

Coro Austral

Artistic Director: Margot McLaughlin

Information for Prospective Members

Coro Austral:

- Is a Sydney-based auditioned chamber choir, whose mission is to explore, research and perform Iberian and Latin American choral music at a high standard to as wide an audience as possible.
- Also performs repertoire from Australia and elsewhere.
- Regularly collaborates with musicians, artists, composers, musicologists and others in order to fulfil its mission.
- Performs a wide range of periods and styles of repertoire: 13th to 21st century — renaissance, classical, baroque, romantic, traditional, folkloric, contemporary and more.
- Sings in any language appropriate to the music, including Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Basque, indigenous languages, Latin, English, German, Ladino, Yiddish, Hebrew, etc.
- Knowledge of these languages is not a prerequisite of membership as coaching is provided.

Members of *Coro Austral*:

- Have excellent vocal quality and musicianship, the ability to sight-read music, and previous choral experience.
- Commit to attend and be punctual for all or most weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals, usually 7 – 9.30pm, but sometimes until 10pm, plus occasional extra weekend rehearsals.
- Perform approximately 3 major concerts with the choir each year.
- Perform in festivals and other events from time to time.
- Practise music regularly at home in between rehearsals.
- Attend occasional workshops organised as ongoing training for members of *Coro Austral*.
- Inform the choir's management well in advance of any planned absences, and as soon as possible when there is an unexpected absence.
- Pay a compulsory fee for each rehearsal/performance period (see below).
- Contribute to the general wellbeing and running of the choir by assisting with rehearsal set-up, concert publicity, refreshments, etc.
- Have a positive attitude to ensemble singing, learning new repertoire and performing in multiple languages.
- Approach choral singing with commitment & enthusiasm.

Auditions:

- Auditions are conducted as a prerequisite to joining *Coro Austral*.
- All choir members will be subject to periodic re-audition or evaluation at the discretion of the Artistic Director.
- The audition process will include:
 - Vocal exercises to warm up and to test your range.
 - Singing a solo piece you know well (any style or language) that shows your vocal and musical abilities.
 - Tests of your aural, rhythmic and sight-reading skills.
 - Ensemble – singing your part with other singers in a piece we give you to prepare in advance.
- After the audition, and subject to a place being available in the choir:
 - If you complete a successful audition, you will be invited to attend a *Coro Austral* rehearsal (no payment required).
 - If both you and the Artistic Director then wish you to continue with *Coro Austral*, you will be offered temporary membership for a trial period.
 - If you complete a successful trial period you will be offered full membership if there is a vacancy.
 - If your audition is successful but there is no permanent place currently available, you may be put on a waiting list or asked to fill a temporary or casual vacancy.
 - If your audition or trial period is not successful, you will be given feedback and information about other choirs that may better suit your abilities and/or options for further training or improving your skills.

Fees:

- Membership fees are calculated for a full rehearsal/performance period, currently based on \$12 per rehearsal, plus any workshop fees for that term.
- Full members pay rehearsal fees as a lump sum for a given rehearsal/performance period.
- During the trial period the rehearsal fee is payable weekly.
- If accepted into the choir, the full rehearsal fee will be due, less any fees already paid.

For further information or to apply to join *Coro Austral*, please contact the Administrator:

David Goodwin

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Website: <http://www.coroaustral.org>