



Dear members

Next few rehearsals

The committee is looking for opportunities for social events when the choral society members can get to know each other better and have a bit of fun. We will have a winter party following a shorter rehearsal on June 20th which will be in similar style to our last rehearsal of the year Christmas party. So please **bring a small plate of food** to share on that evening.

Please note:

Mon 6 June	rehearsal as usual
Mon 13 June	no rehearsal
Mon 20 June	rehearsal 7:00pm – 8:30pm 8:30pm – 9:30pm Party

Rehearsal Ground Rules

Our discipline at rehearsals has fallen-off a bit recently. I suppose we are feeling a bit more relaxed after working so hard during the last concert but it needs to be checked. The level of chattering is on the rise and Meryl should not have to call us to order to listen to her instructions as she did two or three times last week.

Also the level of interjecting has increased again and I will reprint the instructions given last year in relation to the same problem:

“Members should be seated in their voice parts at rehearsal start time with music ready and a 2B pencil in hand. During the course of the rehearsal Meryl will give directions and explain dynamics etc. If you have a specific question relating to the music, please indicate this to Meryl and she will answer your question.

If you have broader questions, suggestions or comments please note these down and save them to communicate to Meryl outside of rehearsal time. We ask members to exercise restraint in their communications and not to interject freely and frequently. We want to ensure that the rehearsal time is used well and is inclusive of the needs of all members.”

Music Program 2016

The music program itself is unchanged but we can now provide more details. An updated document is attached.

However, please note that the **venues of concerts have changed**. The Sat 13 Aug concert will be held at St Mary Star of the Sea College, Harbour St, Wollongong. The college hall is a large, centrally located venue which is affordable for us. While it is not specifically designed as a concert space it has a large stage and we will be able to hire the technician who is familiar with the equipment to work with Meryl on her staging requirements. The large hall also offers us the opportunity of arranging to have afternoon tea with our audience and we are negotiating to have the St Mary's hospitality students involved in catering this event. As well as the BlueScope Youth Orchestra, Meryl will be presenting her students; the St Mary's String Ensemble who will be working with guest violinist Shaun Warden. Meryl's daughter Sherryn Kew (soprano) will be performing some very recent songs. So we need to work towards a polished performance amongst so many delightful guests!

The Sat 10 Dec concert **venue** has also changed to the Church on the Mall, Crown St, Wollongong. Also, please **note that the times/dates have changed** since we are now having two performances of this concert. Don't forget to add these new dates/times to your diaries! The Church

on the Mall should be a lovely venue for the Ceremony of Carols and we feel that there may be a larger audience for this concert than could be accommodated in the church in a single performance. So this is an opportunity to try having a second performance in a different time slot. We can test whether an early evening time would suit some potential audience members who might have sport of other commitments during the afternoon.

Concert Wear For 2016

I have attached an update of this document as well. The only change is in the second concert wear. The scarves for the women will be more casual than our formal clerical scarves and will be made of dusky pink cheesecloth which should drape softly. These will complement the splendid satin cravats made for the men last year in several colours.

That's all for now. Stay warm, dry and healthy!

Dorothy Ebblewhite



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Changed Information on Next Few Rehearsals

As a result of the awful weather and resulting dangerous conditions we are cancelling the ICS rehearsal for tomorrow Mon 6 June. Instead, we will now have a rehearsal on Mon 13 June for those who can make it on that evening of the public holiday. I am sorry if this inconveniences anyone but I am sure you will all understand the reasons. So rehearsals will now be as follows:

Mon 6 June	NO REHEARSAL
Mon 13 June	rehearsal
Mon 20 June	rehearsal 7:00pm – 8:30pm 8:30pm – 9:30pm Party

I have also heard that many of you are having email problems and phones may also be down. Please can those of you who are still online try to get the word around to people you know who may not receive this email. I would hate to think that people would go out in these horrible conditions only to find the rehearsal is cancelled!

Best wishes to you all and stay safe
Dorothy Ebblewhite