



Summer Festival | 2021 / 2022



Christ Lives in Me

Choir Guidelines

“ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you ? ” (1 Corinthians 3:16)



COPTIC ORTHODOX  
DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

# “Christ Lives in Me”

## Choir Festival

If stage performance to go ahead, venue will be confirmed at later stage.

Official Performance

**March 2022**

Advanced performances recording submissions

**End of March / 1<sup>st</sup> Week April 2022**

(Exact dates will be confirmed at later stage)

### Deadlines

Registration Open	01 - Nov - 2021
Choir registration closed	15 - Nov - 2021
Vocal / instrumental / ensemble Registration Closed	22 - Nov - 2021
Registration approval by church coordinator	24 - Nov - 2021
Fees Payment	30 - Nov- 2021*
Submission of hymns & new lyrics	12 - Dec - 2021
Committee to acknowledge or request lyrics amendment	19 - Dec - 2021
Final Lyrics revision and approval on hymns	02 - Jan - 2022

Submission of choir presentations (in case of **recorded** performances) 2 weeks prior performance date

\*Payment is required to secure church registration. Fail to pay on time may lead to the cancellation of the submitted registration with no further notice.

### 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 team per age group from each church (depends on restrictions, same church with same age group may split into 2 teams to accommodate max number of children. please refer to Competition Format)

There are no limits for individual performances participation, everyone is welcome. However, the committee advocates participants who have genuine interest.

### Fee Payments

Please refer to summer festival main website for detailed information on registration fees and payments.

The fees must be paid to SF Bank Account by 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2021 to secure your registration.

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

**BSB:** 063-159

**ACC:** 10729454

# “Christ Lives in Me”

## Choir Committee Contacts

Please make sure to send all inquiries and questions on the following email and the committee members will get back to you as soon as possible

Email: [sfmebchoir@gmail.com](mailto:sfmebchoir@gmail.com)

## Competition Format

- There are four categories of performances that each church can participate in:
  - Choir Groups
  - Individual vocal performances (Normal Level , Advanced Level\*)  
Only one person to perform to show his/her talent.
  - Instrumental performances (Normal Level , Advanced Level\*)  
Up to three instrument performers can perform together to show their talents
  - 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 appreciation award.

Due to uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, we have introduced different format options for the Competition based on the restrictions at the time.

### ❖ Option-1:

- In the circumstance where there are restrictions on gatherings, and no possibility of choir to practice or to perform as a group, the choir participants will need to record a selected hymn, each on their own at home. Scoring of the choir will be based on the average of all the choir team members
- Each choir member will record a video singing the motto and one Verse of a pre-selected Hymn within 3 mins time.

### ❖ Option-2 :

- In the event where NO live stage performance can go ahead.
- Choir teams have the chance to meet and record a video of their performance. Stage like area has to be setup – please refer to 'General video recommendations for video recorded performances' section.
- Choir groups with a larger number of participants than the allowed to gather at time on restrictions may choose to split into 2 teams (in that case, no choir member is allowed to participate in both teams of same age group)
- In case of splitting teams, scoring will be based on the average. Same music can be used in both performances.
- It is accepted, but not recommended, to have the same vocal soloist between the two teams, if no other member can fill same purpose.
- Committee expects to see SAME Performance done by both teams. Not a different one for each team.

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## ❖ Option-3:

- In the event where live stage performance may go ahead. Audience attendance will depend on restrictions at the time of the performance.
- Limitations on number of members per choir might be required, pending the restrictions at the time.
- Choir groups with larger number of participants than allowed at the time of restrictions will have to record a video instead of attending stage performance OR split into 2 teams (in that case, no choir member is allowed to participate in both teams of same age group).
- In case of splitting teams, scoring will be based on the average. Same music can be used in both performances. It is accepted, but not recommended, to have the same vocal soloist between the two teams, if no other member can fill same purpose.
- Committee expects to see SAME Performance done by both teams. Not a different one for each team

## Important Notes:

- ❖ Choirs groups should not be less than 5 members
- ❖ Summer Festival Committee on behalf of the Coptic orthodox Diocese of Melbourne does not take responsibility for teams or participants that does not follow their local governmental instructions in relation of COVID-19 restrictions. It is solely subject to teams’ Admins and leaders to insure the safe practice for all participants. Please choose the right option that suits your team circumstances in light of the local relevant restrictions
- ❖ **Penalties** or possible **disqualification** may occur if rules of your local Government have not been met

**The choir group performance timing will be as following:**

	Option-1	Option-2	Option-3
<b>setup and stage preparation</b>	NA	NA	10mins for stage performing choirs 2mins for Individual & Instrumental 3mins for Ensemble performance
<b>Performance time</b>	3 mins/choir member	10mis-15mins for Angels’ Choirs, 15mins-20mins for all choirs	
<b>Vocal &amp; Instrumental performances</b>	3 mins (max)		
<b>Ensemble performance</b>	7 mins (max)		

\*If you exceed the times above, then a deduction of **1% of the total mark** per each extra minute will be applied

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

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## General Instructions

1. Each church must provide the committee with Contact details of one contact person/leader responsible for the co-ordination of tasks between the committee and the church and any other questions. and up to 4 age coordinators - to help with registrations and online submission (**Angel coordinator , Primary coordinator, Secondary coordinator, Adult and Youth coordinator**).  
**Committee will not be coordinating with multiple leaders.**
2. Instructions on how to submit Lyrics and Hymns will be provided on the summer festival main website. Submission should adhere to mentioned deadlines.
3. Approved languages for choir festival are only **English, Arabic, Coptic and Fijian.**

The committee is encouraging the production of new hymns written and composed by our talented people. All lyrics submission **MUST** be reviewed, approved and SIGNED by the church priest with the priest contact details to be provided to the committee

### 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.*

If there is a feedback by the committee, the responsible leader will be contacted to amend the lyrics and hymns and it needs to be sent back by the deadline mentioned

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

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## **Interstate Performances**

- ❖ Interstate performances will be allocated time to present their recorded performance to the committee and the general audience through live stream on YouTube. The performances will not be played on stage due to limited stage time availability. The audio and video quality must be clear. The committee will preview the recorded performance and if the quality is not clear enough, then the performance will be assessed in a closed room and not be live streamed.
- ❖ 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 for that individual will not be considered. Example, if the live musicians are not in the video, they will not be scored as per criteria.
- ❖ A setup of a stage-like area with either, the church alters 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. 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 we make ourselves available to help with setup for your recording. We will not listen to your performance we will not give hints on your performance. We can only help producing good quality video.
- ❖ 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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## 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.

	Option-1	Option-2	Option-3
<b>Lyrics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chosen hymn should be related to the festival theme</li> <li>*<b>Bonus:</b> New hymns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flow of hymns in building a storyline in the performance</li> <li>• The hymns related to the festival theme</li> <li>*<b>Bonus:</b> New hymns</li> </ul>	
<b>Melody</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melody suitability for words and Age group</li> <li>*Copyright; the use of known music pieces in hymns is not acceptable</li> </ul>	
<b>Music Composition</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suitability to deliver the meaning of the hymn, melody and integration of the music instruments</li> <li>*<b>Bonus:</b> 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</li> </ul>	
<b>Performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity of the words</li> <li>• start and stop timing</li> <li>• Clarity of the tone</li> <li>• The type of voice</li> <li>• Keeping to tempo</li> <li>• Presence/confidence</li> <li>• members’ focus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity of the words, clear start and stop timing within the team</li> <li>• Clarity of the tone</li> <li>• Harmony within the choir</li> <li>• The use of vocal lines in the choir</li> <li>• Keeping to tempo</li> <li>• Choir’s participation and focus</li> </ul>	
<b>Solo</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The voice timbre</li> <li>• Clarity of the words</li> <li>• Keeping to tempo</li> <li>• Presence on the stage and confidence</li> <li>• Suitability of the voice timbre to the hymn</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choir presentation; a unified uniform, simplicity of the choir visual appearance</li> <li>• Keeping to time</li> <li>• Pamphlets can be used by the choir if not distracting (applicable for Stage performances)</li> <li>• Late arrival notice (applicable for Stage performances )</li> <li>• Sending relevant videos on time (applicable for video performances)</li> </ul>		



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## **Vocal / Instrumental Scoring Criteria**

- ❖ The main Motto of the summer festival should NOT 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 insure 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 **shall not** accompany Instrumental performances.
- ❖ As further clarification, Vocal individuals cannot be a duet. Only one person per performance. Instrumental performance can team up to max of three instruments.
- ❖ Hymn chosen for performance needs to be within Orthodox faith.

## **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

## **General video recommendations for video recorded performances**

- ❖ For sound clarity, it is highly recommended to have the audio input through microphones or audio system and inserted to camera audio input.
- ❖ 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 should be filmed solely for the summer festival. No previous recorded performance from church/team's library will be accepted

For further information, please refer to **Interstate Performance** guidelines.



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## **Performance Day important instructions**

- ❖ We 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 we 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 on the day submitted pamphlets.


- ❖ 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 projector will be available for power point presentation, in case needed.
- ❖ Deduction WILL happen 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

# “Christ Lives in Me”

A series of horizontal dotted lines for handwriting practice, spanning the width of the page.

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A series of horizontal dotted lines for handwriting practice, spanning the width of the page.

The background features a vibrant blue sky with a faint world map. Three white doves are depicted in flight, their wings spread wide. The scene is filled with soft, glowing light rays and numerous white feathers falling from the top, creating a serene and ethereal atmosphere.

*“ Do you not know that  
you are the temple of God and  
that the Spirit of God  
dwells in you ? ”*

*(1 Corinthians 3:16)*

**Contact us on:**

**Website:** [www.sfmelb.org.au](http://www.sfmelb.org.au)

**Email:** [info@sfmelb.org.au](mailto:info@sfmelb.org.au)

**Facebook:** [SummerFestivalMelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/SummerFestivalMelbourne)