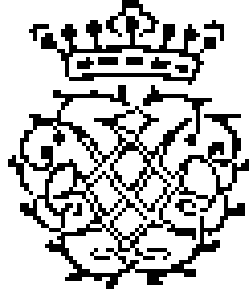


The Bach Society
of Queensland Inc.



Bach Choir Manual

First issued: November, 1995
This issue: March, 2010

The Bach Society of Queensland Inc.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Neil Mason 3878 2222

2012 COMMITTEE

<i>PRESIDENT:</i>	Barbara Haydon	3904 2899
<i>VICE PRESIDENT:</i>	Elsie Jensen	3202 8990
<i>SECRETARY:</i>	Frances Clark	3262 1017
<i>TREASURER:</i>	Pam Masel	3857 1416
<i>MINUTES SECRETARY:</i>	Bronwyn Statham	3341 6383
<i>LIBRARIAN:</i>	Ken Curwen	3389 2950
<i>PUBLICITY OFFICER:</i>	Yuri Furuno	3701 7433
<i>MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:</i>	Patrick Johnson	3399 5426
<i>SOCIAL OFFICER:</i>	vacant	
<i>WEBMASTER:</i>	Ken Curwen	3389 2950
<i>ORDINARY MEMBERS:</i>	Tina Hewison	3376 5375
	Catherine Hunter	3311 5907
	Cliff Mallett	3870 7975

The official address of *The Bach Society of Queensland Inc.* is:
PO Box 1063,
Kenmore. Q. 4069.

This information will be updated as necessary.

BACH CHOIR MANUAL

HISTORY:

The Bach Society of Queensland Inc. was formed in 1971 at the instance of Nancy Weir, who became the society's distinguished patron. The aims and objects of the society are "to promote and encourage the performance and study chiefly of the work of Johann Sebastian Bach, his family, his contemporaries, and his precursors".

The main arm of the society is the *Bach Choir* which was formed in 1972 as an additional medium for the society's purposes. The choir presents several concerts each year, and in the past, these have included works by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Scarlatti, Handel, and many other well known composers, as well as lesser known works. These concerts provide a valuable opportunity for young musicians to obtain experience in the performance of Baroque music, and also allow audiences to hear many works seldom performed in Brisbane.

As part of its educational arm, the society financially sponsors the Wynnum-Manly Eisteddfod, with emphasis on the Baroque sections.

The Constitution of *The Bach Society of Queensland Inc.* was revised in 1997 when the society became incorporated, and a copy will be made available to you upon request.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY:

The affairs of the society are managed by a committee elected from its members at an Annual General Meeting, and committee meetings are held regularly throughout the year. The Music Director is an ex officio member of the committee. You are

encouraged to raise any queries, discuss any problems, and offer any suggestions to any committee member at any time.

FINANCES:

Membership subscriptions, choir and uniform levies are due on 1st February each year. Half-yearly subscriptions are only offered to those who join the society/choir after 1st August. You will have received a current application for membership form with this manual, and this is divided into three parts:

Society subscription: This covers administration, insurance*, Music Director's honorarium, etc. Concessional membership is available to pensioners/Seniors Card holders, students, or additional family members. Members receive regular newsletters, informing them of coming activities, both musical and social, and are entitled to concession prices at all concerts.

Choir levy: This covers the cost of hall hire, purchase or hire of music, Accompanist's honorarium, etc.

Uniform levy: This is to cover the cost of uniforms supplied to choir members for each performance.

*Under the terms of our insurance policy, all choristers are required to be financial prior to performing in any concert. Please approach the Membership Officer if personal circumstances affect your ability to meet these payments.

Choristers perform on a voluntary basis and therefore all revenue raised is used to cover the cost of running the society and the choir. It is therefore vitally important that ALL members undertake to help the society in the following ways:

a. by supporting occasional fund raising activities with their personal attendance and in a financial manner.

b. by selling as many tickets as possible to each of our concerts.

CHOIR MEMBERSHIP:

Membership of the *Bach Choir* is open to financial members of *The Bach Society of Queensland Inc.*, whose admission to the choir will be determined by a voice test given by the Music Director. Successful applicants are required to familiarise themselves with the choir guidelines, as found in this manual.

It should be noted that admission to the choir does not necessarily imply the right to participate in each or any performance.

Note: The Music Director may exercise his prerogative to invite experienced singers to perform in a concert for the purpose of effecting a musical balance between voices. Such invitees are made Temporary Honorary Members of the society/choir and are required to abide by the conductor's directions and the choir guidelines.

REHEARSALS:

Rehearsals are held each Monday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, 141 Brookes Street, Fortitude Valley.

MUSIC:

Sheet music or scores are issued to each member of the choir by the librarian at the first rehearsal for the next performance. Please keep these in good repair whilst they are in your care. It is suggested that you place your name in pencil only on the front cover. Notations in 2B pencil only may be made in the score, but we ask that these be erased before returning.

Practice CDs are sometimes available for those who require them and occasionally, music folders may be issued to choristers prior to a performance.

All of the above must be returned to the Librarian at the end of each performance.

REHEARSAL COURTESY

Please try to be punctual so that rehearsals/concerts can begin and end on time.

Out of respect for the Music Director and fellow choristers, please refrain from unnecessary talking and loud comments during rehearsals. These make hearing and concentration difficult for some and can detract from the overall enjoyment of rehearsals by everyone.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

In order to take part in a scheduled performance, it is required that members attend a minimum of 70% of all rehearsals, with special attention to the final rehearsals. Any member who is unable to meet these requirements may only then participate after an audition with the Music Director to demonstrate their ability to sing the work in hand.

New members should be encouraged to join before rehearsals for the next performance have commenced. When more than 40% of rehearsals for that performance have been undergone, joining will be at the Music Director's discretion.

Attendance records are kept by four monitors, one representing each section of the choir. Monitors should be notified of your inability to attend prior to the rehearsal/s or concert to be missed. This information is then passed on to the Music Director, so that he knows the expected size of the choir for the coming performance. Your monitor's phone number can be found in the *Bach Choir Directory*, a copy of which will be made available to you upon joining.

For a professional result, full attendance at all rehearsals is desirable, and you are encouraged to attend even if you are unable to participate in the coming performance.

In addition to these set rehearsal times, it is extremely important that each choir member makes time to practise at home.

PLATFORM PROCEDURE

When entering the concert platform, we smile (or at least maintain a pleasant expression), and hold our music at waist height in the hand furthest from the audience.

Upon reaching our seat we turn and face the audience. Wait for a pre-arranged signal before being seated. Further cues for standing and sitting during the performance will be given by the conductor, or will have been arranged during the final rehearsal.

At the end of each chorus we remain standing with our music open and stay still until cued by the conductor to sit. We then sit with our music open on our laps. Do not randomly turn pages, but follow the music as soloists are singing or the orchestra is playing.

At the end of the first half or at the end of the whole performance, we close our music after the final bar has been completed and remain standing.

At the end of the performance, should the conductor return for more applause, we remain standing and only leave, without sitting first, when the applause has subsided, immediately after the departure of the orchestra.

If we are to present ourselves in the best possible light, as a choir with a professional standing, and confidence in our ability, all of the foregoing is very important. More points to remember are:

- * Please enter and exit quietly and do not straggle.
- * Please stand and sit up straight.
- * Please stand, sit and turn pages quietly.
- * Please don't wave to anyone in the audience.
- * Please refrain from crossing your legs, particularly if you are seated in the front row
- * Please don't chat amongst yourselves on stage.
- * Please, PLEASE, PLEASE keep your eyes *glued* to the CONDUCTOR throughout the performance.

CONCERT DRESS:

LADIES:

Provided by the member:

- * LONG black skirt or slacks.
- * Black blouse - short sleeves for summer and long sleeves for winter. This must be a definite black and the neckline must be modest. Lace, see-through, and singlet tops are not acceptable.
- * Black shoes and black stockings.

Provided by the society:

- * One coloured stole - small or large.

It is requested that no jewellery be worn with the exception of wedding rings and watches, as the addition of necklaces and earrings will take away from the uniform effect.

MEN:

Provided by the member:

- * Long sleeved white shirt. A definite white is required, no "off-whites" or creams.
- * Black trousers.
- * Black belt, black shoes, black socks.

Provided by the society:

- * One coloured bow-tie - adjustable to fit all sizes.

It is requested that no handkerchiefs or pens etc. be worn in the top pocket, and that no jewellery be worn with the exception of wedding rings and watches.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM WEARING STRONG PERFUMES AND AFTER-SHAVES etc. These preparations in close proximity in a choir can affect sufferers of asthma etc, and make singing impossible for some.

Items provided by the society will be given out by the Wardrobe Mistress prior to the performance, and retrieved immediately at the end of the performance.

In order to maintain a professional presentation, it is requested that **strict adherence** be paid to concert dress requirements.

CHRISTMAS CAROL DRESS:

LADIES:

Provided by the member:

- * Street-length white skirt and blouse or dress with short sleeves. A definite white is required, no "off-whites" or creams.
- * White shoes.

Provided by the society:

- * One red tartan sash to be tied on the left hip.

MEN:

Provided by the member:

- * White, short-sleeved shirt. A definite white is required, no "off-whites" or creams.
- * Black trousers.
- * Black belt, black shoes, black socks.

Provided by the society:

- * One green tartan sash to be tied on the left hip.



We do hope that this manual has served to help you feel a determination to practise well, perform well, present well, and above all to ENJOY your membership of the *Bach Choir* and of *The Bach Society of Queensland Inc.*