



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT JOINING THE CHORUS

### WHAT'S OUR VISION?

Our vision is to inspire the love of singing in each other and our communities while creating opportunities to learn, grow and achieve.

### WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

As a world-class chorus dedicated to musical excellence we entertain, connect and change lives through barbershop harmony and acappella music.

### WHAT ARE OUR VALUES?

- We strive for excellence
- We provide a supportive environment
- Be entertaining for audiences
- Members show commitment
- We are Dynamic, Inspirational, Professional, Inclusive

### DO I NEED TO READ MUSIC?

Music reading skills are useful; however, it is not a requirement to be able to read music to join the group. We learn from audio learning tracks but we strongly encourage members to learn the basics of music reading and we provide resources to do this. All members are provided with copies of the sheet for the songs they are learning.

### DO YOU TAKE "RAW BEGINNERS"?

Having some experience with music or singing is very helpful; however, we have a number of members who joined as 'raw beginners' and are vital members of the group. Everyone who wants to join goes through an audition with the same criteria, regardless of their background. Our audition includes learning a simple dance routine and being able to sing while looking natural and expressive. Refer to the 'Audition process' for more info.

### WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS?

Each chorus member:

- Is committed to attending Tuesday evening rehearsals each week and makes every effort to do so.
- Learns new music and the visual plan by the designated date.

- Gives undivided attention to the person in front of the chorus (e.g. Director, Visual Leader etc).
- Always gives their personal best.
- Promotes diversity and inclusion.
- Understands that being a member of EHC requires commitment and home practice between rehearsals.
- Is friendly and respectful of all chorus members.
- Works on improving their vocal and performance skills outside of rehearsal.
- Is willing to try new things to keep getting better as a singer and performer.
- Maintains a positive attitude and stifles negativity.
- Is a 'self-starter' and gets things done on their own without needing constant reminding

## **WHAT ABOUT PERFORMANCES AND COMPETITIONS?**

We have various performances throughout the year around Sydney and we hold a big show each year. We encourage members to sign up for whichever performances they can manage. We enter the National Competition normally every 2 or 3 years. It is normally held over a weekend in May, although the weekend can differ from year to year. We also sometimes enter the Sydney Eisteddfod. Although we would love every member to attend contests, we know it's not possible. The main thing is you can commit to Tue evening rehearsals and then attend which ever performances you can manage.

If you are keen on overseas travel, there are opportunities to do that as well!

## **IS IT FOR ME?**

We have members from all walks of life and in all stages of their lives. From high school seniors, and new mums through to over 60's. We have teachers, scientists, a Doctor, a Vet, full time mums, students, and everything in between. As long as you love singing, enjoy a challenge, can commit to (most) Tue night rehearsals, are willing to learn and want to be part of a high-performance team, Endeavour Harmony Chorus is for you!

## **WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR ARTFORM?**

- Our songs are sung *a cappella* (voices only, without accompaniment)
- We don't hold music when we sing
- We have a harmony part above the melody line
- We have great flexibility in how we interpret the songs we sing
- We can accommodate very low voices
- We place an emphasis on visual communication and physical performance aspects of singing
- We use movement/visual performance in many of our songs

## **WHAT ARE THE FOUR PARTS?**

- Tenor sings the high harmony part above the leads.
- Lead sings a harmony part that is the melody line most of the time.
- Baritone sings the harmony part above and below the leads.
- Bass sings the low harmony part. It is a very melodic part.

We sometimes use soloists within our songs. Each part suits certain voice types, and we will help you find which part suits your voice best.

## **WHAT DOES IT COST?**

The 6 week 'Sing With Us' program costs \$95. This covers your music, learning media and instruction during the program. You'll get access to our comprehensive online vocal course.

Full membership to EHC costs \$65 per month. Considering the education each member receives at weekly rehearsals, and the expert overseas coaching provided, fees are very reasonable! Initially, there is also a one-off payment of \$240 to cover your first year's membership to Sweet Adelines International (the international organisation that we are a member of). Under 25s pay \$150 on joining and \$40 per month.

The monthly fees cover our running expenses like hall hire, music costs, etc. as well as all subsequent annual international and regional fees.

What should I bring to rehearsals?

## **WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CHORUS NIGHTS EACH WEEK?**

- A water bottle
- Wear comfortable loose-fitting clothes
- Have a light meal before you come to rehearsals
- Please do not wear perfume or scented hairspray
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Wear your name badge (provided to you)
- A personal recorder or smartphone with voice recorder
- A positive attitude!