

THE CHESTER & NORTH EAST WALES ORGANISTS' & CHOIRMASTERS' ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

CONSTITUTION

1. Name of the Association

The name of the Association shall be *The Chester & North East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association*, hereinafter referred to as *The Association*.

2. Objects of the Association

The objects of *The Association* shall be to advance the education of the public in the study of the art of music with special reference to liturgical and organ music. To facilitate the achievement of such objects, *The Association* may arrange and present:

- i) Public lectures, discussions and debates on this subject.
- ii) Public demonstrations of instruments. iii) Public demonstrations of music for organ and/or voices.
- iv) Open competitions for playing, singing and composition of liturgical and organ music.
- v) Public meetings to facilitate the exchange of information and views with other organisations and persons concerned with the composition, interpretation, presentation, teaching or publication of liturgical or organ music.
- vi) Advice to performers, teachers, students, churchmen and churchwomen, or other members of the public on any matter concerned with the improvement of standards of composition or performance of liturgical or organ music.

The Association may also do such other lawful things as are necessary or desirable for the attainment of the objects.

3. Membership of *The Association*

Membership of *The Association* shall be open without restriction to any member of the public who is interested in organ, choral or any kind of music. Membership shall become effective on payment of the first year's annual subscription. The Committee shall have the right, notwithstanding, if there is good and sufficient evidence, to decline a request for membership, or to require the resignation of any person whose membership would be likely to bring *The Association* into disrepute.

4. Admission of Non-members

The proceedings of *The Association* shall be open to members of the public (not being members of *The Association*) on payment of such fee as *The Association* shall from time to time determine.

5. Subscriptions

Each member shall pay a minimum annual subscription of such an amount as shall from time to time be determined at a General Meeting of *The Association*. This subscription shall fall due on 1st. September in each year, provided that any member joining *The Association* six months after this date shall pay a reduced subscription (of such an amount as *The Association* shall determine) for the period up to the next annual subscription date. Persons under the age of 18 years and full-time students may be admitted to membership of *The Association* on payment of such a reduced rate as *The Association* may determine. Any member so accepted shall pay the full annual subscription for the year in which such condition ceases.

6. Non-payment of Subscriptions

Any member whose subscription has not been paid within three months of the date on which it fell due shall cease to be a member of *The Association*. Upon payment of the arrears, any such member may be reinstated at the discretion of the Committee.

7. The Committee-

The business of *The Association* shall be managed by a Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting, consisting of:

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary,
Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Officer, together with six other members. The Committee may co-opt a member for a specific responsibility.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Officer may be re-elected annually, if they are willing to serve another year. Other members of the Committee, of whom one-third shall retire annually by rotation, are elected initially for a period of three years but may be re-elected for a further period.

A suitable person, not being a member of the Committee or related to such a person and preferably not a member of *The Association*, shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting to independently examine *The Association* accounts.

8. Annual General Meeting

A General Meeting of *The Association* shall be held in May or June of each year to receive and approve the independently examined accounts, to elect officers and members of the Committee and to conduct such other business as may be appropriate for the effective management of *The Association*. The members shall be given 21 days' notice of the meeting.

9. Honorary Members

Suitable persons may be nominated to the Annual General Meeting for election as Honorary Life Members, and the Committee shall have the power to award Honorary Membership for the current year only, to any person who has made a considerable contribution to the objects or finances of *The Association*. The Committee may invite Honorary Life Members to serve on the Committee.

10. Frequency of Meetings

Ordinary meetings of *The Association* shall be held monthly unless circumstances prevent this, but there shall be not less than one Ordinary Meeting in each quarter of the year.

11. Income and Property

The income and property of *The Association* shall be applied solely to the promotion of the objects of *The Association* as defined in paragraph 2 and no payment or transfer of any such income or property shall be made to or for the benefit of any member of *The Association*, provided that nothing shall prohibit any payment in good faith by *The Association* of reasonable and proper remuneration of any member of *The Association*, not being a member of the Committee, for any services rendered to *The Association*, of out-of-pocket expenses to any of its officers, or of any member of *The Association*, not being a member of the Committee, being a professional musician, for musical work which he or she is engaged by *The Association* to perform.

12. Dissolution.

If, upon the winding up or dissolution of *The Association*, there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to nor distributed among the members of *The Association* but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution having similar objects of *The Association*.

13. Amendment of the Constitution.

These rules shall not be altered nor added to except by resolution at a General Meeting of which 21 days' notice shall have been given to the members and no alteration shall be made which would cause *The Association* to cease to be a charity at law.

14. Members Rights

Any member of *The Association* is entitled, on request, to receive a copy of these rules.