

ORANGE MALE VOICE CHOIR

MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Friday 11th February 12 Noon at 15 National Avenue.

MINUTES

1. **ATTENDANCE:** David Kennedy (Chair), Ken Fishpool, Steve Jackson, David Woodside, John Mealings

2. **APOLOGIES:** Phil Rees

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Filling executive positions and co-opting additional Committee members.

Vacant positions of Vice President and Treasurer were discussed. A number of possibilities were considered. Meetings held during the day may preclude some members from applying so it was agreed that the possibility of meeting on a Wednesday evening be countenanced after discussion with Phil Rees.

DW and JM to speak with PR and with other Choir members

3.2 Accompanist position.

Rachel Brooking is very keen to act as Choir Accompanist but there is a clash on Monday evenings due to her involvement with Cantar. There is a possibility of her being available once per month on Mondays. JM and DW are to talk with PR about this situation but it is generally felt that PR acting as both Musical Director and Accompanist does need to be addressed. Other possibilities for Accompanist should also be considered eg school music teachers, the ORC.

DW and JM to speak with PR and RB

3.3 Working groups.

The Committee confirmed the establishment of two sub-committees that were supported at the AGM:

Jarman/Bogle liaison group: DW (Convenor), KF & RR

Recruitment group: PR, M Priest, & DK (Convenor)

Motion “That the Management Committee appoint two working groups with the opportunity to recruit additional members if and as required”

Moved: DK

Seconded: KF.

Carried

3.4 Covid policy

Following correspondence from the ORC that it is their policy (as well as State rules) for masks to be worn by choristers indoors, the OMVC will now have to fall in line and follow that protocol. As this is contrary to what was discussed with members after the AGM it will be necessary to amend the document “Covid Risk Mitigation

Policy” and notify Choristers accordingly. This document is to be emailed to all members. (See annexure 1)

JM to email members advising of change

3.5 Parkes Overture Concert.

Initial response to concert was around 27 members but more recently these numbers look like being around 15-20. A commitment sheet will be circulated at Monday’s rehearsal to gain a more accurate picture. Members going to Parkes will also be reminded about registering (as per previous information from the organisers) and it will be stressed to members the importance of learning the songs as there are only 6 more rehearsals to go.

JM to organise Commitment Sheet for Parkes at Monday rehearsal

3.6 Fees for “non resident” choristers BP, DF, CM et al?

This issue has been left in abeyance and will be discussed at our next meeting. There will have to be at least a nominal charge to cover insurance for those members.

3.7 2022 fees for MD and accompanist.

After brief discussion the following motion was passed
“That a fee of \$1.00 each be set for the Musical Director and Accompanist”

Moved: DK Seconded: SJ Carried

JM to notify PR and RB

4 OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 (DW) A grant application has been prepared for the OCC. This will cover the M.D.’s honorarium if successful.

4.2 (DW) Mention made of there now being only current member of the Choir who was not originally in the Performance Choir under the previous auditioning process. After discussions it was concluded that the whole auditioning process should be discussed with PR.

DW and DK to raise matter with PR

4.3 (DW) Awarding of Pat Mullins’ Life Membership should be made on his return from holiday.

DK to make presentation at rehearsal when PM returns

4.4 (DW) It was agreed to discuss Stephen May’s role as Rehearsal Manager with him and, if necessary, a volunteer will be called for.

JM & DW to raise matter at rehearsal

Next Meeting: To be decided following discussions about changing the day and time with potential committee members and Phil Rees.

Meeting finished at 1:50pm.

Annexure 1

OMVC Covid Risk Mitigation Policy

Feb 2022

Aims

To enable rehearsals to be undertaken

To protect the health and normal activities of members and their guests and their families.

To assure members that the Covid risks associated with singing are being managed appropriately.

To comply with requirements of NSW Health and the policies of ORC

Threats

Short and long-term health impacts of Covid infection.

Disruption of normal activities for members, families and contacts and for then Choir.

NSW Regulatory requirements at 10 Feb 2022

1. **Masks must be worn indoors in public spaces.**

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/rules/face-mask-rules>

2. **Singing is permitted by performers rehearsing and performing**

NB: Contrary to discussion on Monday night, ORC has advised that it requires its choirs to rehearse with masks and requests OMVC to also wear masks while rehearsing.

This is consistent with the *Overture January Choir Update*:

“Rehearsing with Covid restrictions

As I mentioned earlier, our choirs are legally allowed to meet in person and sing. What that looks like for your choir may be slightly different, but ultimately, it is encouraged that your choir meets at least once a week for at least an hour. **Masks can be worn**, and don't really affect practice much at all (especially if the choristers are seated). Please just decide what is going to work best for your choir with the aim of getting the most practice possible done. While the weather is still good and the sun is out later, consider holding your rehearsals outside (the concert will be outside, so this will be good practice!) For the concert, at this stage, masks will not be worn - but if circumstances change, we will let you know straight away. A reminder that all choristers will need to be double vaxxed, however we are not requiring them to have a booster.”

3. **Isolation for Close Contacts**

“After being exposed to someone with COVID-19 you are at risk of getting it for 14 days. Most people who develop COVID-19 will get it in the first 7 days and so this is when you are at highest risk. However,

approximately 25% of cases will develop COVID-19 between day 7 and 14, so you are at risk for up to 14 days.”

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/management/people-exposed-to-covid>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/testing/self-isolation-rules>

Risk of Infection and Disease

- Covid infection is common in the Orange region.
- The Delta strain is still circulating but has been largely displaced by the more infectious but less pathogenic Omicron strain.
- Susceptibility of choir members is higher than average due to age and underlying co-morbidities.
- Infection occurs in vaccinates but persists for shorter period.
- Singing is a high-risk activity as it produces large volumes of aerosols and deep breathing inhales large volumes.
- Immunity induced by vaccination in older people is below average.
- Immunity to Omicron has been demonstrated to wane significantly 3-4 months after 2nd dose vaccination
- Booster or 3rd vaccination is now recommended 3 months after the second vaccination.
- A high level of immunity is achieved 1-2 weeks after booster vaccination in most people.
- Multi-layered mitigation is essential to reduce the underlying high-risk of exposure and transmission when singing (numbers, space, time, ventilation, masks, etc.)

Choral Canada - We can Sing Safely. July 2021
<https://www.choralcanada.org/wecansingsafelywebinar.html>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttZNLpOXADA>

Welsh Government Technical Advisory Group
Review advice on communal singing and chanting including wind instruments and pipe organs. June 2021
<https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-review-advice-communal-singing-and-chanting-including-wind-instruments-and>

Consultation

After the OMVC AGM on 7 Feb 2022, members present openly discussed returning to rehearsal and appropriate Covid risk management. They unanimously recommended that an early return to rehearsal was important to underpin the future of OMVC and to prepare for upcoming performances. They agreed on the critical importance of the individual and mutual responsibility of members maintaining high immunity levels by vaccination, including booster vaccination.

The 2022 Management Committee subsequently met on 11 February and approved this *Covid Risk Mitigation Policy*

Policy

OMVC and each individual member has a duty of care to all members, their families and broader community to take reasonable steps to reduce the probability of spreading Covid-19. As the infection is now common in the Central West, OMVC is taking a cautious approach to returning to rehearsal.

OMVC considers booster vaccination of all singers a critical component of the risk management for rehearsal and performance.

Members and guests whose vaccination status is up to date (including boosters where due) are invited to return to rehearsal on **14 FEBRUARY 2022**, subject to satisfying the following conditions:

- a) The venue (ORC auditorium) will be spacious and well-ventilated (ie doors open, fresh air intake to air-conditioning).
- b) Participants must show documentation of recent vaccinations (Choir rep to sight document).
- c) Anyone who is a suspect case or close contact will not attend (within 14 days of showing symptoms or having a positive test, awaiting a test result, with 14 days of close contact with an infected person).
- d) Hand hygiene will be undertaken on entry to ORC.
- e) OMVC will maintain its own register of attendance (for immediate response if needed).
- f) IN-OUT with no mingling indoors.
- g) Wear masks at all times indoors.
- h) Bring own music, pencils etc.
- i) Singers remain seated with spacing at 1 per 4 sq metres.
- j) Accompanist and Conductor facing but 5 metres from singers.
- k) All participants commit to immediate notifying OMVC if he/she or a family member is suspected to be infected with Covid or tests Covid-positive.
- l) Rehearsals will be suspended for two weeks if a participant is infected or if the risk of Covid infection increases significantly in Orange and district.

11 Feb 2022