
The Cambridge University Indian Classical Arts Society

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be “The Cambridge University Indian Classical Arts Society”, hereafter referred to as “the Society”.

2. OBJECTS

1. The Society’s aim shall be

- To **promote excellence** in the practice of Indian Classical Arts among members of the Cambridge University fraternity,
- To **bring together** young people with a passion for the Indian Classical Arts.
- To **cultivate an appreciation** for the Indian Classical Arts among the Cambridge University Community.

The Society, at the time of inception, takes Indian Classical Arts to comprise of the nine Indian Dance forms (as of 2010) which have been conferred the ‘Classical Dance’ status by the *Sangeet Natak Akademi*¹ namely – Bharathanatyam, Gaudiya Nritya, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Mohiniattam, Odissi, Sattriya ; and the two main genres of Indian Classical Music – namely, Carnatic and Hindustani.

2. In pursuance of its aim the society will

- a. create awareness about the Indian Classical Arts by organising performances of professional standard.
- b. serve as a platform for young budding Indian Classical artists from the Cambridge University community to hone, as well as showcase, their creativity and talent.
- c. make available opportunities for quality and authentic training in the Indian Classical Arts, to beginners and the experienced, of all nationalities alike, through the most suitable and practical channel - be it master classes, workshops or regular training sessions.
- d. compile and maintain an active pool of Indian Classical Artists at Cambridge University which would be made known to other Cambridge University societies and communities who may like to include presentations of Indian Culture in their own events, be it for entertainment or educational purpose.

¹ India's national academy for music, dance and drama, and is the apex body specializing in the performing arts of the country.

3. The aim will be pursued to the following end :
 - a. All the Society's activities will be designed and executed in keeping with the main motivation of the Society's inception, namely to bring together under one roof the people who share an unmitigated and uncompromising love for the Indian Classical Arts and to harness the energy that ensues from their singular passion.
 - b. Through its activities, the Society would like to facilitate the integration of the Indian Classical Arts as a feature synonymous with mainstream performing arts of India in the minds of the Cambridge University community.

3. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of the Society shall be of two types:

General Membership.

Type : Life membership.

Eligibility : The General Membership shall be open to all members of the University and any others that have an interest in the Indian Classical Arts.

Benefits : General Members (hereafter just 'members') shall be entitled to subsidised prices at all ticketed events and subsidised fee at all training events organised by the Society. Members are entitled to elect officers of the Executive Committee and propose and vote in motions at the Annual General Meeting, and are also eligible to contest for any post on the Executive committee, except that of the Empanelment Officers.

Artist Membership

Type : Life Membership

Eligibility : All members of the University, and any others, with prior training in the classical arts are eligible to apply for an Artist Membership. Applicants will be required to audition for the membership status in front of the committee (minimum requirement being the presence of the four Empanelment Officers [see section 4.2]) and will be elected through a vote by those committee members present at audition. Auditions for Artist Membership applicants will be organised all through the year by the Empanelment Officers.

Benefits : Artist Members will be part of the 'Artists Pool' maintained by the Society, and shall be eligible to perform in the Society's events. The 'Artists Pool' shall also serve as the database for delegating performers to events conducted by external societies. Artist Members are eligible to contest for the post of Empanelment Officers, besides being entitled to all the benefits of the General Membership.

2. There shall be a one-time fee for both categories of the membership which shall be determined by the Society from time to time.
3. The Executive Committee may expel any member whose conduct seems likely to bring the Society into disrepute. Such expulsion shall be subject to confirmation at the next General Meeting of the Society.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The day-to-day management of the Society's affairs shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee, which shall normally be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

2. The Executive committee shall consist of :

President, Vice President, Secretary, Junior Treasurer, Events Manager, Two Dance Empanelment Officers, Two Music Empanelment Officers

In addition there shall be a Senior Treasurer, who shall be a resident member of the Senate or other person approved by the Junior Proctor. The Senior Treasurer shall be appointed by the elected members of the executive committee and shall be ex officio a member of the Executive committee

3. The Empanelment Officers will be responsible to evaluate applications for Artist Membership and organise auditions as appropriate. It is a requirement that all four Empanelment Officers be present at every audition for Artist Membership.. The vote of each of the Dance Empanelment Officers shall carry a weight of two when the audition panel votes on a decision for Artist Membership for a Dancer and similarly in the case of Artist Membership application for a Musician, the vote of each of the two Music Empanelment Officers shall carry a weight of two. All other posts will have their usual functions.
4. A majority of the elected members of the Executive shall be full-time undergraduate or postgraduate students of the University.
5. Meetings of the Executive committee shall be chaired by the President or in his or her absence the Vice President. If neither the President nor Vice-President is present, the remaining members shall elect a chairperson for that meeting. The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be three members and a written record of each meeting shall be kept.

5. GENERAL MEETINGS

1. The society shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) during each Academical year. The AGM shall be held in Cambridge towards the end of Easter Full term.

All members shall be entitled to attend and vote at any general meeting. At least 14 days written notice shall be given to members before the AGM.

2. The AGM shall approve minutes of the last General meeting and the Society's Accounts for the preceding year, elect the Executive committee for the year ahead and conduct such other business as is necessary. The new Executive Committee so elected will take over from the Committee in office at the Fresher's Squash of the upcoming year.
3. Candidates for election to office (for all posts, except those of the Empanelment Officers) shall be proposed and seconded by two other members. Candidates for election to the post of Empanelment Officers must be Artist Members of the Society, and the nomination must be seconded by two other Artist Members. The Candidates must be trained artists who have displayed a commitment OT the Classical Arts in the past. Every motion at a General Meeting shall be proposed and seconded by two members. Voting shall be by secret ballot and if there are more than two candidates for a post or more than two options on a motion voting shall be by a Single Transferable Vote.
4. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be held at any time during Full Term. It shall be held in Cambridge and may be called by the Executive Committee or at the written request of at least ten members. Twenty-one days written notice shall be given to members before an EGM is held. An EGM shall have the same powers as an AGM.
5. The President or in his or her absence the Vice-President shall take the Chair at any General Meeting. In the absence of the president and Vice President the meeting shall elect a Chairperson for that meeting. the quorum for a General meeting shall be five members and written record of every General Meeting shall be kept.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. The Society Shall maintain a banking account with a suitable bank or Building Society to hold the Society's Funds.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Junior Treasurer to ensure that monies received are properly accounted for and that the society;s financial records are kept in good order.
3. The Senior Treasurer shall make arrangements for the Society's Accounts to be properly audited, either by himself or herself, or by some other person approved under University Ordinances.
4. The Senior Treasurer shall not be liable for any financial debt or other obligations of the Society unless he or she has personally authorised such a debt in writing.

5. For so long as the Society shall be registered with the Junior Proctor, it shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to ensure that the Society complies with the requirements for Registration as a University Society.

7. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended at a General Meeting

8. DISSOLUTION

1. The Society may be dissolved at a General Meeting provided that at least twenty one days written notice of the intention to dissolve the Society has been given to the members. At least two thirds of those present and voting at the general Meeting must vote in favour of the motion for the Dissolution for it to be effective.
2. Any motion for the dissolution of the Society shall provide that assets remaining after all liabilities have been met shall be transferred either to another Registered University Society, or to the Society's Syndicate.

