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Cluster Information for 2020

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Dear Choir Teachers, Support Staff and Principals,

Now that the 2020 Affiliation process has begun, it's time to consider signing up for a term 1 cluster!

A **cluster rehearsal** is a combined rehearsal *for your choir students and choir students and school choir teachers / HPI choir teachers* from neighbouring schools where the Director of Music or Assistant Director of Music, engage the students in the teaching and learning of the 2020 repertoire.

Why Cluster???

- So your choir students can work with Robyn or Cathy, and begin their 'relationship' which develops at future choir visits and assessments, concert rehearsals and performances, solo pre-audition workshops, solo masterclasses, and auditions.
- To model good choir practice – for the students AND choir teachers.
- To provide the experience of singing and being a member of a larger choir, ie the concept of the 'mass choir' with a bigger team of singers!
- To motivate students and promote the idea that "choir is fun" – to begin the 'choir effect' in your school!
- So you can observe YOUR students and check out their attitude; suitability; potential; and even stand close to see if there is soloist potential!
- To teach some "tricky bits" to students AND choir teachers (who are still getting to know the repertoire early in the year).
- So Choir Teachers can learn specific warm ups and observe choral teaching techniques and strategies (ongoing observation opportunity / PD).
- To make connections with local schools in your area, especially between HPI's and choir teachers AND create opportunities for future collaborations – rehearsals, bus travel, etc.
- To promote the values of participation, equity and inclusivity for ALL students, choir teachers and support staff.
- To promote a consistent approach to teaching the repertoire.

METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS

- All 'Adelaide Festival' metropolitan schools must attend or host a cluster rehearsal during **Weeks 3 - 8 of Term 1**.
- The cluster rehearsal is held at a **HOST school**, and one or more schools will attend, according to their choir rehearsal day & location, meaning students may walk to a nearby host school, or be transported by bus / private cars. (Consider going on a different day to your usual choir rehearsal if it means it saves you \$ by not arranging a bus!)

- Plan your cluster rehearsal for 1 ½ hours to include:
 - Set up of venue - chairs, keyboard / piano, sound system, etc
 - Warm up exercises and rounds, ideally to be done before the conductors arrive
 - One hour with Robyn or Cathy
 - closing activities / choreography / revision of songs
- Cluster rehearsals are held at the HOST school, from Monday to Friday at:
 - **9:30am – 10:30am**, 9:15am arrival time for visiting choirs & set up of space,
 - or **11:30am – 12:30pm**, 11:15am arrival time for visiting choirs & set up of space,
 - or **1:30 – 2:30pm**, 1:15pm arrival time for visiting choirs & set up of space.

Robyn or Cathy will attend for the hour indicated in bold.

- Get in early and have yours in week 3, to kick start your program!!!
- Or if you have commenced rehearsals we introduce new repertoire and build on current knowledge.

Schools OUTSIDE of the GOOLWA, MURRAY BRIDGE, GAWLER Boundary

- Cluster rehearsals **do not apply** to ‘Adelaide Affiliated Festival’ schools that are outside the Goolwa, Murray Bridge and Gawler boundary.
- Your choir will receive a 2 hour visit at the end of Term 1 and will be a **combination of the assessment followed by a rehearsal**.
- We will send you a proposed visit schedule at the beginning of 2020.

REMOTE Schools

- Cluster rehearsals do not apply to ‘Adelaide Affiliated Festival’ remote schools.
- Your choir will receive a 3 hour visit at the end of Term 1 or early Term 2 and will be a combination of the **assessment followed by a rehearsal**.
- This will be organised at Conference 1, and we will send you a proposed visit schedule soon after that.

*****This combination ensures that we interact with every choir affiliated with the Adelaide Festival in Term 1 or 2. *****

PSMF REGIONAL FESTIVALS

- **On request**, Regional Festivals are entitled to a 3 hour workshop either late Term 1 or early Term 2.
- Please let Robyn know if you would like a regional workshop and some possible dates for your students by the end of THIS YEAR PLEASE.
- We will send you a proposed schedule at the beginning of 2020.

If you are unsure of where your school fits in this scenario please contact the PSMF office for clarification.
Thank you,
Robyn