



Unofficial translation (after the amendments to the Constitution at the Assembly of Delegates in Berlin on 30 May 2024).  
The German version governs.

# Constitution of the **Richard-Wagner-Verband International e.V.** (International Association of the Wagner Societies)

## Section 1 Name and Headquarters

The Association carries the name "Richard-Wagner-Verband International e.V.". It is headquartered in Bayreuth and is entered in the register of associations there.

It has evolved out of the merging of the "Richard-Wagner-Verband International e. V." with the "Richard-Wagner- Verband e.V." pursuant to the decision of the International Assembly of Delegates and the General Assembly made on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Bayreuth.

## Section 2 Purpose

The purpose of the Association is to:

1. create interest in and deepen the understanding of Richard Wagner's works,
2. provide support for the next generation of artists,
3. support the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation founded at the behest of Richard Wagner,
4. work to ensure the continuing success of the Bayreuth Festival,
5. promote international cooperation.

## Section 3 Charitable status

1. The Association pursues exclusively and directly charitable aims as defined in the section on "tax-favoured purpose" in the German Tax Code.
2. The Association is a non-profit organisation. It does not pursue goals primarily serving its own financial interest.
3. The funds of the Association may only be used for purposes in accordance with the Constitution. Members receive no payments from the funds of the Association.
4. No persons may receive payments from the funds of the Association which do not serve the purposes of the Association as defined in Section 2, especially not in the form of disproportionately high remuneration.

## Section 4 Membership

1. The members of the Association are regional associations around the world. Their existence takes the legal form of a registered association and they are recognized as being eligible for tax relief within the meaning of Sections 51 et seq. of the German Tax Code, or exist in the legal form applying to the country in which they are based, which represents the purpose of the Association.
2. The regional associations run the everyday activities of the Association and are responsible for taking care of their own affairs. They are bound by the provisions contained in the Constitution and by the decisions taken by the assembly of delegates.
3. Membership can be applied for by submitting a written declaration of membership to the Executive Committee, enclosing a copy of the complete Constitution or a draft of the Constitution. The Executive Committee then decides on whether or not the application is accepted.
4. Should the membership application be refused, an application may be made for a ruling from the Assembly of Delegates.
5. The following may be appointed honorary members by the Assembly of Delegates at the proposal of the Executive Committee:
  - a. members who have rendered particularly outstanding services to the Association,
  - b. outstanding individuals in cultural or public spheres who have documented their solidarity with the Association
6. At the proposal of the Executive Committee, the Assembly of Delegates may appoint a person as honorary President who has made an outstanding contribution to the Association as President thereof.

### **Section 5 Termination of membership**

1. Membership ends upon dissolution of the regional association, withdrawal of its charitable status, resignation or expulsion.
2. Resignation is made by submitting a written explanation to the Executive Committee. It will take effect from the close of the business year.
3. The Executive Committee may decide to expel a member if it greatly contravenes the purposes of the Association or decisions made by the Assembly of Delegates, or, in particular, if it does not comply with the obligations stated in section 6.
4. Appeals against the ruling may be made within four weeks of its entry into force at the next ordinary or extraordinary Assembly of Delegates. Membership is maintained until their ruling is made.

### **Section 6 Contributions, services, reports**

1. Members pay a contribution. This is due by the end of the month of April of each business year. In exceptional cases, which must be justified, members may be exempted from paying contributions through a decision made by the Executive Committee.
2. Members make funds available to the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation on an annual basis in order for it to meet its charitable responsibilities.
3. The size of contributions and payments to the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation is determined by the Assembly of Delegates.
4. By 31st January of each year, members must submit a progress report on the previous calendar year to the Executive Committee and must provide information relating to the status of members by 1st January of each year.

### **Section 7 Governing bodies**

The governing bodies of the Association are:

1. the Executive Committee,
2. the Assembly of Delegates.

### **Section 8 Executive Committee ('Presidium')**

1. The Executive Committee consists of:
  - a. the President,
  - b. the 1st Vice-President,
  - c. the 2nd Vice-President, whereby the 1st is assigned to a German, the 2nd to a non-German member
  - d. the Secretary,
  - e. the Treasurer,
  - f. six other Presidium members, three of whom are non-German members
2. The Executive Committee is responsible for the overall direction and management of the Association and the representation thereof.
3. In accordance with section 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB), the board of directors consists of the President, the 1st Vice-President and the 2nd Vice-President. Each of these is entitled to act as the sole representative. Internally, the first Vice-President is obliged by the Association to exercise the office of director only if the President is prevented from doing so. This applies to the second President in the case of the first Vice-President and the President being prevented from exercising this office
4. The Executive Committee makes decisions at meetings which are to be convened by the President by announcing the agenda. Executive Committee members vote on each motion or item on the agenda. Decisions are made with a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee members present. If the vote is tied, the President has the casting vote.
5. An Executive Committee decision can also be made in writing if all Executive Committee members give their agreement to the ruling to be made.
6. Should an Executive Committee member retire, the delegates of the Assembly of Delegates shall elect a replacement member for the remaining duration of the Executive Committee's legislative period. The transferal of voting rights to another member of the Executive Committee is possible.
7. The Executive Committee is elected by the Assembly of Delegates for a period of five years. It remains in office until a new election takes place.

### **Section 9 Assembly of Delegates**

1. The ordinary Assembly of Delegates takes place every year, if possible, on the occasion of the International Richard Wagner Congress. If no congress is taking place, the Assembly of Delegates can also take place virtually or hybrid. The President shall invite at least 30 days in advance in writing, in text form or by e-mail. The agenda must be communicated.
2. An extraordinary Assembly of Delegates takes place when called by the Executive Committee. Calling of such an Assembly must be made within a period of 30 days and notification of the agenda must be enclosed. It can also take place if proposed by a minimum of 20% of members.
3. The following persons shall participate in the assembly of delegates:
  - a. the members of the Executive Committee,
  - b. the delegates of the members.
4. Each member sends a delegate who is entitled to vote. This is either the director of the local association or a representative who is given written authorisation by that director. Only the delegates of the local societies have the right to cast their votes in the Assembly of Delegates. The members of the Executive Committee may cast a vote only in case they are delegates of a local society.
5. The President takes the chair at the Assembly of Delegates. Should he or she be unable to do so, one of the Vice-Presidents should fulfil this role according to the sequence in the regulations governing representation.

### **Section 10 Responsibilities of the Assembly of Delegates**

1. The Assembly of Delegates is responsible for:
  - a. electing the Executive Committee and the auditors,
  - b. receiving the Treasurer's annual report and statement of account,
  - c. ratification of the Executive Committee,
  - d. determining the size of contributions and payments to the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation,
  - e. decisions pertaining to changes to the Constitution,
  - f. decisions pertaining to questions of fundamental significance,
  - g. decisions pertaining to motions put forward within the stipulated period,
  - h. decisions pertaining to appeals from members expelled from the Executive Committee,
  - i. decisions pertaining to membership applications that have been rejected by the Executive Committee,
  - j. passing a resolution with regard to the dissolution of the Association.
2. An Assembly of Delegates which is called according to the regulations has quorum regardless of the number of members represented by delegates.
3. The right to vote is exercised by the delegates of members. Each member has one vote. Each member may transfer its voting rights by a written proxy to another member. No member shall in addition to its own voting rights take over more than the voting rights of 2 additional members. No delegate shall cast more than 3 votes.
4. Each of the candidates receiving a simple majority of the votes is elected. Abstentions and invalid votes are not counted. Should votes be tied, a final ballot is held for the respective candidates.
5. Decisions will be made with a simple majority of the members present who are eligible to vote, unless otherwise stipulated by the Constitution. Three quarters of the votes are necessary for alterations to the Constitution and dissolution. Should votes be tied, the motion is deemed as rejected. All voting shall be open unless an application is made for secret ballot.
6. Motion proposals for the Assembly of Delegates are to be submitted to the President in writing or in textual form by telefax or by e-mail latest 20 days before the event.

### **Section 11 Regional meetings**

Regional meetings may be held in regions where several members are present. Such meetings serve the purpose of promoting close collaboration in the region.

### **Section 12 Auditors**

1. Audits shall be carried out by two auditors. These are to be elected by the Assembly of Delegates for the legislative period of the Executive Committee.
2. The auditors are responsible for monitoring the Treasurership and checking the annual accounts. They must report at the Assembly of Delegates. They are also responsible for filing applications for the ratification of the Executive Committee.

### **Section 13 International Richard Wagner Congress**

1. An International Richard Wagner Congress should take place annually at the decision of the Executive Committee. It may be held by one member together with the Executive Committee.
2. Upon decision of the Executive Committee, administration of the International Richard Wagner Congress maybe transferred to an independent event management agency.

### **Section 14 General Information**

1. The business year is the calendar year.
2. Minutes are to be taken at all meetings and gatherings. They must include the content of motions proposed and decisions made, as well as the number of members present and their number of votes. Minutes must be signed by the President and the Secretary. Should the Secretary be prevented from doing so, the President shall appoint a deputy.
3. In the case of dissolution of the Association its assets shall be transferred to the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation which is to use them directly and solely for charitable purposes.
4. This Constitution was adopted on 30 May 2024 by the Assembly of Delegates in Berlin and came into force on the day of its registration.