

YEOVIL AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

RULES

(Revised 2023)

Title

(1) The Society shall be called “Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society”.

Aims

(2) (a) To educate the public in light opera and similar works and in furtherance of these aims the Committee shall have power to promote such activities as are necessary therefor.

(2) (b) To further such charitable causes as the Committee shall from time to time determine.

(2A) (a) The Society shall have power to purchase property, the use of which shall be for the furtherance of the Society’s aims.

(2A) (b) Members of the Committee from time to time shall be appointed Trustees, holding the property upon trust for the benefit of the Society. The Trustees shall not be permitted to dispose of any such property, in whole or in part, without the express written permission of the Committee following a majority vote of Members at a General Meeting.

Membership

(3)(a) Membership of the Society shall be open to all those interested in the aims of the Society on application to the Secretary, subject to approval by the Committee and payment of the annual subscription, in accordance with Section (12). There shall also be a junior non-voting membership of 14 – 18 years. Members are deemed to have read and understood these Rules as published on the YAOS website www.yaos.org; a printed copy is also available on request from the Secretary.

(b) Members who have rendered exceptional service to the Society may be elected Life Members at an Annual General Meeting by nomination of the Committee.

(c) Anyone wishing to take part in a performance must be a Member and is required to satisfy the Committee as to their theatrical and/or musical ability by audition.

(d) The privilege of membership may be withdrawn by the Committee from any Member whose conduct it considers has been or is likely to be detrimental to the Society. This shall be decided by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Patrons

(4) Members of the public wishing to support the Society financially may be invited to become Patrons and be entitled to such privileges as the Committee may decide.

Management

(5) (a) There shall be a President of the Society and there may be Vice-Presidents. These positions shall be proposed by the Committee and agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) The Society shall be managed by a Committee, who shall all be Members of the Society, consisting of the Offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, Stage Director, and six other Members. Any Member may propose themselves to serve on the Committee and shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting, if necessary, by a majority vote of the Members present.

Appointments

(6) The Committee shall be empowered to appoint a Director, Musical Director and Choreographer, and to engage such other people as it deems necessary, for each Production.

Production Selection

(7) The selection of the work to be performed shall be decided by the Committee.

Casting

(8) The cast for any Production shall be selected by a Casting Committee consisting of the Director, Musical Director and such other persons as appointed by the Committee.

(b) The Committee shall be empowered to revise the cast if considered necessary.

Rehearsals and Performances

(9)(a) The Director, in association with the Musical Director, Stage Director and Choreographer, shall control all rehearsals.

(b) Members shall conform with all directions given at rehearsals and performances.

General Meetings

(10)(a) There shall be an Annual General Meeting when the Officers' reports and the accounts shall be presented; the Committee shall be elected for the ensuing year, an independent Inspector or Auditor appointed, and any other business transacted. The Chairman may not be elected for more than three consecutive years.

(b) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee at their discretion or shall be called upon receipt of a request in writing made to the Secretary signed by at least fifteen Members, such a Meeting to be called within twenty-one days.

(c) No business other than a formal adjournment of the Meeting shall be transacted unless a quorum be present, which shall consist of at least thirty Members.

(d) Unless otherwise provided by these Rules, all resolutions shall be decided by a bare majority of the votes of the Members present. If necessary, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(e) Written notice of every Meeting shall be given at least fourteen days prior to the date fixed, such notice to be made either by letter post, electronic mail or by publication on social media.

Committee's Powers and Procedures

(11)(a) The Committee shall regulate its own proceedings.

(b) Six Committee Members, two of whom shall be Officers, shall form a quorum for a meeting.

(c) The Committee shall have power to fill any interim vacancy in their numbers and to co-opt. Those co-opted shall be entitled to speak but have no voting rights.

(d) The Committee shall have power to appoint Sub-Committees and to delegate all or any of its powers.

(e) Any Member shall be empowered to enter into any contractual or financial commitment on behalf of the Society, provided that the Committee shall have given its prior authority for the contract or financial commitment, as agreed and minuted at a Committee meeting.

(f) Subject to the above Rule 11(e), adult Members shall jointly and severally indemnify and keep indemnified any Member who enters into any such contract or financial commitment on behalf of the Society from and against all losses, damages, actions, proceedings and costs that the said Member may suffer or incur arising directly or indirectly as a result of entering into such contract or financial commitment on behalf of the Society.

(g) The Committee shall have power to decide any questions arising out of these Rules and all other matters connected with the Society other than those which can only be dealt with by the Society in General Meetings.

(h) Subsequent to Rule 12(e), a full audit may be requested by the Committee at any time, subject to a 2/3rds majority vote of the full Committee.

Finance

(12)(a) The funds of the Society shall be applied solely to the stated aims of the Society.

(b) No member or Committee member of the Society shall receive payment directly or indirectly for services to the Society or for personal items purchased for productions unless agreed by the Committee.

(c) Members' annual subscription shall be £20, junior Members shall pay a subscription of £10.00. Acting Members shall additionally pay a Performance Fee for each show in which they are cast, the amount to be decided from time to time by the Committee.

(d) The Financial Year of the Society shall commence on 1st May, on which date all Membership subscriptions shall become due and must be paid no later than 31st May in that year.

(e) The Society's annual accounts shall be subject to an independent examination in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance document CC15d (updated 14 July 2021) on the basis that the gross annual income exceeds £25,000 and is under £1 million (the threshold for statutory audit).

Dissolution

(13) The Society shall only be dissolved by resolution passed by a majority of five-sixths of the Members present and voting at a special General Meeting called for the purpose of considering such dissolution. In the event of dissolution any balance of cash remaining in hand after the realisation of assets and payment of debts shall not be distributed among the Members but shall be applied for such charitable purposes similar to those of the Society or be paid, distributed or transferred to such charitable institution or institutions having aims similar to the aims of the Society, as the Committee with the consent of the Extraordinary Meeting shall determine.

Alteration to Rules

(14)(a) No alteration to these Rules shall be made except at a General Meeting and unless twenty-one days prior to such Meeting written notice of the proposed alteration shall have been given to the Secretary who shall give fourteen days' notice to Members. The resolution embodying such proposed alteration shall be carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes of the Members present and voting.

(b) No alteration to Rules (2), (3), (13) or (14) may be made without approval of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, or other authority having charitable jurisdiction at the time.

Definitions

The following definitions shall apply throughout this document:

Society shall mean Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society, including any subsidiary organisations.

Member shall mean any person who has been approved by the Committee and paid their annual subscription for the current year.