**WELCOME TO THE DARWIN CHORALE**

The Chorale welcomes anyone who loves to sing regardless of experience.

The Chorale performs in a variety of genres - classical to contemporary – requiems to cabarets, Beethoven to the Beatles! Rehearsals focus on: learning the songs and music that will be performed; learning about music and singing; the enjoyment of singing together.

**THE 2018 PROGRAM**

**1st April** - **Easter Sunday** - ***Gloria!***

We will be joined by the *Exaudi Choir* from Melbourne for Vivaldi’s *Gloria.* The rest of the program will be shared by the choirs.

 **21st July** - ***Fiesta Latina***

The second concert of the year features Latin American songs with Nora Lewis as the guest conductor.

**3rd November** – ***Voices of remembrance*** - **Armistice Centenary Remembrance Concert**

The final concert of the year commemorates the centenary of Armistice Day and will include songs from WW1 and WW2.

**Community Events**

Along with the major concerts the Chorale also performs at community events, such as the Bombing of Darwin, ANZAC Day, Police Remembrance Day service. Although theperformances are usually short and our lead up time minimal, it is important to treat them with the same dedication and commitment to the music as we do for major performances. These events often provide us with our largest audiences and the opportunity to showcase the Chorale to the wider community.

**REHEARSALS and ATTENDANCE**

Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm – 10.00pm. Some additional rehearsals may be scheduled closer to the performance date. These are usually held on Sundays (during the day) and/or Monday evenings. Rehearsals take place in the Performance Room, Orange Building 6, and Charles Darwin University. It is expected that choir members attend 80% of rehearsals and all rehearsals in the lead up week of the show, to be able to perform at the appropriate performance level. If you are unable to attend 80% of rehearsals your participation in a concert will be at the discretion of the Music Director and Performance Manager.

**JOINING THE CHORALE**

Potential members are welcome to ‘sit in’ for part or all of a Chorale rehearsal to meet members and get an idea of how the Chorale operates.

You may attend a couple of rehearsals prior to signing up as a member however we do encourage members to join within the first 2 weeks of attendance as there may be restrictions on taking home music to practise and to ensure accident insurance coverage.

**Membership Fee**

All members are required to pay an annual membership fee which, for 2018, is $80.00. The Membership fee goes towards paying insurance for members while rehearsing and performing with the Chorale, membership to associated choir bodies, rental on sheds and rooms for storage of our assets, etc.

Membership entitles you to rehearse for and perform with the Chorale at the Community events provided you have completed an audition. If you only wish to sing in community events throughout the year then the membership fee is all you will need to pay. Membership also entitles you to receive member’s emails, the Chorale newsletter, Head Notes and access the members only area of our website.

**Rehearsal and Performance Fees**

Payment of the Rehearsal and Performance fee entitles singing members to perform in major performances. This can be paid either for the full year ($175.00) or concert by concert ($65.00 per concert). This provides members with the flexibility to select concerts to which they can commit. By choosing the full year and making payment up front members will receive a discounted price.

This fee of $65.00 per performance entitles you to rehearse and perform in major concerts. The rehearsal and performance fees go towards covering some of the cost of purchasing, hiring or photocopying music for your use at rehearsals and concerts, refreshments, engaging a Music Director, rehearsal pianist, accompanying musicians, venue hire and other production costs.

**Talent Release**

Singing members are required to complete the Membership Application form and the Talent Release form for 2018. The Talent Release form gives the Chorale permission to use photographs and film footage, which you may be in, for marketing, publicity, programs, webpage, Facebook, etc. Please note that our major concerts are photographed and filmed, so if you do not agree with the terms this may restrict you to community performances only. Photos placed on social media by the Chorale will appear on Eleanor Wilks Webpage, the chorale website and official Facebook page. Please note that though we ask members to be sensitive and respectful to other members in their postings, we cannot control what members place on their private pages.

**Audition**

During the first few weeks of joining the Music Director will wish to hear you sing to ensure that you are placed in the appropriate section of the Chorale – Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass. This is usually done in small groups.

Members should familiarise themselves with the *Guidelines for Singing Members*.

The application forms for *Membership*, *Performance and Rehearsal fees*, *Talent Release* and *Guidelines for Singing Members* are attached. Membership payment may be made prior to our commencement date but please remember to include a reference, eg your surname, when making EFT payments. We no longer have bankcard facilities so if paying at rehearsal bring the correct money as we do not carry change. The completed forms can be given to the Registrar, Sheila Delahay or emailed to sheila.delahay@gmail.com.

**THE CHORALE UNIFORM**



 Ladies Formal Top Men’s Formal Shirt

For most concerts, you will be required to wear the Chorale Uniform. The Chorale has a formal and informal uniform.

Members pay for their own top/shirt. You will be given details of the suppliers of the formal uniform top/ shirt and informal uniform shirt /top when you join the Chorale. Members are required to provide their own long black pants and closed in black shoes with stocking / socks.

The formal uniform is worn for more traditional choral concerts. The informal uniform is usually worn at community events and less formal performances. The Chorale provides costumes appropriate to the theme for cabarets and musicals.

**THE CHORALE NEWSLETTER *- HEAD NOTES***.

Head Notes includes reports from Board and Committee behind the scenes. The Music Director writes articles about the music we are performing and choral music/singing in general to broaden our knowledge about being in a choir. Two members of the Chorale are profiled each month and it is always interesting to learn more about the backgrounds of our members. Also included are tips for singing and a few jokes. Members are encouraged to contribute!

 **BOARD and PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

The Darwin Chorale Board sets the strategic direction of the Chorale. The Performance Committee is the team involved in organising the production of a show/performance. There is a Production Team for each performance. Depending upon the type of show the roles on this team may include the following: production manager, artistic director, conductor/s, choreographer, set designer, librarian, stage manager, costume organiser, publicity/marketing coordinator, lighting and sound technicians, program producer, front of house organiser, budget coordinator, performer support (food beverages/ after show party!)

We rely on ticket sales, sponsorship and grants to be able to produce a concert. Costs vary between $20,000 and $50,000 or upward depending upon the type of show being produced. The Board and other members of the Chorale continue to work tirelessly to secure funding, so we are able to produce quality concerts throughout the year.

As you can see there are many areas to consider when putting on a show. The average cost of our shows/concerts in 2018 will be about $35,000 per concert. We encourage members to take the opportunity to volunteer for a role with the Production Team. The commitment is generally 10 -12 weeks depending on the concert. There will be meetings relating to the performance and you will be guided and supported by the Performance Committee. You do not need to be a singing member to be involved in the Production Team. If you have a passion/skill in a particular area or just wish to be involved, please let the Performance Manager know.

**Being involved in a Choir is fun and good for your Health!**

**We look forward to you joining us!**

