

Mission Statement *Women with Latitude is a membership based community choir which aims for excellence in performance. The philosophy of the Group is to produce beautiful music of all styles and enjoy the process in which it is made.*

Policies

1. AUDITIONS

- a) Membership of the group requires an audition by invitation based on the applicant's relevant singing experience, their love of singing and their willingness to abide by the Group's Policies. Auditions are conducted by the Musical Director.
- b) If a member resigns from the choir and then chooses to re-join at a later stage, an audition is once again required.

2. ATTENDANCE

- a) A firm commitment from all members to regularly attend Monday (and any additionally scheduled rehearsals) is essential. If a member misses more than three (3) consecutive rehearsals without extenuating circumstances (illness, work, planned travel etc) or without prior arranging a leave of absence, **the member will be encouraged to give up their place to someone on the waiting list**. The Chairperson of the Committee will be responsible for reviewing attendance records and consulting with a member where it is recognised that attendance may not be satisfactory.
- b) Rehearsals will follow the South Australian school calendar - every Monday during the 4 school terms with school holiday breaks and public holidays. Members' attendance will be recorded at every rehearsal. It will be expected that an apology (via text message) will have been given **directly** to the member responsible for attendances prior to missing any rehearsal – not via another member.

3. MEMBERSHIP & FEES

- a) Current member fees are \$370 per annum paid in two equal amounts - at the beginning of the year and again at the beginning of Term 3. The fees must be paid by electronic transfer to the **Women With Latitude** bank account within two weeks of receiving a reminder from the Treasurer.
- b) There are no casual rates. If a member knows they will be away for either a brief or extended period during a term, they may apply for leave, but full fees will apply to hold their position in the group. If a member knows they are going to miss an entire term or more, they may apply to pay half fees to hold their place in the group.
- c) Fees cover the cost of employing a professional Musical Director, venue hire for rehearsals and performances, public liability insurance, music scores and licenses as well as all other expenses such as musician and accompanist fees.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

- a) Key decisions including fees recommendations and the appointment of the Musical Director are undertaken by an annually elected Committee. Committee members may serve multiple terms at their discretion (should they be re-elected).
- b) The Committee determines other important issues throughout the year (including policies; new concepts, ideas, performance opportunities etc) and then makes recommendations to the Group. Minutes of Committee meetings will be distributed to the choir via the Secretary subsequent to each Committee meeting held.
- c) The Repertoire sub-committee is elected by the Committee and is responsible for obtaining song suggestions from members and making the final selections for the choir for the year ahead. The Repertoire sub-committee may consist of members who are not part of the Committee.
- d) Tasks to be undertaken for the choir, including recording attendance; maintenance of social media pages; maintenance of website; dropbox and maintenance of the music library, may be performed by members of the choir who are not Committee members. The Committee will allocate these tasks to volunteer members as required.

5. CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES

- a) Prior to a concert or performance, it will be expected that only those members of the choir who have attended the majority of the rehearsals leading up to the concert will participate.
- b) Members are committed to donating surplus funds raised through concerts to worthy social causes as determined by the membership.

6. MEMBER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Contact details for current members will be circulated amongst the group. These are to be used by group members alone, and solely for the purpose of contacting individual members for choir related business. All correspondence for the group as a whole should always come via the Secretary.
- b) Members will take responsibility for learning their part, both music and words. Additional responsibility rests with members in the lead up to performances with respect to individual practice to ensure the entire Group is performance ready. Words and/or music are not permitted on stage during performances. The onus is on the member to consult with the Musical Director if they are in doubt as to whether they should perform.
- c) Choir etiquette:
 - *Members will respect each other and the Director by not chatting during core rehearsal time.*
 - *Members will always send an apology when they are not able to attend a rehearsal.*
 - *Members will exclude themselves from performances where they do not know the music sufficiently.*

Any individual member is welcome to contact any Committee member with any choir related concern for further consideration and discussion.

2020 Committee Members

Sandra Kanck, Chairperson, 0417 882 143 (e) sandramyrtho@internode.on.net

Gabby Harkin, Dep Chair/Joint Secretary, 0478 699 894 (e)

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