



NATIONAL BOYS CHOIR
OF AUSTRALIA

Junior Choristers Circular No. 38

Tuesday 15 December 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TOMORROW! December 18	Final Rehearsal Term 4 6:00 pm NBCA Christmas Twilight Picnic Party 5:30 – 8:30 pm (Pilgrim Court)
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2021

JANUARY

Thursday 21

Performing Choir Camp Day

Wednesday 27

Voice placement test & rehearsal polo fitting 4:30 – 7:30 pm (15 mins per boy)

The full schedule for this day will be published in late January

Friday 29

First rehearsal for Term 1 6:50 pm – 9:30 pm

JULY

Saturday 24

NBCA Mid-Year Concert (Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University)

REHEARSAL & SHOWCASE VIDEO PARTY – TOMORROW!

Tomorrow is our final rehearsal of the year! To celebrate, our Junior choristers will be spending the session watching the Showcase video and rehearsing for graduation. A snack and drink will be provided, or you may send your own if you prefer. The link to the recording will be emailed to families tomorrow, too.

Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm
Bring: Pillow or soft toy
Wear: Something Christmassy!



Be ready to see your amazing performances and have some fun with your choir mates!
Please bring back any music in your satchel if this has not already been done

PERFORMING CHOIR CAMP

Thursday 21 January 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

\$35 for the day including lunch

Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp, Tramway Rd, Mount Evelyn

<https://camps.ymca.org.au/mt-evelyn-recreation-camp>

This is an exciting opportunity for our new graduates to spend some time with the experienced members of the Performing Choir, and to meet the senior boys who will become prefects and choir captains in 2021. We will start to learn some new music, have lunch together and maybe even have a swim if the weather is kind! We encourage you all to join us for the day.

Expressions of interest need to be emailed to the Office **by 5:00 pm tomorrow** – please just put **YOUR BOY'S NAME – HIS CHOIR NUMBER - CAMP YES** in the subject line.

If you need further information, please contact the office.



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PERFORMING CHOIR REHEARSALS

Performing Choir rehearsals are held as follows:

- Monday 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- Friday 6:50 – 9:30 pm

A schedule of Monday rehearsals will be published early next year. These are often sectional part rehearsals, but boys are not usually scheduled to come every Monday.

Boys will be voice tested on Wednesday 27 January and placed in their voice part (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto). This will take about 15 minutes, in small groups, usually alphabetically from 4:30 pm. The schedule will be emailed in late January.

Boys who sing Soprano 2 in three parts will be allocated to either Soprano or Alto when we sing in only two parts – this is called “swinging” which will be explained further next year. They will sit with the other members of their voice part. Sometimes rehearsals will be divided up into sectionals across the three studios.

Each boy will have a new Choir Number and pigeon-hole in the Casey Studio. Music and folders will be handed out via pigeon-holes at the first rehearsal.

Uniform for Performing Choir rehearsals is a rehearsal polo shirt and/or choir jacket – these will be fitted on the same day as the voice tests.

Ms Brook is the Performing Choir tutor, and she will be able to help the boys settle into their new choir. There will be a lot to learn – and we really look forward to having your boys as members of the Performing Choir next year!

NBCA Family Christmas Twilight Picnic Party – This Friday!

We look forward to welcoming you this Friday for our Family Christmas Twilight Picnic Party! Full details were sent in an email earlier this week, which can be viewed [here](#).

Please ensure that you have booked your free tickets on [Trybooking](#), including for choristers – there will be no tickets available at the gate, and government regulations mean there can be no entry without a ticket.

On arrival at 5:30 pm, Junior Choristers should proceed directly to the Bird studio to warm-up.

Dress for graduating choristers is smart casual

Junior Choristers will perform and graduate shortly after 6:00 pm

There will be a raffle in support of Vision Australia, which will be drawn at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$2 each, or 3 for \$5



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REHEARSAL COVID-SAFE PLAN

Please remember the Choir's **COVID-Safe Plan**:

- Please drop off and pick-up your son from the carpark - *the office will be available after rehearsal has commenced, but the foyer remains closed*
- Doors will not open until five minutes before rehearsal commences
- Masks are no longer required
- On arrival, boys will be asked to clean their hands
- Boys will move straight to their places in the studio, keeping a 1.5 metre distance away from each other, following the tape markings on the floor
- Boys are reminded to wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue, handkerchief or their elbow

TERM 4 INVOICES

A reminder that the payment date for Term 4 invoices was November 4. If you have overlooked settling your account, action to process payment would be appreciated.

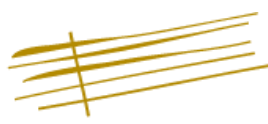
If you are experiencing financial difficulties and would like to discuss payment of fees, please email our Treasurer Mr Colin Seedy at treasurer@nationalboyschoir.com.au

A Different Year for the NBCA...

As we sit back tomorrow to watch the Junior Choir Showcase video, we can still look over 2020 with a sense of achievement.

Our choristers achieved incredible things this year, despite the challenges that COVID-19 brought. Yes, there were times of hardship and being disconnected from our choir friends. However, the Junior Choir remained dedicated and engaged with their choir commitments. Choristers rose to the COVID challenge and rehearsed diligently so they could be prepared for their Showcase Recording last Saturday. They all looked dapper in their stagewear and they sounded delightful during their tapings while smiles were from ear to ear. Such a special way to end an unprecedented year. Congratulations to all our choristers!

A huge thank you to Ms Brook, Mrs Zavou and Mr Taylor for continuing Choir rehearsals week-to-week online while keeping choristers engaged with fun games and activities. Another generous thank you to Mrs Nicholls who covered Mrs Connellan's wardrobe duties during her maternity leave and fitted all choristers with their stagewear. Also, thank you to Lisa Cumming (J8) for washing all the shirts after the recordings. Where would we be without our volunteers? We are very lucky to have such dedicated parents. Which leads to one more special thank you and congratulations to...YOU! All the Junior



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parents have done a stellar job keeping choristers on track and logging in for Zoom rehearsals, while juggling home-schooling and working from home.

We're now looking ahead to 2021 when we'll be hosting more concerts and performing opportunities as COVID restrictions continue to ease. Plus, the Junior choristers graduate to the Performing Choir. Oh, how time flies!

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Choir, may you all enjoy the Christmas season with family and friends, and we hope your New Year is an exciting and prosperous one in the months to come. We look forward to welcoming you all at our Family Christmas Twilight Picnic Party this Friday to watch your choristers graduate.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

