



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 (ensembles, as a chorus and quartets)
- 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 always aiming to engage and entertain appreciative audiences

Our expectations of you

- **Be a good listener & Focus - give our MD full attention** – The MD 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! Bring your talent, passion, humour and energy. It will reflect in your singing.
- **Always** give your best!

We all want you to succeed!

OUR CHORUS

Men in Harmony Barbershop Chorus was the first male barbershop chorus formed in Australia and has a proud history as one of Perth's foremost men's choruses.

RESOURCES

Music Director (MD)

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

<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.

FAQ's (Frequently asked questions)

- **Do I need to be able to use a computer and use email?**

Yes, basic computer literacy is **essential** so you can access our online content and communications. Chorus communications to and between our members outside rehearsals, are generally by email and information provision is via our chorus website. We provide a variety of online resources. Members of our chorus gain access to the 'Members' area of our website which provides significant additional resources including audio learning tracks, sheet music, chorus event information, documents & policies. 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. 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.

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

Many members can't read music. We provide learning audio tracks in all voice parts that will assist you with learning songs. Repeated listening to a 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 we 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 use audio recordings to assess our accuracy of notes and words for new songs. Bring any kind of recording device that is useful for you to every rehearsal. Sometimes it also helps to have a recording for reference of something discussed during rehearsal. Section leaders provide assessments & valuable feedback on recordings provided to them.

- **Public Performances**

Singer participation at any public performance is at the discretion of our MD. Eligibility criteria considerations may include that participant singers have previously qualified audio assessments of songs to be performed.

- **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 warmups. Focus on your posture, relaxed but alert singers' stance, good breath control and really try to learn song notes and words quickly. Reinforce your learnings 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. Commence 7.00pm to 9.30pm on Thursdays. Doors are open by 6.30pm, casual 'Tag' singing usually precedes rehearsal. Some rehearsals are preceded by other music/performance development activities.

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 **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Meninharmonypertthwa/>