

Dear Singers and Parents,

I hope the New Year has started well for you and that you have enjoyed the holidays. This letter gives some important details about our events for 2020. It will be another great year and I can't wait to share it with you. Congratulations to Chloe Kidd and Esther Junker who participated in the Gondwana National Choral School. Esther has been selected for the Gondwana Collective New Zealand Symposium Tour and Chloe was selected as the soloist for *Thulele Mama Ya*, working directly with the composer Lisa Young! We are very proud of their efforts!

Hunter Singers and Hunter Trebles rehearsals will commence at Merewether High School on Tuesday 4 February. Hunter Singers will rehearse in the Learning Centre from 5.00-7.00pm. **Please note this important change to the rehearsal time.** Hunter Trebles will rehearse from 5.00-6.30pm in KM1. Singers should arrive at rehearsal each week by 4.50pm and enter through the Chatham Road entrance at the front of the school. There will be opportunities for sectionals and small ensembles in the time between school finishing and rehearsal starting.

Please print the program on page 3 of this document on coloured paper and place it in a prominent position in your home. You should also put the details into any diaries or calendars you keep as a family. Refer to it when organising work rosters and family outings. There are likely to be some additions and these will be advised as soon as possible. I will also send email updates and reminders to the email address on the completed Google form (link on page 2 of this letter).

CATALINA CAMP

Our first camp for this year is on **22-23 February** at **Catalina Conference Centre, Rathmines**. This is a compulsory camp and it is essential that all singers attend. The accommodation is in ensuite rooms, with bedding and towel provided. Singers are to make their own way to the camp, arriving by 8.30am on Saturday 22 February. There will be a short concert at the conclusion of the camp at 4pm on Sunday 23 February. As always, it is essential that everyone attends the camp for the whole weekend. The cost is \$170, which includes accommodation, food, music and venue hire.

The group will be supervised by the Hunter Singers committee and camp staff who have been screened in accordance with the Department of Education requirements. The Emergency Mobile Phone number for camp is 0412 496 138.

As you know, Hunter Singers operates under the guidelines of the Department of Education and we are bound by certain regulations in relation to student behaviour. In particular, the use of alcohol, cigarettes and narcotic drugs is strictly prohibited. We also expect that Singers will co-operate with staff at all times and behave in an appropriate manner. Any serious breach of rules will result in parents being contacted and asked to collect their children from the camp.

Singers will need to bring to the camp:-

- casual, comfortable clothing including a jacket or jumper, nightwear, toiletries
- dress-up costume – this camp's theme is: "Chess"
- an item to perform for the Saturday night concert

HUNTER IN CONCERT

An exciting new event will be held in 2020 – *Hunter In Concert*, to be held on Wednesday 8 April at Newcastle City Hall. The concert will feature Hunter Singers, the Hunter Wind Ensemble, the regional choir for the Secondary Choral Concert (performing repertoire that will be performed in Sydney Town Hall in Term 2) and the Newcastle premiere of Matthew Hindson's *Electric Rain*, which we premiered in the Sydney Opera House in September last year. There will also be items from regional schools. It promises to be a wonderful event and will be the first of the Hunter Singers subscription concerts for 2020.

SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT SERIES

We have a 3-concert subscription program this year, with concerts at Newcastle City Hall and Adamstown Uniting Church. The dates are Wednesday 8 April, Sunday 28 June and Sunday 29 November. You have an opportunity to buy a subscription to all three concerts at reduced cost. Subscriptions are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/BIAMV> - \$65 adults, \$55 concession, \$25 children. Please promote the concerts to your family and friends. These three concerts are the most important dates on the Hunter Singers 2020 calendar, so please make sure these dates are free. Those who have purchased subscription tickets will receive the passes prior to the first concert. Individual concert tickets are \$27 adults, \$22 concession, \$10 children, so there are considerable savings in buying subscriptions.

CHESS

I am very excited that our principal project for Term 1 will be our participation in CHESS the Musical, as part of the 200-voice on stage choir. Tickets are already on sale for this much anticipated event and I highly recommend that families secure their tickets as soon as possible as it is likely to sell out. Tickets are available through Ticketek. Details of all rehearsals are on the calendar and it is essential that all singers are present for all rehearsals. For the five Tuesday nights when the rehearsals continue to 9pm, there will be a dinner break in our rehearsal and we will organise food at a cost of \$10. The participation fee and T-shirt for CHESS is covered in the Term 1 fees.

SECONDARY CHORAL CONCERT IN SYDNEY TOWN HALL

The Secondary Choral Concert will be held in Term 2 on Wednesday 20 May, with the regional rehearsal to be during Term 1 on a school day. The date for this will be advised as soon as possible. The repertoire for Sydney will also be performed at Hunter In Concert.

NEW ZEALAND TOUR

At this stage, there are not enough registered singers for the tour to proceed. Those who have paid a deposit will have the deposit refunded once the final decision is made.

UNIFORM

Please ensure that all uniform items are the correct size. Replacement items are available.

ALL SINGERS will need the black dots T-shirt, the black tree T-shirt and the 30th Anniversary fireworks shirt. The T-shirts are \$20 each.

BOYS - black pants, black shirt, blue tie and black belt with polished black leather shoes and black socks.

GIRLS - black culottes, the new shirt (to be launched later this year), black polished leather shoes and black socks.

CLOTHING POOL. As Singers outgrow their uniforms, they can purchase additional pieces, and sell their second hand uniform back to the clothing pool for half price. These pieces may then be purchased from the clothing pool for a reduced rate. Please see Lynne Kentish at rehearsal for more information.

PARENTAL ASSISTANCE AT REHEARSALS

We are hoping for support from parents to assist with afternoon tea at rehearsals on Tuesdays. If enough people are able to help, it would only be once per term or semester. It involves setting up and clearing away afternoon tea drinks and a snack for both Trebles (5.40pm) and Singers (6.10pm). We also need assistance with uniform sizing in the lead up to performances. There is a question in the Google form regarding your willingness to assist. Based on the responses, we will draw up a roster and advise you of your date.

FEES & PERMISSION SLIPS

Individual accounts will be emailed to you in the next couple of weeks from the Hunter Singers Treasurer, Lynne Kentish. Payment details will be provided on your account. The 2020 annual fees are \$400 for the first family member and \$380 for additional family members. If any family would like to pay by term installments, please email treasurer@huntersingers.com or see Lynne at rehearsal on the first Tuesday back.

Please complete the 2020 Registration Google form with Term 1 permission note with medical information. It is essential that this form is completed by **6 February**. Link: <https://forms.gle/kVzS3Hx7iETx7p5A9>

I am really looking forward to seeing you on 4 February as we prepare for what looks to be another exciting year.

Cheers,

Kim Sutherland OAM
Music Director, Hunter Singers
26 January 2020

HUNTER SINGERS 2020 PROGRAM

TERM 1	
Tuesday 4 February	Hunter Singers First weekly rehearsal at Merewether HS, 5-7pm
22-23 February	Hunter Singers Camp at Catalina Conference Centre Rathmines 8.30am Saturday – 4pm Sunday (compulsory)
Tuesday 18 February	Chess Massed Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm at Merewether HS
Tuesday 25 February	Chess Massed Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm at Merewether HS
Tuesday 3 March	Chess Massed Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm at Merewether HS
Tuesday 10 March	Chess Massed Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm at Merewether HS
Date TBA	Regional rehearsal for Secondary Choral Concert 9am-3pm at Merewether HS
Tuesday 17 March	Chess Massed Choir Rehearsal 7-9.30pm at Merewether HS
Saturday 21 March	Chess Sitzprobe 2.30-5.30pm at Merewether HS
Thursday 26 March	Chess Dress Rehearsal 7.00-10pm (Times TBC) at Civic Theatre Newcastle
Friday 27 March	Chess Opening Night, 7pm call for 8pm show, Finish around 11pm, Civic Theatre Newcastle
Saturday 28 March	Chess performances, matinee and evening. Matinee: 1pm call for 2pm show, Evening: 7pm call for 8pm show, Civic Theatre Newcastle
Sunday 29 March TBC	<i>Possible Chess matinee performance, 1pm call for 2pm show, Civic Theatre Newcastle</i>
Thursday 2 April	Star Struck Launch at Westfield Kotara. Time TBA (late afternoon or evening)
Wednesday 8 April TBC	Hunter Singers & Hunter Trebles Subscription Concert 1 Hunter In Concert with Hunter Wind Ensemble and Regional Combined Secondary Choir, at Newcastle City Hall. Rehearsal 9am-5pm, Concert 7pm. Tickets \$27/\$22/\$10
TERM 2	
Tuesday 28 April	Hunter Singers First weekly rehearsal for Term 2 at Merewether HS, 5-7pm
Friday 8 May	Star Struck Massed Choir rehearsal – Hunter Trebles and Hunter Singers in Massed Choir
Wednesday 20 May	Secondary Choral Concert at Sydney Town Hall - Depart 7am from Merewether HS, Pokolbin St entrance, Rehearsal during the day, concert at night, Return 11.30pm to Merewether HS.
Friday 5 June	Star Struck Massed Choir rehearsal – Hunter Trebles and Hunter Singers in Massed Choir
Saturday 6 June	Star Struck Sitzprobe with Orchestra, 1.30-4.00pm at Merewether HS Learning Centre
Tuesday 9 June	Star Struck Core Choir sound check and Hunter Singers item sound check. Times TBA
Wednesday 10 June	Star Struck rehearsal and sound check, 8.45am-5.30pm at Entertainment Centre
Thursday 11 June	Star Struck Technical Rehearsal, 7.30am-6.00pm
Friday 12 June	Star Struck matinee, 9.30am-1.30pm. Star Struck night performance, 6.00pm-10.00pm
Saturday 13 June	Star Struck matinee, 1.00pm-5.00pm. Star Struck night performance, 6.00pm-10.00pm
Sunday 28 June	Hunter Singers & Hunter Trebles Subscription Concert 2 Adamstown Uniting Church, Rehearsal 12noon-3pm, Concert 4pm Tickets \$27/\$22/\$10
TERM 3	
Tuesday 21 July	Hunter Singers First weekly rehearsal for Term 3 at Merewether HS, 5-7pm
Friday 24 July	Masterclass with Chanticleer for Musica Viva, 10.00am-12.30pm at Adamstown Uniting Church
8-9 August TBC	Hunter Singers camp Catalina Conference Centre Rathmines 8.30am Saturday – 4pm Sunday
Tues 18 August TBC	Hunter Singers Inc AGM, 6.30pm at Merewether HS Learning Centre
Thursday 20 August TBC	Possible performance in Sydney Town Hall for Festival of Choral Music
TERM 4	
Tuesday 13 October	Hunter Singers First weekly rehearsal for Term 4 at Merewether HS, 5-7pm
Sunday 29 November	Hunter Singers & Hunter Trebles Subscription Concert 3 - Adamstown Uniting Church, Rehearsal 12noon-3pm, Concert 4pm Tickets \$27/\$22/\$10
Date TBA	Hunter Singers and Hunter Trebles Schools Tour
Tuesday 8 December	Hunter Singers and Hunter Trebles auditions
Thursday 10 December TBC	Star Struck Carols at Westfield Kotara
Tuesday 15 Dec TBC	Performance at Hamilton Gardens