



# THE HARDYNGE CHOIR CONSTITUTION

Adopted at Extraordinary General Meeting on 30th January 1995. Amended at Annual General Meetings of 25 September 2000, 27 September 2010, and 17 September 2012, at a Special General Meeting on 10 December 2014, at Annual General Meetings on 24 September 2018 and 19 October 2020, and at a Special General Meeting on 29 June 2026.

1. **TITLE** The name of the Society shall be The Hardynges Choir, hereinafter referred to as the Society.
2. **OBJECTIVES** The object of the Society shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts and by such other ways as the Society through its Committee shall from time to time determine.
3. **MEMBERSHIP** The members of the Society shall be those who pay the periodic subscription at the appropriate rate as shall be determined by the Society at a general meeting, all subscriptions being payable in advance. Membership shall terminate at the request of the members of the Committee or if any subscription shall fail to be paid.
4. **TRUSTEES** The management of the Society shall be in the hands of the Trustees, consisting of the Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer and two Representative Members, all of which positions are honorary. The Trustees shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting; they shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election, but only for one further period of three years in that same office. Three members of the Trustees shall form a quorum. The Trustees may at their discretion co-opt additional members onto a Committee who will assist in the management of the Society, having been assigned specific roles, and shall serve until the next General Meeting, when they shall be eligible for re-election. Each role will have a written role specification to ensure the smooth running of the administration of the Society.

In applying the rules of section 4, the following variations are permitted:

- a) A Trustee may, if duly elected, serve a further term or terms in a different office. Accordingly, provided that she or he has changed office, a Trustee may serve for three terms of three years in total.
- b) With the agreement of the members (by vote at the Annual General Meeting), and where two of the relevant existing or candidate Trustees propose it, the roles of the Chair and one of the Representative Members shall be redesignated Chair and Vice-Chair, or alternatively, each shall be designated Co-Chair. When this occurs, the two Trustees concerned shall share the duties of the Chair and the Representative Member as they see fit.
- c) Under no circumstances may any Trustee serve for more than nine years consecutively.
- d) A Trustee who has served for nine years is eligible for election as if they had never served previously, provided two years have elapsed since they last held office.

5. **HONORARY PRESIDENT** It shall be open to an Annual or Special Meeting of the Society to appoint an Honorary President, who shall be such a person as has rendered particularly meritorious service to the Society or who has otherwise, or in addition, distinguished themselves musically in such a manner as to merit being invited to hold this appointment.

6. **MANAGEMENT** All the arrangements for the concerts and other events and the control of finance shall be in the hands of the Trustees assisted by the Committee.

7. **FINANCE** (i) The financial year shall end on 31st August. (ii) Banking accounts shall be maintained in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by the honorary Treasurer and one other officer of the Society or a past officer who remains a member of the Society. Payments made by bank transfer shall be initiated by the honorary Treasurer and authorised by one other officer (or past officer as above). (iii) The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees, and 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 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 members of the Society except in payment of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

8. **DISSOLUTION** In the event of the Society being wound up any assets remaining upon dissolution after payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to those of the Society.

9. **GENERAL MEETINGS** As early as possible in each financial year the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least 14 days' notice shall have been given. A Special General Meeting shall be called with 14 days' notice by the honorary Secretary at the request of the Committee or on receiving a petition signed by not less than 20 per cent of Society members and specifying their reasons. Fifty-one per cent of members shall constitute a quorum for a General Meeting.

10. **INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS** The financial accounts shall be subject to independent examination each year by a financially competent person who need not be a member of the Society. The independent examiner shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.

11. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION** The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at an Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that 14 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.

Whilst not forming part of the Constitution the following statement offers further explanation of the post of Honorary President.

This honorary position does not confer particular duties or responsibilities on the post-holder, though it would be welcomed by the Society if the post-holder maintained links with and interest in the Society. The appointment is not for a fixed term, though it is open to the post-holder to relinquish the position at their discretion on giving notice to the Society at any time during their presidential term. The appointee is to be offered two complimentary tickets for all choir concerts during their time as Honorary President.