

COLUMBIA RAAGA CONSTITUTION

Revised Jan 18, 2018

ARTICLE I Name

SECTION I

The name of this organization shall be Columbia Raaga.



ARTICLE II Membership

SECTION I

The officers of Raaga shall make up the Executive Board of Raaga, hereafter referred to as the Raaga Executive Board. The body of members will derive not more than 75% of its population from an individual school of Columbia University. Requirements are enthusiasm for music, an audition demonstrating promise for musical collaboration, and an interest in creating music.

Membership is open to all full-time and part-time students of Columbia University affiliated with any school. The responsibilities of membership are to attend rehearsals regularly and punctually, to foster an environment conducive to musical creation, and to have mutual respect with all members.

Membership may be revoked due to persistent absences from rehearsals, dereliction of duty, disruption of working environment, or not being collaborative when composing music. Members may drop out at any time by notifying the President of their decision.

All Members are involved in the planning and execution of events.

ARTICLE III Governance

SECTION I:

Raaga will have the following executive/governing officers:

- I. President
- II. Vice-President
- III. Treasurer
- IV. Secretary

In addition, Raaga will have a Musical Director. This position is a non-governing position. The Musical Director is not a member of the Executive Board.

SECTION II:

The President shall superintend the organization's affairs and activities. The President is the executive, administrative, presiding and reporting officer. The President is expected to take responsibility for public relations, publicity, outreach and promotion of Raaga activities, along with other governing officers. The President is also responsible to plan and preside over Executive Board meetings.

SECTION III:

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will assume all duties of the President. In addition, the Vice-President shall help supervise membership promotion, public relations and publicity. The Vice-President's additional responsibilities entail: program planning, advising on execution and composition.

SECTION IV:

The Treasurer will be in charge of the organization's financial records, allocation of funds, and for diligently reporting income-producing functions approved by the membership and Faculty Advisors. The Treasurer will preside over the annual Budget Meeting. The Treasurer will also be responsible for following proper protocol in accordance with the IGB.

SECTION V:

The Secretary is responsible for maintaining timely communications with partnering performers during events and showcases. The Secretary may take time during each meeting upon request.

SECTION VI:

The Musical Director will preside over rehearsals. In cases where there is dispute over repertoire or musical ideas and a simple majority of all members present cannot resolve the issue, the Musical Director's decision will prevail.



ARTICLE IV Meeting Procedures

SECTION I:

Rehearsals are to be held once a week, and as per the agreement of performing members in the weeks preceding a concert. The Executive Board is responsible for scheduling rehearsals in accordance to unanimous attendees.

SECTION II:

An Executive Board meeting must be scheduled by the President to consider propositions within 15 days upon the request of any member of the Executive Board. The member who requested the meeting must be present along with either the President or the Vice-President, and one more Board member. Members of Raaga who do not hold a governing position may make propositions to any Executive Board member, who may request an Executive Board meeting on the member's behalf. If the meeting cannot be held in this time frame for logistical reasons, it must be scheduled at the earliest by the President. Board meetings may be attended by members of Raaga. Members are also entitled to make propositions and participate in the deliberations during this time.

SECTION III:

Once a year, prior to the communication of Raaga's financial needs to the IGB, the Executive Board will hold a Budget Meeting, where the Executive Board will consider past years' expense records to create a reasonable anticipated expense sheet. All members of Raaga may make event related propositions, and other propositions involving expenses. This meeting must be attended by all Executive Board members, including the Treasurer. The Budget Meeting will be presided over by the Treasurer. At the end of this meeting, the budget must be passed by a three-fourths majority.

SECTION IV:

All propositions made by members of Raaga, budget related or otherwise, must be passed by a three-fourths majority by the Executive Board.

SECTION V:

As far as music and repertoire is concerned, if there is conflict of ideas or intent during rehearsals, the decision of the simple majority will prevail. If the matter is not resolved this way, the decision of the Musical Director will prevail.



ARTICLE V Elections

SECTION I:

All Raaga members are eligible to hold office, irrespective of class year.

Governing positions carry over automatically year to year if no member applies to the Executive Board. If a member wishes to be considered for a governing position, the member must notify the current Executive Board over the summer.

For these governing positions, elections will be held during the Fall semester. Each student who applies will proceed to the next round by attending a brief interview session with the existing Executive Board during which the board may ask questions of the candidates related to their suitability for the position and role in the group.

SECTION II:

The Musical Director will be appointed every semester by a simple majority of members present at the first rehearsal. Members of the Executive Board are discouraged but allowed to stand for the position of Musical Director.

SECTION III:

Members of the Executive Board reserve the right to resign as governing officers for any reason by notifying to the President. A re-election for the position left empty must be held at the earliest.

ARTICLE VI Amendments to the Constitution

SECTION I:

These Bylaws may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the members present at any Executive Board Meeting, provided that written notice and a draft of the proposed amendment have been posted at least 5 days prior to that meeting. Upon a three-fourths majority, the amendment becomes effective immediately.



ARTICLE VII Dismissal of Officers

SECTION I:

In the event that an officer – governing or otherwise – fails to uphold their duty, impeachment proceedings can be initiated by a motion of all the other members of the board or by a petition signed by a two-thirds majority of all Raaga members. Their position will be filled via the election procedure outlined in Article V.



ARTICLE VIII - Activities

SECTION I:

Raaga is Columbia University's South Asian Fusion Music Organization for the various, diverse genres of both Indian and world music. Raaga engages in music jam sessions, workshops, informational sessions, and performance showcases. Comprised of students from all years, Raaga represents South Asian culture in a unique and essential way, building connections with the Columbia community and upholding its cultural diversity. Raaga creates variegated medleys to integrate many styles. The Executive Board will help orchestrate in-group communication and cooperate with the IGB's goals for activities and events.



Signees of this Constitution of Raaga, Effective Jan 18, 2018:

(EXECUTIVE BOARD 2017-2018)

Jay Gandhi

PRESIDENT

Michel Vazirani

TREASURER

Mukund Palat Rao

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ali Raj

SECRETARY

