

Singing members' commitment

Anyone joining the choir or renewing their membership agrees to be bound by the choir's policies

Choir members are required to demonstrate:

- (a) a commitment to attend a minimum number of rehearsals and performances as determined by the Music Director;
- (b) a degree of musical literacy and competence;
- (c) willingness to generate sufficient performance energy to reach the required standard;
- (d) commitment to sell as many tickets as possible;
- (e) willingness to attend special classes as required from time to time for those who need to improve their voices and skills;
- (f) commitment to study music at home between rehearsals; and
- (g) an undertaking to meet financial obligations.*

*Extract from the Agreement between the Executive of SUGC and the Music Director

Rehearsal Attendance

Choir members are expected to attend all rehearsals in full and to prepare appropriately. (For these purposes, a half-day session on a weekend counts as one rehearsal.) Should illness or accident prevent attendance on a particular occasion, the choir member must provide an apology and an explanation to the relevant voice part leader (not to the president) before the rehearsal. The voice part leader will note the absence on the attendance roll. Choir members must ensure that they sign the attendance roll, and voice part leaders will monitor attendance within their voice part. Choristers must familiarise themselves with the contact details of their voice part leader.

The rehearsal attendance requirements for 'general membership' choristers are as follows:

1. A chorister may miss up to 3 rehearsals in a concert term and sing in the concert.
2. Where a chorister is absent from 4 or 5 rehearsals during a concert term and wishes to sing in the concert, the chorister will be eligible to attend a 'performance audition' (on the work/s being performed) with the Music Director to seek approval to sing in the concert.
3. Where a chorister is absent from more than 5 rehearsals in a concert term, the chorister may not sing in the concert unless the Music Director and the President both agree to allow the chorister to attend a 'performance audition' (on the work/s being performed) with the Music Director, such permission to be granted only in the exceptional circumstances where the quality or standard of the choir's performance of the work/s may potentially be significantly adversely impacted by omission of the chorister from the performance.

4. Where a chorister arrives at a rehearsal more than one hour after the start of the rehearsal or leaves before the last hour of a rehearsal, the chorister's attendance at the rehearsal will be noted as a ½ rehearsal for the purposes of determining the chorister's eligibility to sing in the concert or attend a performance audition.
5. Where a chorister is absent from a Saturday workshop rehearsal during a concert term, the missed workshop rehearsal will be noted as two missed rehearsals for the purposes of determining the chorister's eligibility to sing in the concert or attend a performance audition.
6. Performance auditions will be held at the end of the last Monday night rehearsal in a concert term, or such other date and time as the Music Director may require.
7. Performance auditions will be conducted in single voice per part soprano-alto-tenor-bass sets. Chamber Choir members may be required to 'fill in' any missing voice parts (to complete a voice part set), as needed, during the performance auditions.
8. Where a chorister is absent from the last Monday night rehearsal in a concert term or from either or both of the Great Hall rehearsals for a Great Hall concert, the chorister may not sing in the concert unless the Music Director and the president both allow the chorister to sing in the concert, such permission to be granted only in exceptional circumstances where the quality or standard of the choir's performance of the work/s may potentially be significantly adversely impacted by omission of the chorister from the performance.

'Rehearsal membership' choristers are welcome to attend all rehearsals with the choir until the last four weeks of a concert term, and may not sing in the Great Hall concert. Rehearsal membership choristers are welcome at any time to apply to the choir to attend an audition to re-join the choir as a general membership chorister.

General membership choristers who, for are absent from rehearsal for a continued period of twelve months or longer, and who do not pay membership fees during this period, will need to apply to the choir to attend an audition in order to re-join the choir as a general membership chorister.

Vocal Workshops

From time to time, the Choir may arrange vocal workshops to improve certain musical and performance techniques for choir members generally or individually. Where attendance at these workshops is compulsory, a chorister's failure to attend the compulsory workshop/s as required (including a failure to attend any additional/make-up workshops as may be organised for those choristers who are unable to attend any of the scheduled workshops) may result in the chorister being transferred to 'rehearsal membership' for the remainder of the year.

Ticket sales

Choir members are expected to sell a minimum of four tickets for each concert (or four annual subscriptions). Members are encouraged to make an equivalent tax-deductible donation to the choir's Public Fund if they are unable to meet the ticket sales target.

Choir ticket concession prices apply only to tickets sold and paid for to the ticket manager or online no later than the Monday rehearsal preceding the concert. All tickets sold or paid for members after this day will be charged at the full price applicable for the concert.

Unsold tickets must be returned at least 24 hours before the time of the concert. Any tickets that are not returned by then will be considered sold and the member will be charged at full adult price for such tickets. This payment may be made as a donation to the SUGC Public Fund.

Financial Commitment

Choir members must pay all fees owing by the due date (see also Fees Policy). If there are special circumstances, they should be discussed confidentially with the Treasurer without delay. Any choir member who is not financial will not be permitted to sing in a concert.

Intellectual Property Rights

Choir members agree that SUGC owns all intellectual property rights to any recording that is made of the performance and they assign any rights to SUGC that are necessary to give effect to this ownership.

Photographs taken of choristers during any of the choir's activities may be published in a range of media. Choristers who do not agree with this policy must provide the president with written notice.

Privacy of personal information

Following renewal of membership, the choir will produce a mailing list including all contact details (phone number, address, email address) and a small photograph. This will be distributed to all current choir members to facilitate identification and contact.

Choristers should provide written notification to the president (cc the database volunteer) that they do not wish to have their contact details and image included in this list.

Volunteer positions

The choir is a non-profit-making body relying on the voluntary contributions of its members to cover management and administration. Volunteers organise rehearsals, suppers, the staging of performances, promotion, financial management and so on. Members are expected to make whatever contribution they can by volunteering for one or more of the roles required.

For the information of choir members: Music Director's authority

- (a) The Music Director, in consultation with the Management Committee, shall have the discretion to make decisions which, in their opinion, are necessary or appropriate for the Choir to perform at a level acceptable to the Music Director at each Performance. Such joint authority shall include, but not be limited to, an entitlement to specify the way in which the Choir is to perform and whether or not individual choristers may sing throughout the whole or any part of the Performance.
- (b) The Music Director and the Management Committee may change the proposed program for any Performance if they reasonably believe that it is necessary or appropriate to do so.

Commitment

Choir members are expected to sing in all concerts scheduled each year, including the Christmas concert at the Town Hall. In cases of last minute change, notice should also be given to the concert manager, as indicated in the concert notes.