

# *Wagner Society of Ireland*

## *Constitution and Rules*

<http://www.wagnersociety.ie>

### **Preamble**

The Wagner Society of Ireland as a 'not for gain organisation' is recognised by the Friendly Societies Acts 1896 to 1977, as a society which may continue to exist without registration in the Register of Friendly Societies in the same way as any other unincorporated club or society in Ireland.

### **1. Name and Location**

The name of the Society shall be The Wagner Society of Ireland (hereinafter called "the Society"), located in Dublin.

### **2. Objects**

The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) Society devoted to furthering the understanding of the music of Richard Wagner through its activities e.g., meetings, seminars, lectures and attendance at operas, etc.
- b) to advance education and appreciation of the life and work of Richard Wagner and, to promote and organise cultural and educational activities relevant to the study and appreciation of the music of Richard Wagner;
- c) by way of information or otherwise, to assist members who wish one day to attend performances at the Bayreuther Festspiele; and,
- d) to maintain membership of the Richard Wagner Verband International e.V. and to subscribe to its objectives and rules.

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### **3. Powers of the Society**

In furtherance of the foregoing objects, the Society shall have the following powers:

- a) To promote the broadcasting of Richard Wagner's opera dramas and his other musical works on radio and television.
- b) To promote and deepen the understanding of the works of Richard Wagner and to advance and co-ordinate this interest.
- c) To promote and otherwise assist with the live performance of the said opera dramas and musical works (or extracts therefrom).
- d) To print, issue, publish, circulate or promote the issue, publication, circulation and other literary works of every description relevant to the music of and/or the life and times of Richard Wagner.
- e) To establish, sponsor, endow or administer competitions that highlight the music of Richard Wagner.
- f) To hold or to promote lectures or conferences dealing with the music of Richard Wagner or his life and times.
- g) To establish and maintain a library of Richard Wagner's musical and literary works in aural, audio-visual, electronic, written or any other form, along with books, magazines and pamphlets dealing with the life and times of Richard Wagner, his music and musical influence.
- h) To accept subscriptions, donations and bequests for all or any of the purposes aforesaid for the purposes of the Society.
- i) To deal with the Society's monies in such manner as will further the objectives of the Society as may be thought fit and to invest monies of the Society not required for its immediate purposes in such investments as may be thought appropriate.
- j) To retain such professional and other advisers as may be thought necessary.
- k) To do such other things as shall further the objects of the Society.

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#### **4. Membership**

Membership of the Society shall normally be by invitation, to persons known to appreciate the music of Richard Wagner.

- a) The admission of members to the Society shall be by invitation and no person shall become a member unless and until elected by the Committee, nor shall the Committee be required to give any reason for the non-election of an applicant.
- b) The annual subscription to the Society shall be such as the Committee shall from time to time determine and shall be payable in advance.
- c) The subscription of each member shall be for the calendar year and shall be due and payable in advance on joining, and thereafter on January 1st each year. The first subscription for members joining after June 3rd in any year shall be a reduced amount
- d) Membership of the Society may be terminated as follows:
  - (i) By a notice in writing/email to a Committee member from a member of the Society of his/her resignation from the Society
  - (ii) Non-payment by a member of his/her subscription within 12 months of the date fixed by the Committee for subscriptions to be paid
  - (iii) By a majority vote at an AGM/SGM, the item having been on the Agenda and the member having been given three weeks' notice of the meeting
  - (iv) By a majority vote of the Committee where it considers that a membership should be terminated because the member's conduct is detrimental to the interests of the Society. In this case, the member shall be given three weeks' notice of the Committee meeting and have the right to present his/her case in writing to the Committee. Where a membership is terminated by the Committee, the member shall also have the right to appeal against the decision to the following AGM/SGM, but he/she shall remain suspended from the Society in the meantime.

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### **5. Finance**

The Society will be operated on a non-profit (not for gain) basis and all incoming monies derived from any source under these Rules shall be devoted to advancing the objects of the Society and in the event of dissolution of the Society any funds remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to a body or bodies having the advancement of opera and/or music amongst their objects.

- a) All incoming monies acquired by the Society shall be deemed to be vested in the Committee, which shall act as trustees for the members under the chairmanship of the Hon. Treasurer.
- b) The Committee shall place any funds of the Society at any bank in the name of the Society, but cheques for the withdrawal of such funds must be signed by the Chair and Hon. Treasurer and in the absence of either of the foregoing by the Vice-Chair or Hon. Secretary.
- c) When a person has been elected by the Committee and has paid the first annual subscription, he or she shall be a member of the Society and shall be deemed to be bound by these Rules and Bye-Laws made in accordance therewith.
- d) A member whose subscription is more than twelve months in arrears may be deemed to have resigned.

### **6. Committee**

- a) The business of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and not normally more than three other members of the Society. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall take the Chair at meetings of the Committee. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair the meeting shall elect its Chair.
- b) The President of the Society shall be elected following invitation by the Committee at the Annual General Meeting and as the position is Honorary it is deemed to be a life-long appointment.
- c) Meetings of the Committee shall be called by the Honorary Secretary not less than once in every quarter of the year.
- d) The Committee may fill by co-option any casual vacancies which may occur in the Committee or Officership of the Society but the person so filling the vacancy shall retire at the Annual General Meeting next following his or her co-option and shall be eligible for re-election.

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- e) The Committee may from time to time make, vary and revoke Bye-Laws not inconsistent with these Rules for the regulation and conduct of its proceedings, and of the conduct of the Society generally.

### **7. Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held once in every calendar year to transact the following business:

- a) To receive and, if approved, to adopt the Chair's Annual Report and the Honorary Treasurer's Statement of the Society's accounts to the end of the last preceding financial year of the Society.
- b) To elect Officers and Committee of the Society according to Rule (i) below.
- c) To elect Auditors for the Society.
- d) To deal with any other business proper for the transaction of an Annual General Meeting.
- e) At the Annual General Meeting the Chair shall be occupied by the Chair of the Society or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair.
- f) All Officers and Members of the Committee shall retire each year but shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- g) The Honorary Secretary shall send a notice convening the Annual General Meeting to all members not less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting.
- h) Voting at Annual and Special General Meetings of the Society shall be in person.
- i) Election to the Officership and Committee of the Society shall be by open vote of those present at the Annual General Meeting.

### **8. Honorary Members**

The Committee may from time to time elect as Honorary Members of the Society such persons as in the opinion of the Committee it shall be in the interest of the Society to admit to Honorary Membership. Subscription fees will not be payable by persons so admitted.

### **9. Quorum**

Quorum at all meetings i.e., Annual General, Special General Meeting and Committee Meeting shall be four in the case of the Committee and ten in the case of General Meetings other than a Dissolution Meeting.

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### **10. Alterations to Rules**

No alteration shall be made in the Constitution or in these Rules and no addition shall be made thereto except by a Resolution of which 21 days notice shall be given prior to the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. This Resolution shall be passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting on the Resolution, provided that no such alteration shall affect Rule 2, 5 or this Rule.

### **11. Tied Vote**

Questions arising at any meeting of the Society, or of the Committee, shall be decided by a majority of votes and in cases of an equality of votes the Chair of the body transacting the business shall have a second or casting vote.

### **12. Dissolution**

A Resolution to dissolve the Society shall be proposed only at a Special General Meeting and shall be carried by a majority of three-quarters of the members present.

### **13. General Information**

- a) Minutes will be taken at each meeting normally by the Honorary Secretary or a member of the Committee in his/her absence.
- b) No members of the public are permitted to attend the Annual General Meeting, Special General Meeting or Committee Meetings.
- c) This Constitution and Rules was adopted at the Inaugural Meeting of the Society on January 18th, 2003 and came into immediate effect.