



**Men in Harmony** extend a warm welcome to you. Singing with a chorus can be pretty daunting at first. We've all been there! It's our intention to make your journey as comfortable (but also as challenging and rewarding) as possible. We will provide you with guidance and support. Treat everyone in this chorus as a 'turn to' person who will assist you. We recognise with adult learning that we all vary in the pace at which we interact and learn. We benefit by engagement and hands on involvement wherever practicable. We try to cater for both novice and experienced singers. We all strive to individually and collectively improve our skills as we share our music journey together.

- Learning to sing & in harmony with others
- Singing with a team who always aspire to sing and perform at the best of their ability
- Camaraderie – Having fun mixing with men who share similar values and interests
- Self improvement –the sense of achievement as you learn and continually improve skills
- Performing competently while entertaining appreciative audiences

### **Our expectations of you**

- Be a good listener – Focus - give the MD full attention – The Music Director will guide your progress
- **Ask Questions!**
- Between chorus rehearsals spend reasonable additional time reviewing and practicing what you learn at rehearsals
- **Learn notes & words of songs in your own time outside rehearsals** – at rehearsal we try to concentrate on enhancing delivery and performance!
- Have fun!
- Always give it your best shot!

**We all want you to succeed!**

### **OUR CHORUS**

The Men in Harmony Barbershop Chorus has a proud history. It was the first male barbershop chorus formed in Australia. Read about the first ten years history here:

<https://www.meninharmony.com.au/dbpage.php?pg=view&dbase=uploads&id=50768>

### **RESOURCES**

#### **Music Director (MD)**

The Music Director is appointed by the Chorus Management Committee and has responsibility for developing the music and presentation skills of chorus members culminating in our music product.

<https://www.meninharmony.com.au/dbpage.php?pg=director>

**Our current COMMITTEE and TEAM members are listed here:**

<https://www.meninharmony.com.au/dbpage.php?pg=officers>

#### **Management Committee**

Men in Harmony Barbershop Chorus (Inc.) have a Management Committee, elected annually. Positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Events & Membership Coordinators and other members. They all contribute extra time and energy to ensure our chorus is appropriately managed and runs smoothly. These members are valuable sources of information.

#### **Music Section Leaders**

Music Section Leaders oversee the development of each member singing a particular voice part. They assist the MD in developing our chorus music product.

## **Chorus Communication and FAQ's (Frequently asked questions)**

Chorus communications to and between our members outside rehearsals are generally by email and information provision is via our chorus website where a variety of resources are available.

Members of our chorus gain access to the 'Members' area of the website which provides significant additional resources including audio learning tracks, sheet music, chorus events, documents & policies.

[www.meninharmony.com.au](http://www.meninharmony.com.au)

- **Is audition a requirement to join the chorus?**

Yes, but we help you along the way. You will be provided with music resources and after you have learnt notes and words of the current audition song, advise your section leader and they will arrange for you to sing with the support of other singers (to practice your voice part) and then by mutual agreement to audition before our MD. Upon a successful audition you may apply to join the chorus – just contact a Management Committee member and they will advise how. We expect an audition to be attempted within about 6 weeks of attending first rehearsal. This demonstrates your capacity to learn new material in a similar timeframe to that at which our chorus learns notes and words as new songs are introduced.

- **I don't read music?**

Many members can't read music. We provide learning audio tracks in all four parts that will assist you with learning songs. Repeated listening to the learning track will assist you to learn the notes and words. We also provide sheet music. Use the sheet music for reference when listening to learning tracks. We get 'off paper' as soon as possible, so the sooner you learn notes and words, the quicker vocal production can be improved and that's where the real fun begins!

- **Use an audio recorder (Smartphone or other device)**

We regularly record what we are working on, so feel free to bring any kind of recording device that is useful for you. Sometimes it helps to have a recording for reference of something discussed during rehearsal. Our chorus continually assesses singing performance by recording and playback. Section leaders provide assessments & valuable feedback on recordings provided to them.

- **What is the most important thing you should do between rehearsals?**

Practice! Whatever level singer you are – we all benefit by regular practice. Start by doing some voice warm ups. Focus on your posture, relaxed but alert singers stance, good breath control and learn notes and words quickly. Reinforce learning from previous rehearsals. Then at rehearsals we can focus on developing performance attributes, how we 'sell' a song to maximise pleasure for ourselves and to engage our audience. Shorter practices daily, between rehearsals, can be more beneficial than less frequent long ones.

## **CHORUS REHEARSALS**

Held in the Wembley Downs Uniting Church, 130 Calais Rd, Wembley Downs. Rehearsals are from 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Thursdays.

## **COSTS**

Membership fees total \$410 annually, paid by quarterly instalments in advance. Chorus expenditure includes facilities rental and MD fees, association memberships, music & copyright, equipment and uniforms, performers insurance and other ancillary costs.

**More Information website:** [www.meninharmony.com.au](http://www.meninharmony.com.au) **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Meninharmonyperthwa/>