



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. MEMBERSHIP

- 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 choir's policies. Auditions are conducted by the Musical Director.
- b) If accepted following the audition, the new member will pay fees for three months. **At the three month mark, the new member will meet with the Musical Director and a member of the Committee to mutually discuss whether the membership should continue.**
- c) If a member resigns from the choir and then wishes to re-join at a later stage, a successful audition is once again required.

2. ATTENDANCE AND REHEARSALS

- a) A firm commitment from all members to attend weekly (and any additionally scheduled) rehearsals is essential.
- b) Members' attendance will be recorded at every rehearsal. An apology (via text message) is to be given directly to the member responsible for attendances, ie not via another member, and prior to the start of rehearsal.
- c) If a member misses more than three (3) consecutive rehearsals without a prior apology for extenuating circumstances (illness, work, planned travel etc) or without arranging a leave of absence, the member will be deemed to have given up their place in the choir. The Chairperson of the Committee will be responsible for reviewing attendance records and consulting with a member where it is recognised 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.

A Cappella
contemporary
multicultural and
traditional songs

- c) Attendance requires compliance with relevant South Australian health regulations. If anyone is unwell with an infectious ailment, we ask that all members respect and be considerate of the group by wearing a mask and distancing or remaining at home until well again.
- e) Members will respect each other and the Director by not chatting during core rehearsal time.

3. FEES AND FUNDRAISING

- a) Current member fees are \$400 per annum paid in two equal amounts (beginning of terms 1 and 3). The fees are 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 related to running the group.
- d) Members are committed to donating surplus funds raised through concerts to worthy social causes as determined by the membership.

4. CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES

- a) Prior to a concert or performance, at the discretion of the Musical Director, only those members of the choir who have attended the majority of the rehearsals, and particularly the last three rehearsals, will be permitted to participate in a performance.
- b) Members must learn their parts, both music and words. 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.

MEMBER 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 or Committee appointed person.

4. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 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 appointed by the Committee and is responsible for obtaining song suggestions from members and make 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, as will other required sub-committees from time to time.
- d) Tasks to be undertaken for the choir, including recording attendance; maintenance of social media pages; the **Women with Latitude** website; Dropbox, setting up auditions, etc., may be performed by members of the choir who are not Committee members. The Committee will allocate these tasks to volunteer members as required.