

Advance Australia Fair Signers

Instructions
for schools



Auslan teachers
Classroom teachers
Choir teachers



Thank you for supporting your students to participate in the Advance Australia Fair Guest Artist signing opportunity for the Primary Schools Music Festival.

A special welcome to Auslan teachers.

This document sets out the procedure for you and your students.

If you have any questions, please contact the friendly PSMF team at office.psmf925@schools.sa.edu.au

8261 5438

festivalofmusic.org.au

Important Dates

Audition Expression of Interest mid Term 1

Audition application late Term 1

Audition film due mid Term 2

Performances September Term 3



Step One

Access the PSMF website.

>Schools>Advance Australia Fair

Scroll down to;

Advance Australia Fair Signing (two verses students mirror this)

This is the music and footage to use in teaching your students. It is the version they will sign to at the Festival Theatre concert series. It is recorded so students mirror the screen to learn. This means that most of your students will sign to the audience as right handed signers. (see Step 3)

Step Two

Select your students.

Advance Australia Fair Signers can come from Years F to 6.

They do not have to be in the choir.

If no choir students are in your signing team they can perform on the same night as your choir, thus providing more students with an onstage opportunity.

If some of your signers are choristers, then we can negotiate how to manage this.

Step Three

Teach your students the signing for two verses.

We know that signing is a language not choreography and that left and right handers will naturally sign in opposite directions.

Encourage your students to use facial expression while signing. Be happy to “rejoice” in being “one and free”, show “courage” in a “joyful” happy face.



Step Four

Organise your students into their set up for performing onstage.

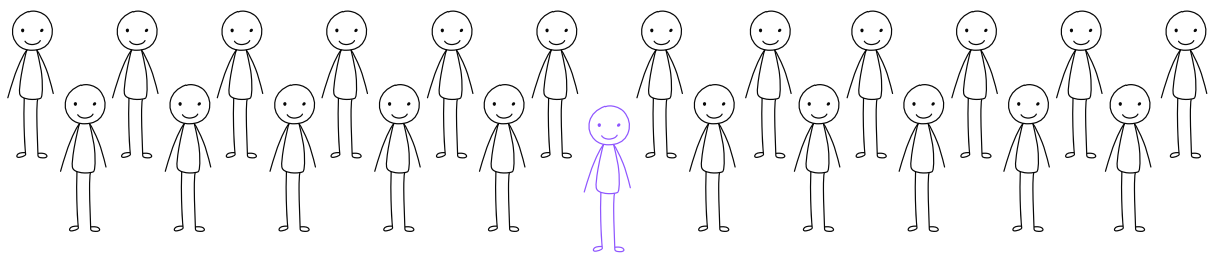
20 students or less

Select your most confident signer to stand in the centre, one step in front. Arrange your students in a single line on either side of this student “anchor”, with the smallest on either side and the tallest on either end. Rehearse in this position with 30cm between each child to allow space to move. Try marking positions on the floor with tape as we do at the theatre.



More than 20 students

Select your most confident signer to stand in the centre one step in front. Arrange your students in two lines on either side of this student “lock”, with the smallest on either side of the lock and the tallest on either end. Rehearse in this position with 30 cm between each child to allow space to move. Use dance windows so that students in the second row can be seen. Try marking positions on the floor with tape as we do at the theatre.



Step Five

Send in your Expression of Interest to Audition

Go to the Festival of Music Website.

Go to Auditions> Guest Artist and Foyer Concerts >AAF

Click on the link to complete the Expression of Interest form.

Advance Australia Signers are Guest Artists in the concerts.

Step Six

Film your students for the Audition

We do not expect perfection at this stage.

Film your best “halfway through Term 2” performance.

Email your film to the Festival of Music Office by the due date.

Wait for an email.



Once you are accepted

Step Seven

Extra support

If this is your first time supporting your Advance Australia Fair Signers, a member of the PSMF Team will visit your school to work with you and your students to prepare for the performance. We will know who you are from the Expression of Interest to Audition form.

If you performed in 2023 but would like support in your school again, please contact the PSMF office and we will arrange this. We are here for you. If you are confident in the process, ie it's your second time as the signing choir, await emails with instructions.

Step Eight

Forms and Concert Information

You will receive emailed instructions from the PSMF Production Manager about your performance day, media permission and medical forms. Advance Australia Fair Signers are the first Guest Artists to perform at each concert.

Step Nine

Concertising your signing team

Ensure your signing team can sign the two verses of Advance Australia Fair from memory.

Rehearse walking smartly and with purpose onto and off stage in your line. Enter stage left (Prompt side) and exit stage right (Opposite Prompt side).

Use the “*not signing*” hand position when walking on and off and while waiting for the music to begin. This hand grip also helps with nerves.

Practice bowing all together to acknowledge applause.

Get your central anchor student to count three seconds after the music stops, then bow. The others follow their lead.

Bow from the waist with hands in “*not signing*” clasp. Look at shoes and silently say either, “I am amazing” or “hippopotamus” before coming up again, turning right and walking smartly offstage.

Have your signers perform regularly at school assemblies.

This helps with nerves and increases their performance confidence.

Step Ten

Costume

Advance Australia Fair Signers wear a T-shirt that students will change into in their dressing room at the Festival Theatre on performance day. These are the property of the PSMF.

Students arrive at the theatre in all black/dark from the waist down. Long black/dark pants/leggings (no tears or rips), all black shoes and socks (no logos or white stripes as these flash onstage.) No jewelry (sleepers/studs, medical and faith ok). Cheap black sneakers can be purchased from shops like Big W for minimal cost.

Start organising your costume from the waist down early and have a costume check at school in the weeks before your performance.



Step Eleven

Performance time

Watch your students shine!

