



CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE.

The name shall be the **BLACKBURN MUSIC SOCIETY** hereinafter referred to as the Society

2. OBJECTS

To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music by the presentation of concerts and other activities and for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Society shall be those persons who pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rates as shall be determined by the Committee, full payment to be made before the beginning of October each year and, (in the case of performing members), who shall provide such evidence of musical ability as the Committee may require. Every member shall have one vote.

4. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of a Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer and not less than five and not more than ten additional members, all of whom will be Trustees of the Society. The required roles for the additional members will be determined for the following season by the outgoing Committee. The Committee members shall be elected by the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election. Nominations are to be received by the Secretary seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will have the power to co-opt members when necessary. The Conductor and Accompanist may also attend Committee Meetings, except when his/her position is being considered.

5. MANAGEMENT

All the arrangements for the concerts and other events and the control of finance shall be in the hands of the Committee.

6. POWERS

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise, the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- i) power to raise funds and invite contributions provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activity and shall conform to the relevant requirements of the law;
- ii) power to buy, take-on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;
- iii) power to employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects;

- iv) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes;
- v) power to establish or support any charitable trusts, association or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;
- vi) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Committee may think fit.

7. MEETING AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

- i) The committee shall hold at least 2 ordinary meetings each year.
- ii) The Chairperson shall act as chairman at meetings of the Committee. If the chairperson is absent, the members present at the meeting shall choose one of their number to be chairman before any other business is transacted.
- iii) There shall be a quorum when at least five of the Committee are present.
- iv) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Committee members present, but in the case of equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or 'casting' vote.
- v) The Committee shall keep minutes of their meetings and those of any sub-committee; such minutes shall be stored safely and be available for inspection as required.
- vi) The Committee may from time to time alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings, and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.
- vii) The Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees as the Committee sees fit in the pursuit of the Society's objects.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

No individual shall be excluded from membership of the Society or debarred from any official capacity on the Committee on the grounds of sex, race, colour, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation.

9. FINANCE

- i) The financial year shall end on 31st July.
- ii) A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two of three members duly appointed by the Committee
- iii) The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees. 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 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 fees and expenses incurred on behalf the Society.
- v) In the event of the winding-up or dissolution of the Society, any assets remaining upon dissolution after the payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to those of the Society.

10. ACCOUNTS

Accounts for the year end July 31st shall be audited or examined to the extent required by legislation and submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

11. SPECIAL (EXTRAORDINARY) GENERAL MEETING

A Special or Extraordinary General meeting, of which at least 21 days notice in writing must be given to members, may be called for by the Committee. The notice must state the business to be discussed.

12. GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting, of which fourteen days notice shall be given to the members in writing, shall take place within three months of the end of the financial year.

13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution may be altered by a two-thirds majority of the members' present and voting at any general meeting, provided that fourteen days' notice of the proposed alteration has been sent to all members and provided that nothing herein contained shall authorise amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity. No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of the charity), 2 (the objects), clause 9 v (the distribution of assets upon dissolution) without the prior written consent of the Charity commission. The committee shall send the Charity Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.