

Bylaws

of the
East Kingdom Royal College of Performers

Contents

Section I. Proposed Bylaws	2
A. Purpose.....	2
B. Limited Scope of Exclusivity	2
C. Governance	2
D. Founding and Anniversary of the College	3
E. Terms of Office	3
F. Elections	3
G. Administrative Officers	4
1. Provost.....	4
2. Chatelaine.....	4
3. Chancellor	4
H. Arts.....	5
1. Music	5
2. Oral Traditions	5
3. Belles Lettres.....	6
4. Theatrics	6
I. Deans	6
J. Department Chairs.....	7
K. Staff.....	7
L. Deputies.....	7
M. Appointees.....	7
N. Voting Members	8
O. General members	9
P. Announcement List.....	9
Q. Annual Meeting	9
R. Notifications	10
S. Candidates	10
T. Ballot Votes.....	11
U. Conflicts of Interest.....	11
V. Publication	11

Section I. Proposed Bylaws

A. Purpose

The Royal College of Performers of the Laurel Kingdom of the East, hereinafter called the College, will foster excellence and camaraderie in the performing arts by championing, coaching, teaching, and supporting all who demonstrate a commitment to the study, composition, and practice of the historical performing arts and the celebration of the history and culture of our Society.

B. Limited Scope of Exclusivity

The College hereby disclaims any title, interest, or hold in any exclusive right to study, teaching, or practice any performing art in the East Kingdom. We merely hold exclusive title to our name.

C. Governance

The College will be governed by seven Officers, including three Administrative Officers and four Deans. The Officers will develop the Policies by which the College will operate. Except as provided herein, a Policy will be deemed adopted when properly drafted by the Chancellor and approved by a simple majority of the Officers.

If necessary, the Officers will develop Amendments to the Bylaws. An Amendment will be deemed adopted when properly drafted by the Chancellor, approved by a simple majority of the Officers, and adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members participating in a Ballot Vote.

The Officers will appoint Deputies and Staff to assist in conducting the affairs of the College. At the request of a Dean, the Officers may invest a Department Chair position which the requesting Dean may appoint.

D. Founding and Anniversary of the College

The official Founding of the College is October 13, Anno Societatus XLVII, being the year 2012 in the common reckoning. October 13 of each year thereafter shall be called The Anniversary of the College.

E. Terms of Office

The standard Term of Office is three years. For continuity, special staggered initial Terms of Office for the initial Officers are provided herein.

The Terms of Office of the initial Officers begin on The Founding of the College.

No one may serve in more than one office of the College at a time.

After the terms of the initial Officers, Officers will be chosen by the Voting Members as outlined herein. Each Officer is encouraged to train one or more Deputies who may be nominated and, at the discretion of the Voting Members, elected to replace them. Officers may nominate their successors, but do not appoint them.

Officers wishing to remain in office after the expiration of their term must be nominated and, if necessary, confirmed by election as provided herein, before serving another term. Remaining in the same office for more than one term is permitted but discouraged.

F. Elections

Elections take place between the Annual Meeting and the Anniversary of the College. Candidates to replace outgoing Officers must be properly nominated by three other Voting Members. Ideally, all nominations should be submitted by the closing of the Annual Meeting. Nomination may take place at the Annual Meeting or by email to the Chancellor.

If only one qualified person is nominated, they take office on the subsequent Anniversary of the College.

If more than one qualified candidate is nominated, the winner will be determined by a simple majority of the Voting Members in by Ballot Voting. A first Ballot Vote will be held after the Annual Meeting and before the expiration of the Term of Office of the outgoing Officer, (i.e., after Pennsic and before October.) In the case that no Candidate achieves a simple majority

in the Ballot Vote, there will be a second, runoff Ballot Vote to decide between the two Candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the first Ballot Vote. The winner will take office on the subsequent Anniversary of the College.

G. Administrative Officers

1. Provost

The Provost resolves disputes. The Provost has final responsibility and authority in:

- interpreting the Bylaws and Policies of the College;
- interpreting how mundane, Kingdom, and Society law apply to the College;
- except in the case of a Conflict of Interest involving the Provost, arbitrating and resolving any complaints, disputes, and the like; and

The initial Provost will be Mistress Linette de Gallardon who will serve an initial term of two years.

2. Chatelaine

The Chatelaine promotes the College. The Chatelaine is responsible for:

- attracting and greeting newcomers to the College;
- reviewing proposed Policies and Amendments and providing feedback to the Chancellor prior to approval votes by the Officers and/or Notification of the Voting Members;
- appointing, directing, and removing a Minister of the College List to attend to Announcements, Notifications, and Ballot Votes;
- appointing, directing, removing a Web Minister to attend to the Publications of the College; and
- reporting activities upon request by the Chancellor.

The initial Chatelaine will be Baroness Sabine de Kerbriant who will serve an initial term of three years.

3. Chancellor

The Chancellor guards the rules. The Chancellor is responsible for:

- coordinating the Annual Meeting and communications with the Voting Members on behalf of the Officers;
- reporting to Kingdom authorities on the activities of the College;

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- drafting proposed Amendments to the Bylaws and Policies in accordance with the wishes of the proposer to the extent prudent in view of mundane, Society, and Kingdom law, in further view of the advice of the Chatelaine; and
- ensuring compliance with the Bylaws and Policies.

The initial Chancellor will be Lord Tristan le Chanticler de Champagne who will serve an initial term of four years.

H. Arts

The Arts of the College are defined herein merely for administrative purposes. These definitions, for example, clarify the scope of authority and responsibility of each of the Deans. They are by no means intended to limit the scope of activities of participants in the College.

The Arts of the College are:

1. Music

Music includes:

- singing;
- playing musical instruments;
- musical composition and analysis;
- dance performed with sung or musical instrument accompaniment;
- ensemble musical performance, conducting, and musical ensemble management; and
- organology and luthiery, i.e., the study and construction of musical instruments.

2. Oral Traditions

The Art of Oral Traditions includes:

- the study of historic performing personas, such as skomorokhi, minnesingers, minstrels, jongleurs, jesters, court poets, bards, skalds, and the like;
- storytelling and poetic recitation;
- the study of cultures, history, and folklore of the historical Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and modern Middle Ages;
- memorization; and
- dramatic and folk theory, such as the analysis of plot and commonalities of stories.

3. Belles Lettres

The Art of Belles Lettres includes:

- composing all forms of written prose and verse;
- the trivium: grammar, logic, and rhetoric;
- foreign languages and ancient tongues.

4. Theatrics

The Art of Theatrics includes:

- acting in all its details, such as stage presence, posture, diction, gesture;
- audience engagement and management;
- character development and analysis;
- props, costumes, sets, theatrical productions, and theater management;
- improvisation;
- variety arts, such as stage combat, juggling, acrobatics, puppetry, and magic; and
- ensemble dramatic performance, directing, and theater management.

I. Deans

The Deans champion quality. The four Deans are the Dean of Music, Dean of Oral Traditions, Dean of Belles Lettres, and Dean of Theatrics. Each Dean has the exclusive responsibility and authority within his Art to:

- solicit, develop, and approve any teaching, course, curriculum, or Publication held out to be an activity of the College;
- request the creation of a Department Chair position in his Art;
- appoint, direct, and remove any Department Chair in his Art; and
- report activities promptly upon request of the Chancellor regarding College activities.

The initial Deans will be as follows:

- The initial Dean of Music will be Mistress Deonna von Aachen who will serve an initial term of 2 years.
- The initial Dean of Oral Traditions will be Lady Katherine Ashewode who will serve an initial term of 3 years.
- The initial Dean of Belles Lettres will be Baron Alexandre Lerot d'Avigné who will serve an initial term of 2 years.

- The initial Dean of Theatrics will be Master Anton Winteroak who will serve an initial term of 3 years.

J. Department Chairs

Department Chair positions may be created at the request of a Dean by a simple majority of the Officers. Each Department Chair so created is subordinate to the Dean who made the request. There is no limit to the number of Department Chairs that may be created. Department Chairs are not Officers and do not participate in the governance of the College.

K. Staff

An Administrative Officer may create a Staff position with the approval of both the other Administrative Officers. The Officer creating the position will appoint, direct, and remove that Staff. Staff are not Officers and do not participate in the governance of the College.

L. Deputies

Each Officer is responsible for appointing at least one qualified Deputy within 90 days of taking office. A Deputy is qualified if they are able and willing to assume the role of the Officer, or can be reasonably expected to become able and will within a year of becoming Deputy. Each Officer is further responsible for directing and removing his Deputies.

Deputies are not Officers. However, Deputies may be authorized by their Officer to cast absentee votes or proxy votes on behalf of the Officer in Officer affairs. Such authorization must be in writing and explicitly directly to the matter at for which an absentee or proxy vote is required.

M. Appointees

An Officer is deemed Unavailable to serve when, for any reason whatsoever, he is unable or unwilling to fulfill his responsibilities in a timely and reasonable fashion in accordance with the Bylaws and Policies.

When an Officer becomes Unavailable, an Appointee will replace him. Deputies do not automatically take the place of their Officers when their Officer becomes Unavailable.

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However, a Deputy or any other Voting Member may become an Appointee at the discretion of Officer or Officers tasked with making the appointment.

In the case that the Chatelaine, the Chancellor, or a Dean becomes Unavailable, the Provost will appoint the Appointee. The Provost has unlimited discretion in this regard.

In the case that the Provost becomes Unavailable, the replacement Appointee must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Chatelaine, Chancellor, and Deans.

The term of office of an Appointee is from the time of the appointment until the next Anniversary of the College.

N. Voting Members

Voting Members will include any of the following who request to be Voting Members of the College:

- members of the former Royal College of Bards;
- present and former Royal Bards;
- companions of the Order of the Troubadour;
- companions of the Order of the Terpsichore;
- companions of the Order of the Manche inducted for excellence in an Art of the College;
- companions of the Order of the Laurel for excellence in an Art of the College; and
- current and former winners of East Kingdom baronial champions competitions in the Arts of the College, e.g., baronial bardic champions.

Voting Membership will further include anyone includes anyone who:

- requests to become a Voting Member; and either
- completes an introduction to the college by a performance or submission in the Arts of the College to witnessed by either (a) three Voting Members or (b) a Dean, an Administrator, or their delegate; or
- is granted a personal waiver to the performance or submission requirement by the Provost.

Voting Membership is contingent upon compliance with the Bylaws and the Policies by the Voting Member. The Provost may revoke the membership of any Voting Member at any time for any reason.

Benefits of being a Voting Member include:

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- access to the Announcement List;
- eligibility to serve as Officers or be nominated as Candidates to become an Officer;
- eligibility to serve as Department Chairs or Deputies; and
- eligibility to participate in Ballot Votes.

O. General members

Anyone demonstrating sincere interest is welcome to be a General Member of the College. General members may attend any classes or any other open activities of the College. General members may also attend the Annual Meeting and participate in discussions and informal polls at the Annual Meeting. General members may serve as College Staff.

P. Announcement List

Membership is made official by inclusion on the Announcement List, which is an email list. The Announcement List is the official channel of communication between the Officers and the Members for purposes of Notifications and Notifications only. The College will not host any discussion list open to Voting Members, General members, or the public.

Q. Annual Meeting

The Officers will conduct an Annual Meeting of the Voting Members at the Pennsic War. The Annual Meeting will provide:

- open discussion of any proposed Amendments to the Bylaws;
- an open forum for General members and Voting Members to raise and discuss questions they have about the activities, direction, governance, Bylaws or Policies of the College;
- an opportunity for Voting Members to nominate a Candidate to fill an upcoming vacancy for an Officer in a Ballot Vote;
- an opportunity for a brief statement by any properly nominated Candidate; and
- opportunities for the Officers to conduct informal polls of the attendees for advice, whereby attendees can signify their preferences by show of hands.

R. Notifications

A reasonable effort will be made to announce the following to all General Members and Voting Members via the Announcement List:

- any event or class sponsored by the College; and
- any call for papers, compositions, or performances requested by a Dean of the College or their delegate;

The following must be announced to the Voting Members via the Announcement List.

- 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, Notification must be given of:
 - any Officer vacancies or Terms of Office expiring before the next Anniversary of the College; and of
 - any proposed Amendments to the Bylaws.
- Within 30 days subsequent to the Annual Meeting, Notification must be given of:
 - Ballot Votes to be taken, the means of voting, and the Candidates and/or Amendments to be voted upon.
- Notification must be given within 10 days of:
 - the adoption of, or changes to, any Policy;
 - the approval of an Appointee;
 - creation of a Department Chair;
 - the appointment of an individual to serve as a Department Chair; or
 - the results of any Ballot Vote.

S. Candidates

A Candidate is a Voting Member who is properly nominated by three other Voting Members to stand in an Election by Ballot Vote to fill a current or anticipated opening in an Officer position. Proper nomination may occur either by (1) a motion, a second, and a third made by three Voting Members attending an Annual Meeting, or (2) three emails from three separate Voting Members to the Chancellor. Such emails must explicitly name the full SCA name of the intended Candidate, the Office to which the Candidate is nominated, and the full SCA name of the nominator. Nominations by fewer than three Voting Members at the Annual Meeting or by fewer than three emails from Voting Members are invalid.

T. Ballot Votes

All Voting Members will receive personal notice of any Ballot Vote via a Ballot Email on the List. The Ballot Email will include a description of the issues and choices presented in language prepared by the Chancellor and approved by the Chatelaine.

By joint consent of the Chancellor and Chatelaine, Ballot Votes may be collected either via: (1) email; (2) an Internet web site for which a link is provided; (3) U.S. Postal Service or Canada Post delivery to a designated polling entity; or (4) any combination of options (1), (2), and (3).

Ballot Votes are confidential. It is preferred that no Voting Member of the College have access to the identities of those casting votes. Hence, secure, anonymous voting managed by a third party is preferred.

Reasonable care is to be taken that all current Voting Members in good standing, as indicated by registration on the List, and only those Voting Members, shall be able to cast Ballot Votes.

U. Conflicts of Interest

A Conflict of Interest exists between two or more individuals who belong to the same SCA or mundane household, are in a fealty relationship, or who are otherwise involved in any close personal, financial, business, or family relationship.

An Officer with a Conflict of Interest must excuse himself from participation in any vote or administrative proceeding, including but not limited to any hearing, arbitration, and mediation of complaints and conflicts, that pertains to a person with whom he has a Conflict of Interest.

In the case that the Provost has a Conflict of Interest in a matter, those remaining Officers who have no Conflict of Interest in the matter will appoint a Special Mediator by simple majority. The Special Mediator will have final authority to resolve the matter.

V. Publication

For purposes of the College, Works are defined as artistic creations, performances, recordings, teaching materials, and the like submitted by Members for Publication.

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Administrative Materials are defined as writings and other creations related governance and administration of the College such as, but not limited to, Bylaws, Policies, Announcements, and Notifications and other matter not pertaining to a particular Art. Publications are reproductions of Works or Administrative Materials. Publications may be made on the world-wide web, in print, email, or any other medium.

Works pertaining to a particular Art must be approved for Publication by the Dean of the associated Art and all Administrative Officers.

Legal title to any Work remains with the Member who authored it. Publication will only occur under a revocable license. The Member author retains the right to revoke the license at any time for any reason.

Administrative Materials must be approved by all Administrative Officers prior to Publication. Administrative Materials will be deemed to be the property of the East Kingdom of the SCA for purposes of mundane copyright law.

Bylaws and Policies must be published by the Provost within ten days of their adoption.