We, the Students’ Association and Office of Student Affairs of the Eastman School of Music, hereby establish Black Students at Eastman (BSE) of the Eastman School of Music and enact this constitution for its government. Failure to follow this constitution could result in revocation of Students’ Association recognition of this organization.

Article I. Purpose of Organization/Mission Statement

We, the students of the Black Students at Eastman (BSE) at the Eastman School of Music, with the intent to promote social and cultural awareness, to foster diversification, and develop community relations within the School do hereby express the purpose of this organization:

1. To provide a vehicle and forum for the articulation and expression of views and interests of the black students at the Eastman School of Music;
2. To provide educational, cultural, and social programs relevant to the needs of black students at Eastman;
3. To enhance relations amongst the organization, and Eastman’s student body;
4. To establish channels of communication between the organization and that of the City of Rochester;
5. To foster the recognition of the educational and cultural needs of black students at Eastman;
6. To promote black cultural awareness in all areas, and to establish a platform which provides as such.

Article II. Membership and Eligibility

Section A. Membership
1. Eligibility – All Students’ Association members shall be eligible for membership. A SA Member is an Eastman School of Music undergraduate who has paid his/her mandatory Student Activity fee. All Eastman faculty, staff, graduate students and UR River Campus students shall be eligible for associate membership. All members and associate members shall be listed on the organization’s membership roster.

2. Associate Membership – All other students enrolled in any of the other University of Rochester schools, as well as all Eastman School of Music graduate students, shall be granted Associate Memberships in the Eastman Students’ Association upon request. Associate members shall possess all the rights and privileges granted to full members, except for the right to vote in elections and referenda, and the right to hold executive positions in Eastman Students’ Association.
2.1. Graduate Advisor - The Graduate Advisor is responsible for protecting the interest of non-voting members of Black Students at Eastman (graduate students and alumni). This position has no minimum participation requirement. One term is equal to one (1) academic year.
3. Membership Eligibility – All undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester are eligible for membership.
   3.1. Full membership will be exclusive to University of Rochester undergraduates who have paid their Students’ Association Activities Fee.
   3.2. Associate membership is available to all others aforementioned.
   3.3. All the eligible persons may attain membership by attending three (3) general meetings/events per semester, totaling six (6) general meetings/events in the course of one academic year.
   3.4. When you are a member, membership status is maintained throughout student matriculation.
   3.5. Executive board positions shall be exclusive to full members.

Article III. Meetings and Voting

Section A. Meeting
1. A meeting shall be valid if a quorum, plus one officer is present. Quorum is defined as 1/2 the organization’s active membership or a total five (5) undergraduate members.

Section B. Voting
1. Voting on any issue shall take place during a general meeting.
2. All members shall be informed of the voting issue prior to the voting day via email.
3. All full members shall have the equivalence of one vote on any given issue.
4. The results of all voting shall be determined by casting ballots, and shall be recorded by the secretary.

Article IV. Executive Board Members and Qualifications

Section A. Executive Board
1. President - This position requires at least one semester of active membership to qualify. One term is equal to one (1) academic year, but former presidents are eligible for reelection for an additional year. No member is allowed to serve more than two years as BSE president, consecutive or nonconsecutive.
2. Vice President - This position requires at least one semester of active membership to qualify. One term is equal to one (1) academic year, but former vice presidents are eligible for reelection for an additional year. No member is allowed to serve more than two years as BSE vice president, consecutive or nonconsecutive.
3. Vice President of Finance - This position requires at least one semester of active membership to qualify. One term is equal to one (1) academic year, but former Vice Presidents of Finance are eligible for reelection for an additional year. No member is allowed to serve more than two years as BSE Vice President of Finance, consecutive or nonconsecutive.
4. Vice President of Communications - This position requires at least one semester of active membership to qualify. One term is equal to one (1) academic year, but former Vice Presidents of Communications are eligible for reelection for an additional year. No member is allowed to serve more than two years as BSE Vice President of Communications, consecutive or nonconsecutive.

Section B. Duties of E-board Members
1. All officers shall be full time matriculated undergraduate Eastman students and members of Black Students at Eastman.
2. All officers shall promote active recruitment of new members.
3. All officers shall enforce this constitution.
4. All officers shall be responsible for being familiar with the sections of the ESM Students' Association constitution and bylaws that apply to this organization.

President
1. The President shall preside over the meetings and shall maintain organization within the club, communicate with other officers and delegate duties to maintain a functioning club that fulfills the purposes set forth above.

2. The President shall be the chief executive officer of Black Students at Eastman, and thus, is the official spokesperson for the organization.

3. The President shall have the power to formulate committees and to appoint subsequent committee chairpersons.

4. The President shall make appointments to fill vacancies pending Executive Board approval.

5. The President, shall preside over the meetings and shall maintain organization within the organization, communicate with other officers and delegate duties to maintain a functional organization that fulfills the purposes set forth above.

6. The President is responsible for creating the agendas for all general and Executive Board meetings.

Vice President
1. The Vice President shall assume Presidential responsibilities in the absence of the President.

2. The Vice President shall oversee the voting process in all general and executive meetings.

3. The Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining a current copy of this constitution open to inspection by all members of this organization, Executive Board, the Office of Student Life, and all members of the ESM Students' Association.

Vice President of Finance
1. The Vice President of Finance will be responsible for maintaining all finances and keeping detailed records of all transactions.

Vice President of Communications
1. The Vice President of Communications shall take attendance at all meetings, tally votes, keep an accurate list of organization members, and take and maintain meeting minutes.

2. The Vice President of Communications shall be responsible for the preservation and organization of all historical records, programs, and additional documents.

Section C. Nominations and Elections
1. Nomination and Elections Procedure - Any member of Black Students at Eastman may nominate themselves or another person for office provided that person is in compliance with the rules outlined by Article II, Section A.

2. Timing of Elections – Elections must occur no later than April 1, unless your group is governed by a national charter and is subject to their election timeline.
a. Nominations for all office positions shall open ten (10) days prior to the election date, and shall close at midnight the day before. No further nominations shall be accepted unless the candidate position is vacant.

3. Nominations shall be given to the Secretary, who will also be responsible for creating voting ballots.

4. Term of Office is one academic year.

5. Only undergraduate members are eligible for nomination. This excludes Staff, Graduate Students, and Alumni.

6. The election shall be presided over and conducted by either the President or Vice President, unless both are candidates. If both are unable, any non-candidate executive board member may conduct the elections.

7. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. Officers must earn a simple majority of the votes cast through official voting ballots provided by Black Students at Eastman.

8. In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be held within one week during an emergency general meeting.

9. Election winners shall be notified at the end of the day or subsequent morning by those conducting the elections.

Section D. Vacancies, Resignations, and Removals

1. Vacancy - defined as any office not occupied, and may be caused by ineligibility, removal, or resignation.
   a. At the valid meeting following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled by the same manner described in the Nominations and Elections Procedure.

2. A vote of no confidence is a vote to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a 2/3 majority of the active membership to pass the motion.

3. If a vote of no confidence of any officer is to take place, it must be given an official meeting's notice. Any member of an organization can call for a vote of no confidence.

4. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

Section E. Provisions of Advisor(s)

1. All recognized ESM SA organizations are advised through the Office of Student Affairs.

2. Organizations may have a secondary advisor. It is strongly recommended this person be a staff or faculty member at the Eastman School of Music or University of Rochester.

Article V. Committees

Not Applicable

Article VI. Finances

Section A. ESM Students’ Association members shall receive priority at all ESM SA-funded events conducted by this organization.

Section B. Funding

Black Students at Eastman [shall/shall not] be eligible for ESM SA funding. (All SA recognized organizations shall be eligible for funded status by submitting a budget during fall leadership training and budgeting cycle, unless they are political in nature. Religious and Pre-professional groups will receive a flat fund to be determined and allocated each academic year.)
Article VII. Classification
Section A. Black Students at Eastman shall be classified as a/an:

A. Awareness/Cultural - An awareness/cultural organization shall be any SA-recognized organization whose primary focus is the promotion of cultural or social awareness issues.

Article VIII. Adoption of the Constitution
Section A. More than two-thirds of the active membership, or more if the organization decides, must approve the constitution.
Section B. This constitution will be ratified upon approval of the Executive Board and the signature of the BSE Executive Vice President.
Section C. This constitution shall not conflict with the Students’ Association constitution or by-laws.

Article IX. Amendments
Section A. Adoption and ratification of amendments to this constitution shall follow the same procedure as adoption of the entire constitution.

Article X. By-laws
Section A. More than a 2/3 majority of the active membership must approve the by-laws and any amendments.
Section B. By-laws should not conflict with this constitution or the SA constitution or by-laws.

Article XI. Hazing Policy
Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or organization, is not permitted by Black Students at Eastman. Behavior prohibited under this rule includes actions threatening substantial risk of physical or mental injury; actions exposing the individual to distressing, repulsive, or alarming situations or sensations; forced consumption of alcohol or drugs; actions in the form of social pressure which might cause harm to an individual.

Article XII. Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment (Policy 106)
Black Students at Eastman of the Eastman School of Music does not discriminate against any individual or organization of individuals on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or political affiliation. Organizations found to be in violation of the University’s Policy 106 on Discrimination and Harassment will be derecognized and de-funded. Policy 106 can be reviewed here: http://www.rochester.edu/working/hr/policies/pdfpolicies/106.pdf