

# **THE EDISON CHINESE CHORUS (XIANG YIN)**

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*The bylaws were approved on October 20, 2001 by the membership.*

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## **BYLAWS**

### **BYLAW I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Edison Chinese Chorus or Xiang Yin Chorus in Chinese, hereinafter referred to as “the chorus.”

### **BYLAW II. MISSIONS AND OBJECTS**

The chorus is a non-profit, cultural organization. Its mission is to enrich lives and broaden the cultural horizons of its members; to promote culture exchange and understanding within the community; and to provide community service through choral singing and concert performance.

The organization’s main object is to develop Chinese folk chorus with other music forms as supplements. The chorus strives to achieve excellence in choral performance and, at the same time, emphasizes developing individuals musical skills.

### **BYLAW III. MEMBERS**

#### Section 1. Membership

Anyone with basic knowledge of music and ability to perform choral singing may apply to join the chorus. The applicant may apply for the chorus verbally through the president of the chorus or by member introduction.

#### Section 2. Rights and Obligations

A member has a right to question and make recommendations about the direction and operation of the chorus. A member has the right and privilege to elect officers and to be elected.

A member is obligated to pay membership dues. A member should participate in chorus rehearsals, performance and related activities. A member is obligated to perform chorus services as needed.

A member may leave or rejoin the chorus at will. If a member cannot fulfill his/her obligations, the member may be considered relinquishment of membership.

## **BYLAW IV. ORGANIZATION**

### Section 1. Membership Meeting

Membership meeting is the highest decision mechanism, through which officers are elected and major decisions are made. Membership meeting shall be held once a year. Under special circumstances, an emergency meeting may be called. An emergency meeting may be proposed by at least three members and must be endorsed by at least one third of the membership.

### Section 2. President

The president is responsible for chorus's daily activities, including, but not limited to, organizing rehearsal and performance, recruiting new members, grant application and public relations. The president may delegate some of his/her responsibilities to an executive committee selected by the president. The president may convene the executive committee meetings to discuss administrative matters and bylaws amendment proposals.

The president shall be elected by the membership for a period of one year. The president may be reelected.

### Section 3. Finance

The properties and funds, including membership dues, grants, donations and other incomes of the chorus belong to all members. Major financial decisions shall be made by the membership. The president may make decisions on small and moderate expenses, and such expenses shall be disclosed to the membership.

Treasurer is chosen by election. The treasurer's duty is to manage chorus financial matters, including collecting and maintaining membership dues, managing other incomes, paying fees to music director and accompanist and reimbursing appropriate chorus expenses. For stability and continuity, the treasurer shall be elected every two years and may be reelected. If, for any reason, the treasurer can not carry out his/her work, the president may designate an acting treasurer until the next election.

The state of finance shall be disclosed to the whole membership every 6 months.

### Section 4. Election

Election shall be held in February of each year for the president and every two years for the treasurer. A candidate shall be nominated by at least two members from the floor at least two weeks prior to the election. The candidate with the most of the votes wins the election.

## **BYLAW V. MUSIC DIRECTOR**

To improve the program quality and individuals music skills, the chorus may hire a music professional as its music director. The director is responsible to lead rehearsals and performances. He or she shall provide guidance to the chorus on both short term and long term artistic developments. The director is not a member and, therefore, need not fulfill

member obligations. The director may form a core group to lead and facilitate rehearsals and other artistic activities, such as Vocal Section Heads. Members should follow the guidance of the Music Director on all artistic and music related matters, and the director should solicit members inputs on major artistic decisions. The director shall receive monetary compensation for his and her work. The executive committee shall decide the type and extent of the compensation and notify its decision to the membership.

#### **BYLAW VI. AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by two-third of the members voting provided a written notice of the proposed amendment distributed to all members of the chorus at least two weeks before the voting. The voting may be conducted via mail or e-mail, or from the floor. These amendments shall become effective once the voting is complete. At least two people, named by the president, are responsible to collect the ballots and shall report the voting result directly to the membership. All amendment proposals shall be submitted to the executive committee, and the committee shall discuss the merit of the proposal and respond to the request within two weeks after the submission.