

# **Newark Choral Society**

## Conditions of Membership

### **1. Membership**

- i. Any person, who is in sympathy with the aims of the Society, who agrees to abide by these conditions and who has paid the appropriate subscription, is eligible to be a member.
- ii. a). Members agree automatically to their addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers being held on a list maintained by The Membership Secretary. This list will be regularly updated and only available to the Committee.  
b). Any member wishing to have their details excluded from this list must tell the Membership Secretary. In that event, only their name will appear on the list and will be responsible to seek information sent to members at their addresses.  
c). This list will only be used by the Society to communicate with members regarding Society affairs.
- iii. Prospective members will be asked by the Membership Secretary to complete and sign an application form and to pay the appropriate subscription. Submission of a signed form to the Membership Secretary will be taken as tacit acceptance of these conditions.
- iv. The Musical Director may, at his discretion, ask to hear any member's voice, in private, with a committee member present, to ensure that their voice meets an acceptable standard. The member may ask a friend to be also present at the audition.

### **2. Subscriptions**

- i. The subscription is set each year by the members, at the Annual General Meeting. The subscription for the current season is due immediately after the AGM. Prompt payment is requested. Payment by two equal instalments may be arranged in exceptional circumstances.
- ii. Students in full time education are exempt from paying the subscription, are therefore not *Paid Up* members but have the same rights as a paid up member.
- iii. Persons joining for the first time after Christmas will be required to pay the fee agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

### **3. Attendance at Rehearsals and Concerts**

- i. Regular attendance at rehearsals is expected. Failure to attend at least 75% of rehearsals and certainly the rehearsals in the week prior to a concert, will be a bar to taking part in that performance. This rule may be waived only at the absolute discretion of the Musical Director.
- ii. a) An Attendance List will be displayed in the rehearsal room. This must be signed by each member upon arrival.  
b). In the event of an emergency, this list will be used to verify that everyone has been evacuated safely.
- iii. A Register of Attendance will be kept by the Membership Secretary, compiled from the above list.

- iv. When attendance cannot be made, an apology should be sent in advance to the Membership Secretary or Secretary, if at all possible. Apologies will be recorded separately in the register. The record of an apology may have a bearing on the application of rule 3. i.) above.
- v. Unexplained absence from rehearsals for a complete term will constitute *de facto* resignation from the Society and return of loaned Society property will be required (see rule 5 iv.).
- vi. In rehearsals members are required to pay attention to, and not distract others from paying attention to, the directions of the Musical Director.
- vii. Members are expected, wherever possible, to attend any Singing Days and Workshops aimed at improving singing technique, which may from time to time be arranged.
- viii. All members are expected to participate in each concert presented by the Society without partiality to the particular musical content of the programme.
- ix. Ticket sales. The society relies on ticket sales for a major part of its income. Members are therefore expected to sell at least two tickets each for every concert, and more if at all possible.

### **4. Loan of Music**

- i. When the Society loans music to a member, the member is under an obligation to take all proper care of same and to return it to the Librarian, in good condition. This will normally be immediately after the concert performance.
- ii. If a deposit has been paid (e.g. in the case of highly valuable music), failure to return the music, in good condition, will result in forfeiture of the deposit.
- iii. In any case, total loss of music will result in a charge being made, sufficient to replace the music.
- iv. Music will only be loaned to members who have given a permanent address or e-mail address or telephone number to the librarian.

### **5. Concert Dress**

- i. Members participating in concert performances must:
  - a. wear appropriate dress as follows:
    1. Men – Dark suit, white shirt, black bow tie
    2. Ladies - Long black skirt/trousers, white blouse, peacock blue waistcoat (where possible)
  - b. purchase outright a music folder from the Society.
- ii. Student members will be loaned the above items for each performance as necessary.
- iii. Alternative appropriate dress may be specified for other occasions such as church services
- iv. When a member withdraws from membership, the hired items mentioned above must be returned to the Society promptly, without the need for repeated reminders. The Society *may* insist that ties and waistcoats be dry cleaned, at the members expense, before being returned.

Continued membership of the Society is dependent upon observation of these conditions.