



Member Information 2023

Welcome to Vox Harmony - City of Launceston Choir

Below are things you need to know – please read carefully, even if you are a returning member as there will have been changes since last year.

COVID-19

Singing in a choir in a confined space is considered a high-risk activity. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND OUR MEMBERS BE FULLY VACCINATED.** We rely on you to apply a common sense approach, so please **DO NOT ATTEND REHEARSALS** if you are suffering from cold or flu-like symptoms such as fever, coughing, sore throat, or shortness of breath. Face masks are optional, unless advised otherwise.

VOICE RANGE EXERCISES

Denise will be asking each member to undergo a voice range exercise. This is an opportunity for each singer to know what their vocal range is and to be sure about which section of the choir they should be singing in to get the most out of their voice and to ensure the safety of their voice. It is a simple 5-minute exercise for ALL members. **As a result you may be asked to sing in a different section from that which you believe you belong or have traditionally sung.** Voice range exercises will take place at the beginning of Term 1.

REHEARSALS

We rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7 pm - 8.30 pm. Rehearsals will be held every school week, from **31 January** up to and including **12 December**. We rehearse at the Salvation Army Church, 111 Elizabeth Street, Launceston.

We have decided to split up the first rehearsal dates for new and returning members.

New Members: 31 January 2023
Returning Members: 7 February 2023

There will be no choir in the school holidays, except Easter Tuesday.

From time to time, there may be occasional extra or longer rehearsals during the lead-up to performances. For all songs, we make voice part recordings available on our web site so you can listen to and practise your part in between rehearsals.

ATTENDANCE

Please attend as many rehearsals as possible and tick your name on the attendance sheet when you arrive at rehearsals. If you are going to be away for more than two consecutive rehearsals, please indicate this in advance on the attendance sheet or email us so we know you haven't deserted us!

If you have been absent from choir for more than two consecutive rehearsals and we haven't heard from you, we may contact you asking for an indication of when you will be back. If you decide to leave the choir for any reason during the year, please advise our Musical Director or a committee member.

Although we are a community choir, we are also a performance choir and over the years have secured several recurring performance commitments throughout the year. There is an expectation of each member to be available and to prepare appropriately for these performances.

If your attendance at rehearsals has been sporadic throughout the year, you may be asked to demonstrate that your lack of preparation will not compromise the overall performance of the choir. If your preparation is deemed unsatisfactory, you may be asked not to perform.

REFUNDS

If you decide to leave the choir within the first three weeks of the year, a full membership refund will be given. After the first three weeks, we will refund \$100 in the first term on return of music and shirt/scarf. After the first term \$30 will be refunded on return of music, shirt and scarf.

CITY OF LAUNCESTON CHOIR COMMITMENTS

As we are the official choir of the City of Launceston, we have committed to performing at official civic events during the year on **ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day**. It is imperative that **all choir members** try to attend these events.

WHAT TO BRING TO REHEARSALS

A water bottle, a pencil, and a smile!

We will supply you with your original sheet music which will have your name on it. Only one of each piece of music will be issued per member. Please look after your music carefully as these are all originals. You are responsible for replacing your music if you lose it as we are not allowed to use photocopied music. Please note that we can only supply you with original music once full membership fees and music levy have been paid. Name tags will be supplied, please wear these at all rehearsals.

Traditionally we go for a drink after rehearsals at the Cock 'n' Bull, Elizabeth Street. Join us if you can – it's a great time to socialise as we don't have a lot of time for this at rehearsal.

UNIFORM/PERFORMANCES

The Vox Harmony uniform for our Council performances is our official uniform shirt with our choir logo (see Vox Harmony Dress Code in "Documents" on TeamApp). Upon becoming a member, you will be supplied with a uniform shirt and a blue/coloured scarf for ladies and matching tie for men. You will also receive a Word Cloud T-shirt which we use when at outdoor, more informal performances. Generally we perform without music, however if music is allowed it needs to be in a black folder.

NO-PERFUME POLICY

Please avoid wearing any perfumes or after-shaves at rehearsals and performances. We are in too close contact for those who can have allergic reactions to certain chemicals.

KEEPING UP TO DATE ON EVENTS AND PLANS

In addition to announcements at rehearsals, we use several methods of communication:

- **Stack TeamApp** — If you have not already done so, please download this app to your phone. Create an account and search for "Vox Harmony". Request access to the Vox Harmony group. We use Stack TeamApp extensively and primarily to communicate to our members.

We also maintain our Event Calendar on this app, so it is imperative that you create an account otherwise you will not be able to see information such as rehearsal changes, performance times, and other general messages which will help you stay informed of what is going on. Messaging on Stack TeamApp is instant and is therefore a fantastic tool to keep you informed of last minute changes.

We also require you to use the RSVP feature on Stack TeamApp for all events that require you to indicate your availability on Stack TeamApp.

- **Web site** - Contains mostly information for the general public and serves to advertise our choir. The *Members Only* section on the web site contains voice part recordings for practising. You will be emailed the password to access this section at the beginning of the year.
- **Facebook** - We use our official Facebook page for our photo albums, social interaction amongst members and general public, and for announcements which we would like to promote to the wider Facebook public for sharing and liking. This page is administered by selected committee members.

In addition to this we have a "Vox Harmony closed group (Members Only)" which allows information conversations and posting of funny and/or interesting articles, meant for choir members' eyes only. Links to both are below under Contact Info.

CHOIR ADMINISTRATION

Vox Harmony has an administrative committee and we hold a public liability and volunteer accident insurance via ANCA/Aon - PDS can be downloaded here: <https://anca.org.au/insurance>.

Committee member positions become available for re-election at the end of March each year.

Positions are:

President | Vice-President/Public Officer | Treasurer | Secretary | Online Secretary | Musical Director | General Committee Members

VOX HARMONY CONTACT INFO

Email: info@voxharmony.org.au

Web: voxharmony.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VoxHarmonyChoir/>

Stack TeamApp: <https://voxharmony.teamapp.com>

Facebook Closed Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/590189781684106>

Musical Director

Denise Sam (0419 369 781)

President

Lesley Hillhouse (0490 176 800)

Treasurer

Cathy Collins (0417 325 545)