

# Constitution of The Faringdon Singers

## 1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be **The Faringdon Singers** (hereafter “the Choir”).

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## 2. Purpose

The Choir exists to:

- Promote the enjoyment, performance, and appreciation of choral music within Faringdon and the surrounding community.
- Provide opportunities for amateur singers of all voice parts (SATB) to rehearse, learn, and perform together.
- Encourage musical development, community participation, and inclusive access to the arts.
- Present concerts, events, and outreach activities for the benefit of the public.

The Choir is a non-profit, voluntary organisation.

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## 3. Membership

### 3.1 Eligibility

Membership is open to anyone aged 18 or over who:

- Has an interest in choral singing
- Supports the aims of the Choir
- Is willing to participate in rehearsals and performances

No audition is required unless agreed by the Committee for specific musical reasons.

### 3.2 Subscriptions

- Members shall pay a termly subscription, the amount to be set by the Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Concessions may be offered at the Committee’s discretion.
- Non-payment of subscriptions without explanation may result in membership being suspended.

### **3.3 Conduct**

Members are expected to:

- Attend rehearsals regularly
- Respect fellow singers, volunteers, and musical staff
- Contribute positively to the Choir's community spirit

The Committee may suspend or terminate membership for serious misconduct, after fair discussion with the member concerned.

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## **4. Musical Direction**

### **4.1 Musical Director (MD)**

- The Choir shall appoint a Musical Director to lead rehearsals, select repertoire, and conduct performances.
- The MD may be paid or voluntary, as agreed by the Committee.
- The MD works in partnership with the Committee but retains artistic authority over musical matters.

### **4.2 Accompanist**

- The Choir may appoint an accompanist under terms agreed by the Committee.
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## **5. Management and Committee**

### **5.1 Committee Structure**

The Choir shall be managed by a Committee consisting of:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Additional members (e.g., Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer, Librarian, Social Coordinator) as appointed.

### **5.2 Election and Term**

- Committee members are elected at the AGM for a term of one year.
- All officers may stand for re-election.

- Vacancies during the year may be filled by Committee appointment until the next AGM.

### **5.3 Committee Responsibilities**

The Committee shall:

- Manage the Choir's finances and administration
- Support the Musical Director
- Organise concerts, events, and rehearsals
- Ensure compliance with safeguarding, data protection, and health & safety requirements
- Represent the interests of the membership

### **5.4 Meetings**

- The Committee shall meet at least three times per year.
  - Decisions are made by simple majority; the Chair has a casting vote.
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## **6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

### **6.1 Timing**

An AGM shall be held once each calendar year.

### **6.2 Business of the AGM**

- Receive reports from the Chair, Treasurer, and Musical Director
- Approve the annual accounts
- Elect Committee members
- Set membership subscription rates
- Consider motions submitted by members

### **6.3 Notice**

Members shall receive at least 14 days' notice of the AGM.

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## **7. Finance**

- All funds shall be used solely to further the Choir's aims.
- The Treasurer shall maintain accurate accounts and present them annually.

- The Choir's bank account(s) shall require two authorised signatories for payments.
  - No member shall receive payment for services except for legitimate expenses or contracted musical roles.
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## **8. Safeguarding and Welfare**

- The Choir shall adopt appropriate safeguarding policies, especially when working with young people or vulnerable adults.
  - A designated Safeguarding Lead may be appointed by the Committee.
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## **9. Data Protection**

- The Choir shall comply with relevant data protection legislation.
  - Personal data shall be used only for Choir administration and communication.
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## **10. Amendments to the Constitution**

- Amendments may be made at the AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
  - Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing at least 14 days in advance.
  - Amendments require a two-thirds majority of members present.
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## **11. Dissolution**

If the Choir must be dissolved:

- A resolution shall be passed at an EGM by a two-thirds majority.
- Any remaining assets shall be donated to a local music-related charity or community arts organisation, as decided by the membership.
- No assets shall be distributed to members.