor and accompanist.

## 7. Powers

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

- i. Power to raise funds and invite contributions, provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
- ii. 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;
- iii. 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;

- iv. Power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of their objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;
- v. Power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;
- vi. Power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Committee may think fit;
- vii. Power to do all such lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects

#### **8. Equal Opportunities**

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

#### **9. Finance**

- i. The financial year shall end on 15 August
- ii. A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two officers of the Society
- iii. The Society shall 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.
- iv. The income and property of the Society, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely to towards promoting the objects of the Society as set forth above. No portion thereof shall be paid, 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.

#### **10. 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 objects to those of the Society.

#### **11. Annual General Meeting**

Within eight weeks from the end of the financial year the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of which at least fourteen day' notice in writing shall be given.

#### **12. Extraordinary General Meeting**

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), of which at least fourteen day's notice in writing must be given to members, may be called by the Committee OR upon written request to the Secretary signed by at least one fifths of the members of the Society.

#### **13. Audited 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 submitted to the members of the AGM.

#### **14. Amendments**

The constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority of the member present at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that fourteen days' notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members, and provided that nothing therein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity.

20.9.1998