
Choir Membership and Fee Structure 2017

Annual singing membership \$390*

(*reduced to \$195 for people joining the choir after 1 August)

The annual singing fee must be paid each year by 31 March. It may be paid in two instalments, the first due on 31 March and the second by 31 May.

Where a member resigns or becomes unfinancial (and membership therefore lapses), regardless of the period of time involved, a new member application must be submitted to re-join the choir. If places are available, the applicant will be auditioned and, if successful, be liable for the joining fee. Where places in a voice part are limited, a former member (subject to a successful audition) will be considered ahead of someone who has not sung with the choir previously.

Joining fee \$30 (includes audition)

Singing fees are levied for singing members to cover fixed running costs for the year, such as hire of rehearsal venues, and particularly the stipends of Music Director and Accompanist. The aim is to fund concerts through ticket sales and donations as far as possible, but funds are needed also to support the concerts.

This means that for their annual fee, choristers receive over 50 rehearsals and at least three concerts each year, performing wonderful choral music with an orchestra and soloists in beautiful venues. Costs can be kept at such a low level only through the voluntary contributions of time and labour from many members. The choir is also supported by the Alumni Relations Office of the University of Sydney which provides the use of the Great Hall on a cost-recovery basis.

Choir members are expected to attend all rehearsals (see also Singing member's commitment) and sing in all concerts. If a chorister needs to take leave for a particular concert (for example due to illness, work commitments or overseas travel), leave will be automatically approved, but no part of the fees will be refunded. The fee structure has been approved on the basis that members commit for the year. The best results from the choir come from regularly singing together; in addition, we have limited space at the rehearsal venue and limited parking which has to be managed. All administrative work is done by choir member volunteers and this is an important consideration for keeping such work to a minimum.

Please note that for all continuing members from 2013, this means at least the first instalment (see below) needs to be paid by the end of March in order to remain a singing member. Choristers who have not renewed their annual membership by then will need to be considered as a new member at some time in the future.

If a choir member has paid the full year's membership, but submits a resignation by 31 May, half the fee (\$195) will be refunded.

Instalments: Choir members may opt to pay in two equal instalments, due on 31 March and 31 May. The instalments are of \$195 each (\$100 and \$95 for full-time students**).

****Full-time students** are offered a discount of 50%. Please provide the Treasurer with relevant documentation.

The Music Director may recommend that a half-fee scholarship be given to an applicant with considerable singing talent but very limited means (unemployed, recent graduate etc), to a maximum of four such scholarships applying at any one time. Scholarships will be decided by the committee on provision of applications from the Music Director.

Choir members facing serious financial hardship may discuss alternative payment arrangements with the Treasurer. Such arrangements will be determined in confidence under the President's discretion.

Management Committee, updated February 2017