



www.festivalofmusic.org.au

**South Australian Public
Primary Schools Music Society**
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Role Statement: School Choir Teacher

School Choir Teachers play an integral role in the development of choirs participating in the Primary Schools Music Festival (PSMF) program.

This document should be read in conjunction with the HPI Accompanist Role Statement. All staff must be familiar with the PSMF Professional Conduct Standards and the documents referred to within those standards.

The role of the School Choir Teacher is to:

- ✚ work collaboratively with an accompanist (if required);
- ✚ teach and rehearse the choral repertoire, including any other aspects involved in the presentation of the Festival;
- ✚ encourage and support students in developing their skill and talents;
- ✚ encourage students to take advantage of opportunities as a solo, host, orchestra/troupe member or guest artist;
- ✚ ensure all aspects of required organisation and communication within the school community are in place.

Skills required by School Choir Teachers

- ✚ Use appropriate teaching strategies that include physical preparation of the students for choir sessions, attention to the care of the students' voices including changing voices, and other related issues.
- ✚ Use appropriate positive behaviour management strategies as outlined in the PSMF Behaviour Management document.
- ✚ Develop a positive working rapport with the students.
- ✚ Sing accurately all choral parts (pitch and rhythm).
- ✚ Model appropriate choral techniques including clear focused tone, accurate pitch, clear diction with correct vowel formation, vowel modification, abdominal breathing, breath control and smooth transition across vocal registers and dynamics.
- ✚ Utilise appropriate and accurate conducting gestures that can be used to bring in the accompanist, start/stop/pause, indicate tempo/dynamics.
- ✚ Detect and rectify inaccuracies in students' pitch and rhythm.

Responsibilities of the School Choir Teacher

- ✚ Behave according to the PSMF Code of Conduct.
- ✚ Attend Conferences #1 (Term 1) and #2 (Term 2) and connect with Choir Support.

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- ✚ Liaise with the Choir Support and Accompanist to establish the rehearsal schedule and expectations.
- ✚ Confirm rehearsals times, days and dates in advance noting school closures, sporting event clashes etc.
- ✚ Plan the curriculum to ensure that the repertoire is taught within identified timelines.
- ✚ Develop and maintain a high choral standard (rhythm, pitch, melody, tempi, lyrics, pronunciation).
- ✚ Become familiar with the contents of the Teacher Resource documents on the website.
- ✚ Liaise with the accompanist with regard to choir session planning and content.
- ✚ Bring to the attention of appropriate personnel any situation which threatens the safety of the students.
- ✚ Be aware of responsibilities as a mandated notifier.
- ✚ Keep up to date with communication sent to schools and the information on the website.
- ✚ Disseminate resources, permission slips, collect money and attend off-site rehearsals and performances (including transport)
- ✚ Disseminate information regarding opportunities as a solo, host, orchestra/troupe member or guest artist, and support successful students in preparation for their performance.
- ✚ Organise choir attendance at Festival of Music rehearsals and performances.
- ✚ Check choir photo is taken and submitted according to all instructions.
- ✚ Promote the website and App to students and families.

Responsibilities shared with the HPI Accompanist (if required)

- ✚ Teach specific choir etiquette eg. sitting/standing tall, watching conductor, responding to cues, etc.
- ✚ Organise piano tuning, maintenance, adjustment and cleaning.
- ✚ Ensure adequate lighting, seating and ventilation for the accompanist.
- ✚ Identify and facilitate school and community performances.
- ✚ Discuss strategies which may improve the training of the choir such as placement/position of the voices and piano and choral warm up routines to improve vocal techniques.

Responsibilities shared with the Accompanist

- ✚ Develop the structure and format of choir rehearsals, along with strategies which may improve the teaching of the choir such as placement/position of voiced and piano/choral warm up routines to improve vocal techniques.
- ✚ Ensure the expected choral standard (rhythm, pitch, melody, tempi, lyrics, pronunciation) is achieved.
- ✚ Develop a common language of communication to ensure everyone knows the responsibilities of their role.

Communication

For positive learning outcomes to be achieved, rapport needs to be developed between the Choir Teacher and the Accompanist. This will require an understanding and respect for each party's needs, roles, responsibilities and priorities.

In particular Choir Teachers need to:

- ✚ liaise with the accompanist before the first choir session to establish the rehearsal schedule;
- ✚ confirm times, days and dates in advance noting school closures, sporting event clashes etc. ;
- ✚ discuss the structure and format of choir sessions with the accompanist; and
- ✚ bring inaccuracies in playing to the attention of the accompanist at an appropriate time and in a positive manner.

Quality Management

Members of the PSMF conducting team provide support for Choir Teachers' continuous improvement through informal and written feedback on the learning outcomes of their students as part of the assessment process.