



Membership Guide

Approved by Committee of Management 15 July 2019

As a community arts ensemble, Chime Choir relies on the dedication and skills of its members to deliver engaging choral performances for our audiences. This guide summarises the expectations of, and related procedures governing, effective membership of the choir.

JOINING CHIME

Chime Choir is an auditioned community choir. As an incorporated association, the rights and responsibilities of association membership are defined in Chime's Constitution, notably in its Part 3. At the musical level, prospective members are also required to audition with our Artistic Director before a recommendation is made to the Committee regarding their applications for membership.

While we aim to continually grow the choir membership, we must also strive to maintain an appropriate musical balance between the four voice sections. To this end it may become necessary at times to limit admissions in one or more sections, if an imbalance arises due to insufficient member numbers in the other sections. In this case, prospective members for a restricted section may join a waiting list until such time as a place becomes available.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are held weekly on Tuesday evenings during four terms, generally aligned to the Victorian public school calendar. Supper is provided during rehearsals by rostered volunteer contribution from members. All members are encouraged to help with this small fund-raising and team-building effort.

It is expected that choir members will attend all scheduled rehearsals. Commitment to regular attendance at rehearsals not only ensures that all choristers are well prepared musically, but also respects the preparation effort invested by their fellow choristers and staff in readiness for each performance. Members who are unable to attend sufficient rehearsals prior to a major concert may be asked not to perform at that event.

Any member unable to attend a rehearsal, is requested to submit an apology by notifying his/her intended absence, against that rehearsal in our TeamApp schedule. Concerts and other major events are also scheduled in TeamApp and members are required to respond with their availability.

Rehearsals start punctually at 7.30pm. We urge all our members to do their utmost to be at rehearsal in good time to avoid disruption. It is also expected that members will respect the attention and efforts of their fellow choristers and staff, and so refrain from excessively loud or disruptive behaviour during rehearsals.

PERSONAL PRESENTATION

Choral singing, as a performance art, requires that all members adhere to the dress standards for concerts and other performances. These will be advised for each event. In addition, we request that choristers refrain from the use of strong perfumes at performances and rehearsals as some members may be sensitive to them.

MUSIC

Each term, choristers are provided with music scores of our repertoire, in either printed or digital format, for personal learning, rehearsals and selectively, performance. The conditions of use governing the supply and return of those scores is defined by the Scores Format Conditions of Use Policy. When using scores in performance, choristers will require a black music folder to accommodate their printed music or electronic device, or alternatively for the latter, a black device case.

ABSENCE POLICY

From time to time, for a variety of reasons, members may be unable to attend choir for extended periods. Leave of absence from choir activities should be requested in advance by written application to the committee. The committee will approve the length and conditions of such leave considering the needs of the choir and the length of any waiting list.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

Maintaining the Register of Members is a legal requirement for Chime under the Associations Act in Victoria. This relies on the accuracy of membership details entered directly by members in Team App. Members are therefore requested to please ensure that their own details are kept up to date.

RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

All financial members have the right to stand for a position on the committee of management and to vote at the AGM, which is usually held in October. Members may also have items listed on the AGM agenda and ask questions regarding choir activities. Membership fees must be approved annually by resolution passed at the AGM.

All members have the right to a supportive environment in which to sing, and the obligation to provide such an environment for others. Please see the set of Chime Choir Policy documents for further information.

CEASING MEMBERSHIP

Any member who can no longer commit the necessary time to choir activities may resign their membership at any time, in writing, to the committee of management.