



Summer Festival | 2023 / 2024



REJOICE

Choir Guidelines

“ ... the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice” (Deut 16:15)



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Choir Festival (2023-2024)

Official Performance (Exact dates will be communicated at later stage)	16th March 2024
Submission of recorded performances	16th March 2024
Advanced performances recording submissions (Exact dates will be communicated at later stage)	26th May 2024

Deadlines

Registration Open	TBA*
Registration closed	14th Jan 2024
<i>There is a huge Administrative and financial impact in case of late registration requests. To avoid submission refusal, we highly appreciate you stick to the due dates mentioned above.</i>	
Fees Payment	1st Mar 2024
<i>Payment is required to secure church registration(s). Fail to pay on time may lead to the cancellation of the submitted registration with no further Consideration.</i>	
Registration cancellation with full refund	TBA*
<i>No refund will be processed after this date in case you wish to cancel your registration.</i>	
Submission of hymns & new lyrics	14th Jan 2024
Committee to acknowledge or request lyrics amendment	21st Jan 2024
Final Lyrics revision and approval on hymns	28th Jan 2024
<i>Committee will provide the Lyrics Feedback – if any; to the priest as first point of contact - not the servant.</i>	

Age Group

Participants can be from the following age groups:

1. Angels
2. Primary (Grade 1-6)
3. Secondary (Year 7-12)
4. Youth Age (18 – 25 years old)
5. Adults Age (25+ years old)

Note: **Grade 1** age groups is floating. This means - as a church; you can choose for **Grade 1** to join either angels or primary choirs.

Entry Limit

Registration is limited to one choir team per age group from each church.

There are no limits for vocal, instrumental or ensemble performances participation per church; everyone is welcome. However, the committee advocates participants who have genuine interest.

Choir Terms and Conditions (T&Cs)

All participating churches **MUST** download, print, read the Choir Festival T&Cs (from SF website choir page), then get it signed and send it back to the SF Choir Sub-Committee as per the instruction given in the T&Cs document. **Your submission is not valid** till the SF Choir Sub-Committee receives the Choir T&Cs signed.

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Fee Payments

Please refer to [summer festival main website](#) for detailed information on registration fees and payments.

All fees must be paid to SF Bank Account by due date above to secure your registration.

Account Name: Coptic Orthodox Church Diocese of Melbourne – Community Festival

BSB: 063-159

ACC: 10729454

Ref: SFChoir_Church Name Example: SFChoir_StMaryMelb

Choir Committee Contacts

Please ensure that all communication takes place directly to the committee email address: sfmelbchoir@gmail.com.

The committee **will not respond** to emails sent privately to committee member's personal emails.

Competition Format

There are four categories of performances that each church can participate in:

- **Choir Groups;** group of NOT LESS THAN 5 members.
- **Individual vocal performances** (Normal Level, Advanced Level*)
Only one person at a time will have the chance to present his/her talent.
- **Instrumental performances** (Normal Level, Advanced Level*)
Only one person at a time will have the chance to present his/her talent.
- **Ensemble Performance:** a team of 4 to 9 members** with mixed instrumental lines (may include vocal lines) to perform together.

*Based on Vocal/Instrumental performance score, participants may be invited to participate in advanced level. Advanced performance is not added to the church overall score. However, the participants will receive an individual recognition.

**Please read and understand the guidelines related to your performance carefully. Any performance that does not meet the guideline will face a penalty. If you believe there is a need to change or deviate your performance from the guidelines, please discuss this first with the committee via email for instructions.

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The performance timing will be as following:

	Choir performances		Vocal or instrumental performances	Ensemble performances
	Angels age group	Other age groups		
Setup and preparation	10 Mins	10 Mins	2 Mins	3 Mins
Performance time	15-20 Mins	20-25 Mins	3 Mins	7 Mins

*If you exceed the times above, a deduction might be applied

*Motto is NOT mandatory for Angel choirs. However, Angels' teams may choose motto as one of their selected hymns.

General Instructions

1. Each church must provide the committee with One Church Coordinator contact details, who will be responsible for the co-ordination of all tasks between the committee and the church. **For no confusion, the committee will not be coordinating/communicating with multiple leaders or parents.**
2. Each church may provide up to 5 age coordinators – one for each age group; to help with registration and lyrics submission only. Any further communication beyond the lyric submission should be addressed only to the choir coordinator of the church. For no confusion, the church coordinator should be involved in all communications between the Committee and age coordinator(s).
3. Approved languages for choir festival are only **English, Arabic, Coptic and Fijian.**
4. The committee is encouraging the production of new hymns written and composed by our talented people. However, all lyric submissions- regardless of its source; **MUST be reviewed and approved** by the church priest with the priest **on the website**. Lyrics submission with no priest signature won't be considered.

All Lyrics and Hymns submission MUST include the following:

Church name

Age group

Responsible leader name and contact details.

Choir team's Name – if any

And for each Hymn:

New lyrics author name

Hymn source

Music Composer

Vocal Soloist

Live Instrument Soloist

Important note: Failure to communicate this info to the committee before assigned due date may result in not evaluating your efforts producing lyrics or music.

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If there is any concern about the submitted lyrics, the responsible priest will be contacted to discuss. Lyrics amendments – if any; needs to be sent back by the deadline mentioned.

5. **Strictly, no acting is permitted.** Narration is allowed between hymns if the purpose is to link an idea in the performance.
6. During stage performances, it is important that all participating churches respect each other and remain silent. Marks will be deducted from the team causing distraction while choirs are performing.

Choir Guidelines and Scoring Criteria

- ❖ The main Motto of the summer festival should be presented **AT THE START OF** your performance.
- ❖ The motto time is NOT included in your performance time, but it will be assessed as per attached assessment guidelines. (Except for angels' choir – Motto is not compulsory)
- ❖ Your performance should not exceed assigned preparation/performance time. Please refer to competition format
- ❖ Please stick to your submitted and approved Lyrics unless otherwise have been advised to you by Committee Members.

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Main scoring criteria

	breakdown	Percentage
Lyrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The flow of hymns in building a storyline in the performance The hymns related to the festival theme <p>*Bonus: New hymns</p>	13%
Melody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melody suitability for words and Age group <p>*Copyright; the use of known music pieces in hymns is not acceptable</p>	10%
Music Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> suitability to deliver the meaning of the hymn, melody integration of the music instruments musical textures and dynamics <p>*Bonus: Live music with multiple instruments is encouraged if it adds value to the composition of the hymn. Marks will not be given on the number of instruments but based on their added value</p>	13%
Choir Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity of the words, precise timing within the team Clarity of the tone Harmony within the choir The use of vocal lines in the choir Keeping to tempo Choir’s participation and focus 	50%
Solo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The voice timbre Clarity of the words Keeping to tempo Presence on the stage and confidence Suitability of the voice timbre to the hymn 	14%
General presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir presentation; a unified uniform, simplicity of the choir visual appearance Pamphlets can be used by the choir if not distracting (applicable for Stage performances) 	Recommended
Deductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping to time 	Duration time of presentation 1-5min 1.1% 5-10min 2.2% 10min+ 3.3%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late arrival notice (applicable for stage performances) 	Delay 1-5min 1.1% 5-10min 2.2% 10min+ 3.3%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sending relevant videos on time (applicable for video performances) 	Delay 1-2 days 1.1% 2-5 days 2.2% 5 days+ 3.3%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavior 	3.3%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guideline deviation 	3.3%

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Vocal / instrumental Scoring Criteria

- ❖ The main Motto of the summer festival is NOT REQUIRED to be presented prior your performance.
- ❖ Your performance should not exceed assigned preparation/performance time. Please refer to competition format
- ❖ While submission of lyrics for vocal performances are NOT required, participants should ensure the chosen lyrics comply with our Coptic Orthodox Faith.
- ❖ Audio tracks can accompany vocal performance, but the track will not be evaluated; only the vocal. So please make the track simple to just provide guidance and not to cover-up the soloist.
- ❖ Audio tracks **cannot** accompany instrumental performances.

Ensemble Scoring Criteria

A team of 4 to 9 members with mixed instrumental lines (may include vocal Lines) to perform together for up to 7 minutes stage time with 3 minutes stage preparation.

- ❖ Minimum 3 texture line should be presented.
- ❖ If vocal lines are included, vocal performers should be 4 or less. The lyrics must be submitted for approval by due date outlined in main guidelines.
- ❖ Key technical points each team should take into consideration:
 - Musical Structure
 - Melody: pitch, duration, tempo ...
 - Harmony: chord, progression, consonance/dissonance, key, tonality/ atonality
 - Music Dynamics
 - Instruments' Timbre match
 - Texture/musical lines

Performances should align with the Coptic Orthodox faith. **Strictly no songs, movie or series trailer music will be accepted and will lead to disqualification of the performance. Classic music masterpieces are exceptional.**

Interstate Performances

- ❖ All participants must be seen within camera shooting width including team conductor, live musicians and other servants involved. If any member participating in the performance is not seen in the video, the relevant scoring will not be considered. Example, if the live musicians are not in the video, they will not be scored as per criteria.
- ❖ The setting up of a stage-like area with either the church alter or just white background is mandatory for all performances.
- ❖ The church must submit one video with the full performance for each of the age groups participating. Please ensure the video is labelled with the name of the church and the age group. **A video per each hymn is not accepted.**
- ❖ For fair judgment of your performance, please use stage equipment setup not media-controlled setup. The ability to add effects or edit recorded audio in any way is not acceptable.
- ❖ Committee members are happy to provide help over the phone if needed. Kindly advise your recording date one week in advance, so the SF Choir Subcommittee can make themselves available to help with setup for your recording.
- ❖ The performance should be filmed solely for the summer festival. No previous recorded performance from church/team's library would be accepted.

Please refer to **General video recommendations for video-recorded performances** section for further recommendation

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General video recommendations for video recorded performances.

- ❖ For sound clarity, it is highly recommended to capture the audio via an audio system and inserted to camera audio input. Not directly using smart phone microphones
- ❖ Choose a quiet time and place to record as background noise will be heard in the background and will reduce the sound quality of the video.
- ❖ Try to choose a location with no tiles, marble or laminated wooden floors as this will cause echoing in the sound of the video. Carpet flooring is highly recommended.
- ❖ Choir members **should not** move while shooting the video Trying to keep same distance away from audio input device throughout the whole recording.
- ❖ The recorded video must be sent as raw recording, without any video or audio editing.

Performance Day important instructions

- ❖ The SF Choir Subcommittee ask that you kindly make yourself available on time - recommended to arrive 30mins prior your first performance.
- ❖ Kindly be Punctual. Come on time, prepare on time, perform on time, and leave stage on time. Every minute delayed means deduction of your score.
- ❖ There will not be a chance to access the venue for final rehearsals on stage. In addition, audio systems will not be available except on performance days. Please send us your audio requirements - if any, so that the SF Choir Subcommittee can support it.
- ❖ On the performance day, you are all welcome to meet with the committee members within break time. However, the committee members should not be approached during or between performances.
- ❖ We are all servants, here to serve God's sons and daughters. So, be a role model. No aggression will be tolerated with any churches members or with the judging committee. Aggression may lead to score deduction or possible disqualification.
- ❖ Six pamphlets of the performance should be provided to the committee on the day (softcopy is enough for recorded performances). Pamphlets must have a cover page that includes church name, age group, responsible leader contact details, name of new lyrics author, name of music player/composer, and name of soloist of each hymn.

N.B, if any info you have previously missed to communicate to the committee (like new lyrics owner, songwriter, music composer, songs in order etc.) kindly include it in your pamphlets submitted on the day of performance.

- ❖ Once a performance is called in for preparation, timer will appear on a side screen to let you know how much time left for you to get started.
- ❖ A side screen will be available for power point presentation, in case needed.
- ❖ A deduction of points WILL occur if anything happens by one of your team members that may lead to any disturbance on the day. For example, noise or distraction while others are performing, aggression, not following instruction from servants, as well as late attendance or performance time/ preparation time exceeded etc.
- ❖ Choir performances will be on live streaming on Facebook Summer Festival page as well as on YouTube. Please let us know if you have any concerns.

R

Anthem 2023/2024

E

(By the grace of God we grow
And give fruits a hundredfold
And His Spirit dwells within us
Gives us joy as the Bible told) **x 2**

J

(Rejoice in your faith and church
Handed down to us by God
Be firm in prayers and doctrine
And build your life on His word) **x 2**

O

(Our Lord wants us faithful
Glorified and joyful) **x2**
Always joyful

I

For He has redeemed us on the cross
And gave us eternal life
When you're a temple for His dwelling
Sadness will not be a choice

C

Praise and thank God every day and you...
And you will surely rejoice!

E

Contact us on:

Website: www.sfmelb.org.au

Email: info@sfmelb.org.au

Facebook: SummerFestivalMelbourne