

CONSTITUTION OF LEEDS PEOPLE'S CHOIR

A. NAME AND LEGAL FORM:

Leeds People's Choir hereinafter referred to as the Choir.

No person (s) may use the name of the Leeds People's Choir without the agreement of the Committee.

The Choir's legal form is an unincorporated association and it operates on a not for profit basis.

B. AIMS:

The Choir is a secular choir which aims to reflect the purposes of the group (shown below) by what we sing, the events in which we participate and the way the choir is conducted.

We shall strive to be inclusive, co-operative and welcoming.

We shall promote and celebrate diversity and democracy and challenge injustice and oppression.

C. THE PURPOSES OF THE CHOIR ARE:

To advance and develop public education and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects including through the presentation of public concerts.

To demand a better world for all and support those who struggle for liberation.

To sing songs of joy, struggle, liberation, celebration and peace from around the world

To express the joys of loving, living and singing.

To further such charitable purposes as the Committee shall think fit but in particular through the making of donations.

D. CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the purposes, the Committee has the power to:

- (1) raise funds to cover necessary running costs, receive grants and make donations to causes approved by a General Meeting
- (2) Buy or sell property, take on leases and appoint and appropriately remunerate staff.
- (3) Co-operate with and support other groups with similar purposes
- (4) Do anything else within the law which is necessary to achieve the purposes.

E. MEMBERSHIP

- (1) The Committee may admit to membership any person aged 18 and over who supports the purposes of the Choir and pays the appropriate fees.
- (2) The Committee will keep an up to date membership list.
- (3) The Committee may expel someone from membership, provided it is in the best interest of the Choir to do so, and they are given the right to be heard by the Committee before a decision is made. They can be accompanied by a friend.

F. MEETINGS:

- (1) The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days notice given to all Choir members telling them what is on the agenda.
- (2) There must be at least one-third of the paid up Choir members present at the AGM.
- (3) There must be at least three-quarters of the paid up Choir members present at a Special General Meeting.
- (4) The Committee shall present the annual report and accounts.
- (5) Membership of the Committee is open to any member of the Choir.
- (6) Every paid up Choir member has one vote.
- (7) Members shall elect between 5 and 9 members to the Committee. They will retire at the next AGM and may stand for re-election.
- (8) A General Meeting will be held each term with the exception of the term in which the AGM is held.

G: COMMITTEE

- (1) The Committee shall hold at least 3 meetings each year.
- (2) At least 3 Committee members must be at a committee meeting to be able to take decisions.
- (3) Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (4) The Committee must keep accounts which may be viewed by any member on request.
- (5) During the year, the Committee may appoint up to 2 extra members on to the Committee who will stand down at the next AGM but are eligible for re-election.
- (6) The Committee may make reasonable additional rules for the proper conduct and management of the Choir. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

H: NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

- (1) At each AGM, the Choir Membership shall elect its Committee. Any member of the Choir wishing to be a member of the Committee must be nominated by one other Choir member.
- (2) Anyone nominated for Committee membership must indicate his or her willingness to stand for election.
- (3) Nominations for membership of the Committee may be made up to one week prior to the AGM.
- (4) If nominations exceed nine, there will be an election by secret ballot of members present and voting at the meeting.

J: MONEY

- (1) Funds must be held in the Choir's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 Committee members.
- (2) Funds cannot be used to pay Committee members except to refund legitimate expenses.
- (3) Funds and property must only be used for the purposes of the Choir.

K: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee for the following reasons. (All members must be given 14 days notice and told what change is proposed.)

- (1) Changing the Constitution – The constitution may be changed by a three-quarters majority of members present and voting at a Special General Meeting.
- (2) Emergency Special General Meetings – to allow the members to decide on important issues.
- (3) Winding up – the Choir may be wound up by a three-quarters majority of members present and voting at a Special General Meeting. Any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a group with similar (charitable) purposes.

This constitution was adopted at the Reconvened AGM on 24th March 2010.