



NATIONAL BOYS CHOIR
OF AUSTRALIA

Elementary Choristers Circular No. 1

Wednesday 5 February 2020

***Welcome to the National Boys Choir of
Australia***

We hope that you will enjoy your association with the Choir!

ELEMENTARY CHOIR STAFF



**MS MANDY LYN BROOK – DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR OF TRAINING
CHOIRS, PERFORMING CHOIR TUTOR**

Ms Brook holds a Masters of Teaching and Bachelor of Music (Honours)/Arts. She has worked with both Opera Australia and Victorian Opera and spent a year performing in the UK. In 2020, Mandy takes up residence in the music department at Wesley College and Blackburn Lake Primary School teaching vocal studies. In her spare time she enjoys directing children's musicals and running her own music studio specialising in singing, piano and pre-school music classes, and enjoys singing in the wider community as opportunities present themselves.

MS IRIS FERWERDA – TRAINING CHOIR TUTOR

Ms Ferwerda is qualified with a Bachelor of Music from ACU, LMUSA in classical voice and a Masters in Primary Education. Iris is currently a Choral Specialist and Singing Teacher at Burwood Heights Primary School where she has ninety students involved in two choirs. Iris also runs her own music school specialising in singing tuition. Iris was also a chorister with the Australian Girls Choir and was chosen to perform in the QANTAS commercials alongside our own NBCA choristers.



MR BEN TAYLOR – ACCOMPANIST

Having completed a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours at Monash University, Mr Taylor works as a performing musician, educator, and composer. He loves exploring sound and sharing the delight of making musical discoveries. Ben is a choral and instrumental accompanist as well as a piano teacher both privately and at Boroondara Park Primary School. He is also Director of Music at 3d Arts Company, a not-for-profit community arts organisation which seeks to strengthen communities through the performing arts.



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MR ANDREW BAINBRIDGE – NBCA CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mr Bainbridge will pop in and out of rehearsals during the course of the year as the boys settle into the Choir. Mr Bainbridge held the positions of Organist and Choirmaster at St John's Church, Toorak and Camberwell Presbyterian Church, and in 1994 was appointed Choral Director and Head of Keyboard at Scotch College in Hawthorn, and Acting Musical Director of The Tudor Choristers. Mr Bainbridge is a Director of both the Organ Historical Trust of Australia (OHTA) and the Australian and New Zealand College of Organists (ANZCO). He returned to Melbourne from Hobart in April 2019 to take up his appointment as Co-Artistic and Administrative Director of the National Boys' Choir of Australia.



MR PHILIP CARMODY – NBCA CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mr Carmody is Director of Music at Melbourne Grammar School where he directs the Chapel Choir whose repertoire is drawn principally from the cathedral tradition. The Chapel Choir has performed on ABCTV with Russell Watson and at Hamer Hall with Orchestra Victoria under the baton of Graham Abbott. At the Melbourne Recital Hall the choir has been featured in Bach's St Matthew Passion, directed by Jeremy Summerly, and in three concerts with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Paul Dyer: Vivaldi's Gloria; Dixit Dominus; and Handel's Coronation Anthems. Mr Carmody has also directed the NBCA on the soundtracks of Showtime's television adaptation of Tim Winton's Cloudstreet and Chris Lilley's Angry Boys and Ja'mie Private School Girl.



Please contact Mrs de Jonge and Mrs Eldred in the office with any problems or queries.

Office hours are: Monday 9.00am - 7.00pm
 Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am - 3.30pm
 Wednesday 9.30am - 7.00pm and Friday 10.30am - 8.30pm
 P 9872 4480 E office@nationalboyschoir.com.au

Ms Brook can be contacted by leaving a message at the Choir office or by speaking directly with her after rehearsals.

This afternoon, your son will go home with the following...

NBCA Music Satchel containing

- Personal Details Letter
- Health & Emergency Contacts (HECs) form
- Elementary circular for this week only
- Grey lead pencil



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Please check your son's satchel weekly in case we send home notices you need to action. Music satchels should be with the boys whenever they are at Choir. We remind you that it is the responsibility of every boy to keep his music satchel in good condition. If it is lost or damaged, a new one can be purchased from the office at a cost of \$10.

Boys also require an eraser in their satchels for all rehearsals.

Personal Details letter

To keep our records as up to date as possible, we ask that you check/complete details where necessary and return in person or via scan and email by next week, Wednesday 12 February.

Health & Emergency Contacts (HECs form)

The health and welfare of the boys is our priority. It is important that we are aware of any health issues that may require our attention when the boys are in our care. We ask that you complete both sides of the form, sign, and date and return by next Wednesday. This will be filed for the current year and we ask that you keep us informed of any changes. Completed HECs forms are due next week, too.

Choir Circular (newsletter)

As you already know, our primary communication with families will be via weekly Circulars (newsletters). This is emailed to you each Wednesday once rehearsals start. It is crucial that you read this on a weekly basis. A hard copy is available on request.

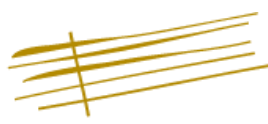
Remember, you can view the weekly Circular, homework and calendar by logging in to our website:

1. Username: <**Your Email Address**>
Password: **csharp2015!!**
2. Head to: <https://nationalboyschoir.com.au/choir-community/elementary-choristers-community/>
3. Any hard copy information for Elementary Choristers is usually printed on yellow paper.

Correspondence – other than circulars - to and from the Choir

All choristers have been allocated a Choir number (e.g. *John Smith E24*) and a pigeon-hole in the rehearsal studio with their numbers. Any correspondence other than weekly circulars (unless requested) will be collected from their pigeon-holes and brought home in their satchels. Boys are encouraged to check their pigeon-holes at the end of each rehearsal. Tax invoices will be emailed to you at the start of each term as of Term 2.

We encourage you to chat with the Office staff during the rehearsal if you have any Choir-related questions, or if you need to hand in completed forms, pay fees in person, etc. If the office is unattended, please use the letter box directly beneath the office window. This is a locked box and any notes/money will be collected the following day.



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ADDRESSES

A 2020 Elementary Choir Directory list will be available to all Elementary Chorister families on request in the next couple of weeks. We encourage parents to car pool and share the driving wherever possible; this is not a major issue in the younger groups but becomes a real asset when the boys move on to the Performing Choir.

Please let us know by Wednesday, 12 February if:

- * you **do not** want your phone number circulated
- * there are any **name changes, changes of address or contact numbers**

APOLOGIES

If your son is unable to attend a rehearsal, please email office@nationalboyschoir.com.au or contact the office on 9872 4480 and leave an apology. There is an answering machine to take messages outside office hours.

Promptness at all rehearsals is essential - it is disruptive to **all** boys when people arrive late. Elementary choristers are expected to arrive 10 minutes before rehearsal starting time.

HOMEWORK

It is important for the boys to spend time each week at home revising the skills they are learning at choir. We recommend 15 to 30 minutes practice at least every second day to revise music notes, lyrics and material covered from our weekly rehearsals. Practice tracks will be available to download from the NBCA website; we will alert you in the Circular when you need to download these.

HOSPITALITY ROSTER



Parents are most welcome to wait in the reception area during rehearsal. Feel free to make a cup of tea or coffee, have a chat and meet with other parents. If you have siblings with you, please ensure they are supervised and the kitchen and toilet areas are left clean and tidy.



We are more than happy to organise a roster for parents to 'host the kitchen' - not an onerous task - supply a small amount of milk, nibbles (optional - the afternoon tea is not for the choristers, but for waiting families and siblings 😊), and tidy the kitchen area at the end of rehearsal. We have prepared a tear off slip at the end of this Circular. We will only run the roster if we receive enough responses. *Note: The NBCA's kitchen is a nut-free zone.*



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Things to do before next rehearsal

- ✓ Check the personal details letter, update where required and return
- ✓ Complete the Health & Emergency Contacts (HECs form) and return
- ✓ Permission to circulate details within the Choir community
- ✓ Hospitality Roster

REHEARSAL TIMES

Rehearsals for Term 1 commence at 4.45pm and conclude at 5.45pm.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday	12	4.45pm - 5.45pm
Wednesday	19	4.45pm - 5.45pm
Wednesday	26	4.45pm - 5.45pm

MARCH

Wednesday	4	4.45pm - 5.45pm
Wednesday	11	4.45pm - 5.45pm
Wednesday	18	4.45pm - 5.45pm
Wednesday	25	4.45 pm– 5.45pm

FIRST TERM HOLIDAYS

All term dates and times are also listed on the NBCA website once you've logged in

SPECIAL DATES - lock these into your diaries

There are special dates throughout the year so that Elementary choristers are ready for their performances. Here's a snapshot of dates to add to your diaries now:

March

Wednesday 25 Open rehearsal for parents (time TBC)

May

Wednesday 13 Elementary & Junior Choir Showcase (times TBC)

Wednesday 27 Combined rehearsal with Junior Choir 4.45pm to 6pm *(note finish time)*

June

Wednesday 17 Combined rehearsal with Junior Choir 4.45pm to 6pm *(note finish time)*

July

Wednesday 22 Combined rehearsal with Junior Choir 4.45pm to 6pm *(note finish time)*

ALL weekly circulars will be forwarded via email (unless advised otherwise)

<https://nationalboyschoir.com.au/choir-community/>



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Saturday 25 NBCA Mid-Year Concert, Robert Blackwood Hall Monash University

October

Wednesday 21 Combined rehearsal with Junior Choir 4.45pm to 6pm (note finish time)

November

Wednesday 18 Combined rehearsal with Junior Choir 4.45pm to 6pm (note finish time)

December

Wednesday 16 Combined rehearsal with Junior Choir 4.45pm to 6pm (note finish time)

Sunday 20 NBCA Christmas Concert, Hamer Hall (times TBC)

NBCA SOCIAL PAGES

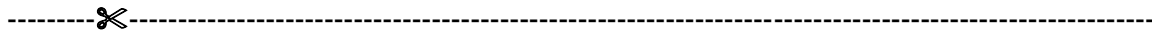
You can connect with the National Boys Choir of Australia via our socials, too:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nationalboyschoir/

Instagram: @natboyschoir

Twitter: @NatBoysChoirAus

Hospitality Assistance form...



HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE – ELEMENTARY CHOIR 2018

FAMILY NAME _____

CHORISTER'S NAME _____ CHOIR NUMBER **E** _____

I am available to participate in a roster for the following duties:

- * Supply a small container of milk
* Provide biscuits, or similar. Optional. (these treats are for the waiting family and siblings)
* Stack dishwasher with dirty dishes and tidy sink area ready for the next group



However, I am NOT available on the following dates . . .