

MOUNTAIN ASH & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The name of the Society shall be The Mountain Ash & District Choral Society ("the Society").

2. AIMS

The study, practice and encouragement by means of public performance and otherwise of choral music in all its forms so as to foster knowledge and appreciation of such music including performance in Welsh, where appropriate, or for other such charitable purposes as the Committee in their discretion think fit.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the charity shall be open to:

- a. Individuals (over the age of 18 years) who are interested in furthering the work of the charity and who have paid any annual subscription laid down from time to time by the Committee, and
- b. Any body corporate or unincorporated association which is interested in furthering the charity's work and has paid any annual subscription (any such body being called in this constitution "member organisation").

Every member shall have one vote. Each member organisation shall appoint an individual to represent it and to vote on its behalf at meetings of the charity; and may appoint an alternate to replace its appointed representative at any meeting of the charity if the appointed representative is unable to attend.

Each member organisation shall notify the name of the representative appointed by it and any of any alternate to the Secretary. If the representative or alternate resigns from or otherwise leaves the member organisation he or she shall forthwith cease to be the representative of the member organisation.

Applications for membership shall in the first instance be made to the Secretary and membership applications shall be considered by the Committee of the Society as and when necessary. Applicants may be required to give such evidence of vocal or musical ability as the Committee require. The Committee may unanimously and for good reason terminate the membership of any individual or member organisation: provided that the individual concerned or the appointed representative of the member organisation concerned (as the case may be) shall have the right to be heard by the Committee, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.

Members will be expected to be regular in attendance at rehearsals and concerts. Members should endeavour to inform the Secretary or Registrar if they will be unable to attend. Any member considered by the Committee to have attended insufficient rehearsals for a concert may be excluded from participation in that concert.

Members with twenty-five years service to the Society shall be awarded a commemorative medallion and shall have their names recorded in the programme for the annual concert.

Members of the Society performing exceptional service to the Society may be awarded the status of Life Member. The Committee shall consider prior to the Annual General Meeting the names put forward to them of members considered worthy of the award and the reasons why such members should be considered. The Committee shall consider the names proposed (if any) and report to the Annual General Meeting whether or not any nomination is to be made in any year and must put forward any nomination supported by not less than 10 members of the Society. Their names shall be recorded in the programme for the annual concert, and they need not pay subscriptions.

4. MANAGEMENT

The management of the Society and its affairs shall be vested in the Committee of the Society who shall meet as and when necessary for the conduct of the Society's business.

5. THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall consist of the following ex-officio members:

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Secretary	Treasurer
Conductor	Deputy Conductor
Accompanist	Deputy Accompanist
Librarian	Registrar
Stage Manager	Ticket Secretary
Publicity Officer	Society Secretary
The Immediate Past Chairperson	

together with one representative from each of the four sections of the Choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) nominated by the members of those sections.

Part representatives shall serve for a period of two years and be available for re-election at the end of their term of office.

Other Committee members shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting and hold office for a period of one year. Members shall be eligible for re-election. (Sentences deleted). Members can be nominated in their absence for any position on the Committee, providing that the nominee's consent is given.

There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the number of members of the Committee is present at a meeting. (Partial deletion).

Vacancies on the Committee arising during the year can be filled by the Committee co-opting members. These will be subject to ratification at the next committee meeting.

The Society shall appoint a President who shall hold office for life and shall also appoint to the post of Vice-President any member who has in the opinion of the Society given meritorious service to the Society.

The Committee may appoint sub-committees to carry out specific tasks to further the aims of the Society. Sub-committees will be directly accountable to the Committee. The Committee will agree in advance the terms of reference for any sub-committee. Officers of the Committee may be ex-officio members of any sub-committee. All sub-committees shall report to the full Committee and may be dissolved at the discretion of the full Committee.

The Society may from time to time co-opt members of the public to help and advise the Society on specific matters. Such appointments shall be made by the Committee.

6. VOTING

Voting at all meetings shall be by a show of hands by Society members. A member can request a secret ballot, and this must be agreed by a majority of members present. A simple majority of votes shall carry a decision. Except for elections to the Committee, the Chairperson of the meeting shall, in the event of a tied vote, have an extra casting vote.

7. FINANCE

The Society may receive donations, grants in aid or financial guarantees and shall have power to issue tickets for the Society's concerts. The income and property of the Society, wheresoever obtained, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society. No part of the income or property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or payment of profession fee to any member or members of the Society.

The Committee shall fix from time to time the immediate subscription payable on becoming a member of the Society and the subsequent annual membership subscription and any concessionary rate(s). The Committee may if so required have power to fix supplementary subscriptions in order to meet extraordinary expenditure. In addition to membership subscriptions, members may be expected to fund the purchase of their own copies of the musical works selected for study and performance. Life Members and full-time students need not pay subscriptions. Members over the age of 65 will be eligible to pay a concessionary rate.

The Committee shall decide on an annual basis the value of any honorarium to be paid, where appropriate, to any of its members who, on a voluntary basis, offer a significant portion of their time on behalf of the Society and its stated aims.

The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget to be approved by the Committee and submitted to the Annual General Meeting for approval. Any proposed expenditure exceeding £100 not provided for in the annual budget must be referred to the Committee for consideration. The Treasurer shall make available to the Committee regular financial reports detailing all of the accounts held in the Society's name. Such reports must be submitted at least twice a year.

The Society shall maintain banking facilities at Lloyds TSB Ltd., or at such other Bank or Building Society as the Committee shall from time to time resolve. Cheques drawn on the Society's account shall be signed by any two of the Treasurer, Secretary and Conductor.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall take place as near as possible to the thirtieth day of January in each year. The only business to be conducted at the Annual General Meeting shall consist of the following:

- a. To receive the Report of the Chairperson on the events of the preceding year.
- b. To receive the Report of the Conductor/Musical Director of the Society on the musical achievements of the preceding year.
- c. To receive the Accounts of the Society and the Report of the Auditors.
- d. To elect the Officers of the Society.
- e. To elect Part Representatives as necessary.
- f. To appoint Auditors for the following year.
- g. To consider recommendations of the Committee for the grant of Life Membership of the Society.
- h. To receive the report of the Registrar.

9. GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

Ordinary General Meetings of the whole of the membership shall be called as and when the Committee shall decide and except in cases of emergency not less than seven days notice shall be given.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society shall be held not later than fourteen days following the delivery of a written request for such a meeting signed by not less than ten paid up members of the Society to the Chairperson. The signed request shall specify the terms of the resolution to be discussed at the Extraordinary General Meeting and that resolution shall be the only business conducted at the Meeting.

10. AMENDMENTS OF CONSTITUTION

Subject to the following provisions of this clause the constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of the charity clause), clause 2 (the objects clause), clause 11 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Commissioners.

No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the charity cease to be a charity in law.

The Committee should promptly send the Commissioners a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

11. DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

If the Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society it shall call a meeting of all members of the Society, of which not less than 21 days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting the Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Society as the members of the Society may determine or failing that shall be applied for some other charitable purpose. A copy of the statement of the accounts, or account and statement, for the final accounting period of the Society must be sent to the Commissioners.

Amended by members at the General Meeting held on