

Membership of Noosa Chorale

Noosa Chorale is a community choir dedicated to bringing a rich repertoire of diverse music to the people of the Noosa region and Sunshine Coast. The shared love of music, both personal and for the enrichment of the community, is at the heart of the Chorale which is a major feature of Noosa's cultural landscape.

Membership of Noosa Chorale provides a privileged opportunity to be part of a high quality choir with an excellent performance venue, an esteemed music director/conductor, a highly skilled accompanist, the opportunity for split rehearsals with an expert deputy music director, access to subsidised music scores, and the chance to perform with professional and semi-professional musicians.

Membership is open to anybody in the community who has a desire to sing great choral works. There are no auditions for prospective members; we are committed to maintaining a friendly and enjoyable rehearsal experience while achieving high standards of musical performance.

Many people with little musical experience have developed their singing and musical skills through the Chorale. An ability to read music is an advantage, but if you cannot read music, it is essential that you have a computer with internet access so you can practise at home, or that you can record rehearsals for later practice.

Expectations of Noosa Chorale Members

As a member of Noosa Chorale, you are expected to:

- ◆ Uphold the high standards achieved by Noosa Chorale in its commitment to quality musicianship and performance.
- ◆ Notify the Membership Administrator (or President or Secretary) of any change to your contact details.
- ◆ Maintain your financial status by paying all fees on time.
- ◆ Attend rehearsals regularly.
- ◆ Give notice of your absence from rehearsals, either by email or phone, or at the Registration Desk at rehearsals.
- ◆ Keep up to date with all notices and news issued to members through various avenues.
- ◆ Contribute positively to the experience of rehearsals, showing respect for the Music Director and your fellow choristers by listening carefully and not disrupting rehearsal time by talking.
- ◆ Undertake practice in your own time to ensure you know your part before rehearsals.

Weekly rehearsals in term

Rehearsals are held at The J Theatre, 60 Noosa Drive, every Monday night during term 1 and Tuesday night during terms 2 and 3 from 7.00—9.15pm. There is plenty of parking available.

Rehearsals each week provide a structured opportunity as a whole choir to review the note-learning that singers have undertaken in their own time, and to develop harmony and expression across the mix of parts and voices. Access to practice files is provided for choristers to practise their own parts prior to rehearsals. The more diligent you are in practising and learning the notes at home ('note-bashing'), the more time to focus on developing the dynamics of our singing in rehearsals.

Punctual attendance at rehearsals is essential. Please arrive even earlier at the start of each rehearsal term for collecting scores, welcoming new members, etc. Concert programs are prepared one year in advance and each performance has a limited preparation time, so regular attendance at rehearsals is essential. For most performances, at least one additional rehearsal is scheduled close to the performance date.

Your commitment to rehearsals is critical to the Chorale's maintenance of its high standards. To sing at a performance, you are expected to join

rehearsals at the start of term, or within the first few weeks, and to attend a minimum of 60% of rehearsals, the last 3 prior to a performance being mandatory. Exceptions may occur at the discretion of the Music Director, or as determined by the Management Committee in response to other circumstances. An attendance roll is kept to record attendance of each member each week. Please notify the Registration Desk if you expect to be absent from rehearsals.

Preparation as a whole choir for performances is most effective when singers attend all rehearsals. All singers are expected to ensure they can commit to singing at every performance of each concert. If you are unable to make this commitment, please withdraw from rehearsals for that term and return in the following term. Exceptions may occur at the discretion of the Music Director. Advance dates for concert performances in 2024 are outlined on page 2 of this booklet.

Make sure you're well-prepared for each week's rehearsal and that you bring your music score(s), a pencil for marking up your score, your name tag, your own cup if you wish to have tea or coffee, a bottle of water to hydrate your vocal chords, and something warm to wear in the air-conditioning.

Important Health and Safety Matters

The Noosa Chorale Inc Management Committee is committed to its duty of care regarding the health and safety of its members. We ensure our operations are consistent with government regulations including those regarding minimising the risk of disease transmission, and with related procedures in place at The J Theatre. We ask that you adhere to the following requirements for your own health and safety, and that of all members:

- ◆ **DO NOT ATTEND REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES if you have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, other respiratory symptoms, sore throat, runny nose, headache, muscle or joint pains, nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of sense of smell, altered sense of taste, loss of appetite, or fatigue, or are suffering from any illness that is or may be contagious.**
- ◆ **MAKE USE OF THE HAND SANITISERS** provided within The J Theatre.
- ◆ **COMPLY WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING** requirements in place at the time.
- ◆ **DO NOT WEAR PERFUME**, hair-spray or other scented cosmetics to rehearsals or performances, as some singers may have allergic reactions or find the scent irritating to the throat. Please also ensure that deodorants used are non-scented.

It is important for members to understand that rehearsals and performances demand a reasonable level of physical fitness and mobility. This is not just to meet the demands of singing itself, but also to be able to stand for long periods, to move quickly between sitting and standing, to be able to climb above-average height steps on the stage "risers", and to negotiate narrow corridors in crowded conditions. Whilst every effort is made to provide safe and reasonable accommodations for singers with mobility issues, it is important to note that some performances may be conducted in other venues or areas without disabled access.

Membership fees

Membership/rehearsal fees are a major source of funds for Noosa Chorale Inc to defray the choir's operational costs which include the payment of conductor and accompanist fees, the hire of venues, registration and insurance, printing and advertising, rehearsal suppers, and so on. The Chorale incurs these expenses regardless of the number of people attending each rehearsal. Timely payment of your fees helps to keep the choir's finances stable and sustainable. Fees are reviewed each year and any changes are determined at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting. In exceptional circumstances, for example, in cases of financial hardship, or on compassionate grounds, special payment or refund arrangements may be arranged with the Treasurer or President.

Noosa Chorale Inc fees consist of two components:

1. an annual membership fee of \$50 *, to be paid in full each year or part of a year;

** For new members joining the choir after Term 1, the annual membership fee for the first year is reduced to \$30 (for new members joining in Term 2), and \$20 (for new members joining in Term 3).*

2. a fixed rehearsal term fee of \$75 for each rehearsal term

Notes:

- a) All Fees are waived for non-singing volunteer members and Life Members.
- b) An optional probationary period of 2 weeks is available for new members, with fee payment due by the 3rd rehearsal attended.
- c) New members will be provided with a name badge at no cost. Replacement badges will incur a cost of \$10.
- d) Non-financial members are not eligible to vote at meetings.

Music scores, binders & practice files

Singers are expected to purchase their own copy of music scores so they can mark up their copy. Noosa Chorale endeavours to subsidise the cost by sourcing the best price for bulk orders. Scores for each rehearsal term are purchased in advance according to the expected number of singers participating in that term. Your timely advice about your expected participation each term will help us to order the optimum number of scores. Scores will only be ordered for those who have indicated they will be singing in each future concert.

Information about the scores required for each term and their cost will be provided to you by email prior to each term. Scores will be available to collect from Pam Sage (Deputy Music Director and Librarian) on the first and second rehearsal of the term from 6.15pm.

All singers are required to have a standard black music binder for use at all performances. These are available for sale on request.

Occasionally we may send music scores for particular events as email attachments for you to print at home. Please ask for a copy to be provided if you do not have access to a printer.

Practice files are provided for singers to download from the choir's shared drive in Google, and links to the files for each rehearsal term are provided in the weekly reminder messages sent via email.

Payment

To work out the amount due each term, please add up the costs that are relevant to you, and pay the amount as a single lump sum for the term, making sure that you put your name as the reference when you set up the direct bank payment. Other than in exceptional circumstances, please pay fees prior to the first rehearsal night of the term.

1. Annual membership (once per year): \$50 *

** For new members joining the choir after Term 1, the annual membership fee for the first year is reduced to \$30 (for new members joining in Term 2), and \$20 (for new members joining in Term 3).*

2. Rehearsal term fee (per term): \$75

3. Music scores (per term): As advised each term

ONCE-OFF PAYMENTS (Please pay these amounts separately)

Black music binder: \$35

Replacement name tag: \$10

Preferred payment method is by direct credit from your bank account to Noosa Chorale's:

BSB: 633-000
Account No: 130892110
Account Name: Noosa Chorale Inc.

Please put your name as the reference.
(If you are unable to pay online, please pay over the counter at your bank to our account, or bring the correct cash payment or a cheque to pay at rehearsal night.)

Key dates in 2024

29 January:	Term 1 rehearsals commence	28 May:	Term 2 rehearsals commence
18 March:	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	24 August:	Extra dress rehearsal
25 April:	Anzac Day ceremonies	22 August:	Concert —performance 1
17 May:	Rehearsal at Cooroy Memorial Hall	24 August:	Concert —performance 2
23 May:	Extra dress rehearsal		
24 May:	Concert—performance 1	10 September:	Term 3 rehearsals commence
25 May:	Concert—performance 2	12 December:	Extra dress rehearsal
		13 December:	Christmas concert—performance 1
		14 December:	Christmas concert—performance 2

Desiderata for Choristers

1. Practise! And practise some more!

- ◆ The more you practise, the more enjoyable choir rehearsals will be for you and everyone.
- ◆ Make sure you have a good method of practising, even when you know the music well. Listen to your music files regularly, making sure you commit your own part to memory, and seeing how your part blends with the other parts.
- ◆ Learning to sing the notes and words and getting the timing right is only the first stage. It's how the choir (and other players) sing together which is the creative and really satisfying part.

2. Make the most of choir rehearsals.

- ◆ One of the greatest joys of singing in a choir is achieving a close bond between Musical Director / Conductor and choir. This is the way we achieve fantastic dynamics, precise timing and unity of interpretation and emotional effect for ourselves and the audience.
- ◆ Watch the conductor. Learn the music well enough that you're not looking at your score all the time with your face and eyes down! Learning by heart is also great memory training and you will be surprised at how much more liberating and enjoyable singing is when you know the notes and the words.
- ◆ Make sure you always bring your score and a pen or pencil to mark your score up with directions given by the conductor and that you practise with these directions in mind. These can be about note-learning, timing, interpretation and emotion, performance directions, and so on... Many singers find yellow highlighting of their part very helpful in focusing their eyes quickly on their part and giving them more opportunity to watch the conductor.
- ◆ Observe the rehearsal schedule for each performance to give special attention to your individual practice of each week's focus, and take note of weekly announcements about rehearsals.

3. Contribute positively to the community of the choir.

- ◆ Producing a beautiful choral sound together under the guidance of a professional musical director is the unique experience we come to rehearsals to share.
- ◆ Respect for others' desire to learn, and respect for the conductor requires a strict no talking etiquette during the rehearsal which also gives you the best opportunity to benefit from this valuable learning experience.
- ◆ Listen to the other parts during the rehearsal, as this will help to consolidate your learning of your own part and help you blend your voice in better.
- ◆ Do not wear perfumes or perfumed cosmetics to rehearsals or performances – although non-perfumed deodorant is ok!
- ◆ Turn your mobile phone OFF or to silent.

4. Attend rehearsals regularly.

- ◆ Realise that your attendance at choir every week is part of the whole experience for everyone. Even if you know all the notes, you need to be there to be a part of the combined blending of voices.
- ◆ Arrive at rehearsals at least 10 minutes early, and ensure your name is marked on the attendance book.
- ◆ Attend at least 60% of rehearsals for a performance if you want to sing in the performance, and 100% of the last three rehearsals before a performance. (In special cases of absence, the conductor may give you approval to sing in a performance.)
- ◆ Let us know as much in advance as possible (in person, by phone, or by email) if you will be absent from one or more rehearsals.

5. Look after your voice.

- ◆ Keep yourself well hydrated, avoiding diuretics like caffeine and alcohol before singing.
- ◆ Warm up vocally before rehearsals so you are not completely dependent on the warm-ups offered before the repertoire is begun.
- ◆ During rehearsals, sit or stand with good posture – back straight, shoulders, neck and jaw relaxed – in order to support your voice and take the strain off the vocal folds or cords.
- ◆ Save your voice for singing. Talking, and especially battling to be heard in a noisy environment, can put a great deal of strain on the voice.
- ◆ Consider having singing lessons and refreshers to improve your voice and understanding of music and singing.

6. Enjoy the thrill of performance.

- ◆ Make sure you are familiar with all instructions, for example, about preparing your score in advance, the procedure for going on and coming off stage, and the cues for sitting and standing throughout the performance.
- ◆ Watch the conductor as much as possible, keeping in mind the pivotal role played by the conductor in ensuring all parts come together beautifully – choir, soloists, orchestra, instrumental soloists – to bring the composer's work to life, and to enable the interpretation of the music to be exacting, exciting, inspired and magical.
- ◆ Sing to the audience – they have come to be thrilled and entertained.

7. And, above all, enjoy your singing!

Performance standards and performance dress

Noosa Chorale normally produces three major concert performances each year, including a Christmas concert. It is also invited to perform at community events such as Anzac Day services and Christmas carolling.

The Chorale's well-established reputation for excellence in musical performance has been assured by the obvious commitment of choristers to achieving not only a professional standard of musicianship, but also a stage presence that is dignified and stylish. To maintain this reputation, choristers need to note carefully and follow all stage directions given, and observe the requirement that alcohol should not be consumed before a performance or during the intervals.

Choristers should also observe the performance dress requirements set out below, which ensure the choir has a consistent and distinguished appearance. This assists the audience to concentrate on the voices of the combined choir, without the distraction and disharmony of individual statements of dress.

Note: If performance dress requirements for a particular concert vary from this general standard, singers will be advised in plenty of time before the event. If unusual accessories are part of the dress requirements, these may also be provided.

FOR WOMEN

Women can choose from the following options:

- Full ankle-length black dress
- Full ankle-length black skirt with a black top
- Full ankle-length, smart black trousers with a black top

Women tenors may choose to follow the dress code for men if they wish.

Shoes: Plain, smart, black 'dress' shoes or sandals with black stockings, and no bare skin showing.

Chorale Scarves: These will be provided at the concert.

Jewellery: It is optional to wear gold or silver jewellery or a black neck choker, but it must be simple and under-stated, and not large or flashy.

Perfumes: No perfumes or other scented cosmetics.

Styling of the top:
Black, not see-through or lacy, not backless, no shoulder straps, shoulders covered with cap sleeves or longer



Styling of the trousers:
black, smart / tailored, not tight fitting at the ankle, not leggings or jeans



FOR MEN

Black trousers with black dinner jacket

White shirt

Black bow tie (this will be provided if you don't have one) Black shoes and black socks



Our people

PATRONS—Joseph McMahon & Gail Spira

MUSIC DIRECTOR—Kim Kirkman (1st term)

DEPUTY MUSIC DIRECTOR—Pam Sage

ACCOMPANIST—Janet Brewer

Noosa Chorale members

Our members include people of all ages and backgrounds, with a shared love of choral music and a commitment to excellence in the performance of music.

NOOSA CHORALE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT— Fran Wilson

VICE-PRESIDENT—Rita Malik

TREASURER— Babette Urban

SECRETARY— Margaret Haffenden

LIBRARIAN—Pam Sage

EVENTS COORDINATOR—Donald Grant

COMMITTEE MEMBER—Dianne Robson

COMMITTEE MEMBER—Peter Althaus

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