

CLERA
CONSTITUTION
(revised March 2007)



1. TITLE

The full name of the society will be CLERA, Cymdeithas Offerynnau Traddodiadol Cymru.

Hereinafter, it will be referred to as "The Society".

2. AIMS

The aims of the Society will be:

- i. To advance the education of the public in the traditional instruments of Wales, with special emphasis on the harp (in particular the triple harp, the pedal harp, the single row harp and the *gurachïod* or *bray* harp), the crwth, the fiddle, the flute, the pibgorn, the pibgod and the whistle.
- ii. To promote and develop the traditional music which is associated with the above instruments;
- iii. To promote performing styles and techniques, and to interpret the above music;
- iv. To educate and to promote the tradition amongst the people of Wales and the rest of the world;
- v. To restore the true Welsh instrumental tradition in the life of the nation;
- vi. To place special emphasis on those elements in our traditional music and instruments which are unique to Wales.

POWERS

In furtherance of the above aims the society may:

- i. Promote and organise co-operation in order to achieve the above aims;
- ii. Produce, print, issue, sell or circulate any material that will further the Society's aims;
- iii. Accept gifts and borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as may be thought fit by the committee;
- iv. Procure contributions to the Society by personal appeals, public meetings, benefit concerts and otherwise.

3. LANGUAGE

Welsh will be the official language of the Society. Every effort will be made, however, to publish the Society's documents for the public ad non-Welsh speaking members in a bilingual form.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Society will be open to individuals, groups or organisations who are interested in promoting the aims stated in paragraph 2 above.

The annual membership fee will be decided every year by the Executive Committee. Each member's fee will be valid from the first day of January until the last day of December.

5. MANAGEMENT

The management of the Society on a day to day basis will be in the hands of the Officers and the Executive Committee.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

The Society will not hold any member personally responsible for any debts incurred, or damage caused as a result of the Society's activities, unless a breach of trust or fraudulent behaviour can be shown to have occurred.

7. OFFICERS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- i. The Society will have four officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, who will be elected in the Annual General Meeting.
- ii. The Executive Committee will have the power to create any other office as they deem necessary, from amongst the members of the Committee (e.g. Membership Secretary). One person may hold more than one of these offices if that is the wish of the Committee.
- iii. If one of these offices becomes vacant during the year, the Committee may elect a member of the Committee to that office until the Annual General Meeting.
- iv. The Executive Committee will not usually contain more than fifteen members, including the officers. In the Annual Meeting, in addition to the three officers, members will elect seven additional members to the Executive Committee. The Committee has the power to elect up to two additional persons to serve on the Committee if necessary.
- v. The Executive Committee will also have the power to co-opt members, for a designated period of time, to work on specific projects organised by the Society.

8. TERM OF OFFICE

- i. Each Officer and Executive Committee member is expected to serve for a period of one year (or, in the case of a member co-opted during the year, until the next Annual General Meeting);
- ii. Every official is open to be re-elected.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held not less than 10 months and no more than 14 months following the previous meeting. The Secretary must give a minimum of 14 days' notice to all members of the date, time and place of the meeting. The Secretary is also responsible for enclosing an Agenda in accordance with the Constitution, also an annual report and a financial statement.

Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society may be called at any time by means of a decision by the Executive Committee, or at any time if a written request is received from at least one third of the Society's members. In such a case, the Secretary will notify all members according to the procedure noted in paragraph 9 above.

10. CHAIR AND VOICE-CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chair will chair every meeting of the Executive Committee if he or she is present, or the Vice-Chair if he or she is absent. If neither is present the Executive Committee will elect a Chairperson from amongst the members that are present.

A minimum of six members must be present in order to form a quorum.

11. VOTING

The person chairing any meeting of the Society or Executive Committee is entitled to his or her own vote in addition to a casting vote in the event of a vote being tied.

12. FINANCIAL YEAR

The Financial Year of the Society will run from the first day of January until the last day of December. During that period:

- i. The Executive Committee will administer all the society's funds in order to further its aims.
- ii. A bank account will be set up in the Society's name, as directed by the Executive Committee. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of that Committee, one of whom must be the Treasurer.
- iii. The Treasurer will present a financial report for the previous year in each Annual General Meeting.

13. CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution can be amended, changed or added to from time to time in the Annual General Meeting of the Society by means of a vote by two thirds of the members who are present to vote. Any proposal for any amendment or addition to the Constitution must be in the hands of the Secretary before January 1st every year.

14. THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

If it is decided to dissolve the Society, no money or property belonging to the Society (after paying all costs and debts) can be paid to members; but rather to a charitable society or societies with similar aims to this Society, or to another charitable society. The Society can be dissolved by means of a vote of two thirds of the members present at any ordinary or Extraordinary General Meeting.