 FAQ **Auckland Girls’ Choir Inc**

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 **THE AUCKLAND GIRLS’ CHOIR:**

**AUDITION**: An audition will be given by the Director of Music, Mrs Leonie Lawson MNZM, on receipt of an

‘Application for Audition’ form. The auditions are held at Mrs Lawson’s residence at 14B Walton Street, Remuera (off Victoria Avenue). To arrange an audition, please contact the Choir Manager Mrs Henriette Matthews by texting 021 02497602 or email: henriette.matthews@gmail.com to arrange a suitable time for an audition.

Girls should bring a short prepared piece to sing. If this is not possible, she can sing the NZ National anthem.

The audition allows us to hear how the girl’s phrasing matches the sense of the text, and her breathing in relation to the punctuation. This is followed by some aural (listening) tests which cover pitch accuracy, range, rhythm, intervals and scales to identify her vocal tone quality and rudimentary knowledge.

**Fee:** There will be $25 non-refundable fee to cover administration cost.

**CHOIR PROGRAMME**: The choir has a structured programme of musical education with levels cards which the girls have to work through, mostly on their own from the vocal training book and sight reading book they are given as resource material. This is added to the techniques they learn in the weekly rehearsals and is constantly assessed.

**REPERTOIRE**: The repertoire we sing is varied and includes folk songs, anthems, classical songs, art songs, spirituals, songs from shows and some NZ music. Some songs are learnt in other languages e.g. German, French, Italian, Maori. Particular attention is given to the text of the songs sung. This must be understandable to the girls and not popular adult concepts which they have not experienced. We do not sing ‘pop’ songs but include some choreography if it adds to the performance of a particular song.

**WEEKLY REHEARSALS**: The choir has earned a reputation for its high standard of singing and performance discipline which is paramount to our aims and objectives.

We rehearse once a week from 3.45-6 pm on a Monday during school terms at St Aidan’s Church hall, corner of Remuera Road and Ascot Ave, with a weekend workshop which is booked and advised each term in advance. At the beginning of each year, **there is a compulsory weekend camp**. A bus transports the girls from the city to the selected venue for the weekend. The camp runs from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon and includes tutorials, workshop sessions and some recreational activities. This venue will be advised ahead of time.

**FEES:** On being accepted to the choir there is a registration fee of $100 and a refundable bond of $50 for Choir uniform, shoes and music material which are payable immediately. Also, a fee of $150 per term will be invoiced each term.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**: The ages of the girls range from 9-17. Every voice is important in order to get a good blend as vocal quality varies with age and maturity. Total commitment to choir performances is paramount as performance dates are set well in advance.

The Board of Management plans the schedule for the year ahead before Christmas. We plan concerts during each school term in general, but other requests come in from time to time.

**COMMITMENT**: The Board expects parents to support their daughter’s commitment to the choir, as much of what we do depends on parents’ co-operation. The chorister is expected to remain in the choir for the first full calendar year and continue as long as possible as this helps with their development and sustains the vocal tone of the choir.