



Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Information for Prospective Choristers 2021

The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus (TSOC) is Tasmania's premier chorus. There is a membership base of over 90 choristers, made up of a mix of Hobart business professionals, teachers, students, retirees, musicians and non-musicians. TSOC is an SATB chorus that performs an average of 6-8 times a year, mostly together with the TSO, but the group also extends itself with 'a cappella' repertoire including performances featuring in MOFO, Dark MOFO, Festival of Voices and touring regionally around Tasmania. The Chorus is also regularly invited to travel within Australia to collaborate with interstate orchestras and choruses. All choristers are volunteers, but in return are given the opportunity to work at the highest level with professional symphony orchestras, international and local conductors and soloists, and a dedicated Chorusmaster, répétiteurs and Chorus Coordinator.

This sounds great, but will I have fun?

Absolutely! Members enjoy the challenge and thrill of performing, but there is also a strong social culture and sense of community within the group.

Do I need to be able to sight-read?

No, but of course this is very valuable skill! Learning tools are made available for the majority of programs, but ultimately it's your responsibility to learn the music at home.

When and where are rehearsals held? What is the commitment?

The TSO Chorus meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:30-10pm, and the occasional Sunday from 2-5pm. There are also "catch-up sessions" offered most Tuesdays from 7pm. During a concert week, there are rehearsals most evenings in the lead up to the performance. Rehearsals are held at the TSO Studio. The entrance is on the corner of Macquarie and Evans St, next to the Federation Concert Hall in Hobart. Projects vary in schedules and length, but schedules are always made available at the end of each year for the following year. Once you have committed to a project, you are expected to attend all rehearsals for that project, especially those in the performance week. Exceptions are made on a case by case basis.

What does it cost to be a member of the TSO Chorus?

Each member pays an annual levy at the start of each year. The 2020 fee is \$140 full/\$82 concession per year, but it's likely that fees in 2021 will be significantly less. Funds raised by the levies are used to meet the costs of chorus development workshops, master classes, and tutorials where acclaimed conductors and singers develop the chorus. Funds are also set aside for travel subsidies available to choristers for interstate collaborations. You don't need to pay anything until the end of your trial, and there are quarterly pro-rata fees if you join part way through the year.

How do I become a member?

Membership is offered after a successful audition and by mutual agreement after a six week trial. You may be required to re-audition periodically thereafter at the Chorusmaster's discretion. Continued chorus membership is conditional on maintaining an appropriate vocal standard.

Can I observe a rehearsal before auditioning?

Yes, please contact the Chorus Coordinator.

What does the audition involve?

- Singing a short accompanied solo classical piece of your choosing (please no pop or jazz, etc and no longer than around 4 minutes)
- Preparing and singing the set work – a short excerpt from a choral piece that will be emailed to you two weeks prior to the audition date
- Reading aloud two set paragraphs of text in a foreign language (choose two from German, French and Latin) – emailed two weeks prior to the audition date
- A simple rhythmic exercise to clap – given to you when you arrive for the audition
- Singing some scales to determine your range and voice type

What do I need to bring to the audition?

- Four (4) copies of your solo piece – one for you, one for each of the two panellists and one for the accompanist. Please consider the best format for the accompanist's copy to ensure it will sit flat on the piano; single pages taped together (if it is short) or pages in a plastic sleeve folder are good options.
- Your copy of the set work and language texts (the panellists will have their own copies)

Who will be on the audition panel?

The panel will consist of:

- June Tyzack, Chorusmaster of the TSO Chorus
- Simon Rogers, Director, Artistic Planning at the TSO

Is an accompanist provided for the audition?

Yes, an accompanist will be provided. The accompanist's fee for the audition will be met by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, however you are responsible for the cost of any rehearsals you choose to have with them prior to the audition. If you would like to meet with the accompanist prior to the audition, please contact the Chorus Coordinator for the details.

Where will the auditions be held?

The auditions will take place in the TSO Studio which can be accessed from the building's glass door on the corner of Macquarie St and Evans St (the blue zig-zag-painted building next to the Federation Concert Hall). Please feel free to arrive up to 30 mins early to access a practice room. If you are running late or have any last minute queries on the day, please contact the Chorus Coordinator on 0488 324 421.

I have more questions!

Please contact the Chorus Coordinator:

- Email chorusadmin@tso.com.au
- Phone (03) 6232 4421 or 0488 324 421



Members of the TSO Chorus and TSO Chorus Alumni – Big Sing, Federation Concert Hall, 2017

Photo credit: Alastair Betts