



## Durham Choral Society Constitution

**1 Title** The name of the society shall be the Durham Choral Society.

**2 Objects** The objects of the society shall be the study and practice of choral music in order to educate the public in the knowledge and appreciation of such music by presentation of concerts and other activities.

**3 Membership** The members of the society shall be those persons who pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Annual Meeting, the subscription being payable in advance, and in the case of performing members, shall provide such evidence of musical ability as the committee may require. Singing members will be expected to be regular in attendance at practices. Subject to the committee's discretion, any member who has failed to attend two thirds of the rehearsals of any concert performance shall not sing at the performance. Members undertake to provide their own copies of the music selected from time to time for study and practice.

**4 Presidents and Vice Presidents** There shall be a President and the committee may invite Vice Presidents.

**5 Officers and Committee** The management of the society shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, the Making Music representative and eight other members. The officers (except for the MM representative) and other committee members shall be elected by and out of the society's members at the Annual General Meeting; they shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election, excepting the Chairman who shall serve for no more than three consecutive years. The MM representative shall remain in office until replaced. The committee shall have the power to co-opt such persons as it may deem necessary from time to time provided that the number co-opted shall not exceed one third of the total committee. The Musical Director and accompanist shall be ex-officio members of the committee. At all meetings of the committee six members shall form a quorum. The Chairman shall have an original and casting vote.

**6 Management** All the arrangements for the concerts and other events and the control of finance shall be in the hands of the committee.

### 7 Finance

(a) A bank account shall be opened in the name of the society. Any two of three signatories shall be empowered to sign cheques on behalf of the society.

(b) The financial year shall end on 31st August.

(c) The society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees, and tickets for any or all of its concerts and other events may be offered for sale to the public.

(d) The income and property of the society whencesoever 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.

(e) 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 or members of the society but shall be transferred to a charitable organisation whose objects are similar to those of the society and whose rules preclude the distribution of income and assets among its members as the committee shall decide with the approval of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

**8 General Meeting & Audited Accounts** Within six weeks of the end of each financial year the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least fourteen days' notice in writing shall have been given. The main business of this meeting shall be the election of officers of the society and members of the committee. The audited financial accounts of the society shall be submitted to the members at this meeting.

**9 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 amendments has been sent to all members and provided also that nothing herein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the society ceasing to be a charity at law.

Revised 2010