



Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival



Teacher Information Booklet

2023 Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival

Celebrating 66 years

Festival dates:

Tuesday 1 August

Wednesday 2 August

Thursday 3 August

Monday 7 August

Tuesday 8 August

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[Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival Facebook](#)

[Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival website page](#)

WELCOME

In 2023, the Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival will celebrate their 66th Choral Festival. These celebrations will take place at the Wollongong Town Hall from Tuesday 1 August to Tuesday 8 August. Please note that the first three performances fall in Education Week 2023.

Students from Years 3 - 6 are invited to participate as part of the massed choir in this wonderful event. Participating schools will be required to perform ten songs as part of the massed choir and may perform an individual school item/s with a maximum of 6 minutes, on their performance night. We would love for as many schools as possible to join us in 2023!

This booklet is designed to assist you with each stage of the preparation for the festival and production of your item. If you have any questions that are not addressed in the booklet please contact Lynda Murphy on LYNDA.F.MURPHY@det.nsw.edu.au

Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival 2023 COVID Information

Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival is committed to offering a COVID safe event in 2023. Our goal is to deliver an event that celebrates the development of choral programs in our public schools whilst giving students the opportunity to perform. Our aim is to ensure our students have access to the performing arts and the well-being benefits associated with this long running event.

The Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival works in conjunction with the Department of Education to ensure that the operation of this program is contingent on advice provided by the NSW Department of Education in consultation with NSW Health. All activities will adhere to the DoE COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

COVID-19 Restrictions

Any plan is dependent on COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines set by the [Department of Education](#) and NSW Health.

Please take time to read this booklet carefully to ensure you have a clear understanding of the requirements and the organisation of the festival. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the smooth running of this festival and look forward to working with you to showcase choral singing in your school.

AIMS OF THE FESTIVAL

The Festival aims to showcase the outcomes of music education in the Wollongong area and to encourage excellence in these programs by:

- 1.2.1 encouraging the development and teaching of choral programs at a school level
- 1.2.2 providing an opportunity for the school and wider community to recognise choral singing as an art form
- 1.2.3 providing a positive and memorable choral experience for both teachers and students at the Wollongong Town Hall

Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival consists of 5 shows which begin on Tuesday 1 August and concludes on Tuesday 8 August, 2023

Performances are at the Wollongong Town Hall (Crown St and Kembla St, Wollongong, NSW 2500) on Tuesday 1 August, Wednesday 2 August, Thursday 3 August, Monday 7 August and Tuesday 8 August. Schools will be required to nominate their preferences for their performance night and cluster rehearsal and the Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival committee will do its utmost to accommodate each schools' needs. The organisation of each night is determined by numbers and a balance of schools and individual items.

TIMELINE OF DATES

In 2023 **ALL** forms are to be submitted online. Please click on the hyperlinks in the table below to complete the relevant forms.

- You are required to complete all forms by the due dates as indicated.
- You will need to complete a new registration for each choir (for those with a Junior and Senior Choir)

Time	Date	Event	Action
Term 1 Wk 3	Wednesday 15th Feb	Form 1: School Nomination	Online form
Term 1 Wk 9	Wednesday 29 March	Form 2: Cluster Rehearsal Nomination	Online form
Term 2 Wk 1		\$10 per student Interschool Journal Debit Student Participation & Publicity Consent Due	Interschool Journal Debit
Term 2 Wk 3	Friday 12 May	Shared Google Drive: Upload 6-8 School Photos	Google Drive
Term 2 Wk 5	Friday 26 May	Form 3: Individual Item Choices Upload lyrics of Individual Items	Online form Google Drive
Term 2 Wk 8 and 9	TBA	Cluster Rehearsals at Nominated Schools	Attend Rehearsal
Term 2 Wk 9	Friday 23 June	Shared Google Drive: Individual Item: Music Submission Form 4: Official Compere Script and Student Compere	Google Drive Online Form
Term 3 Wk 3 and 4	TBA	Day rehearsal and Night Performance at Wollongong Town Hall	Attend Day Rehearsal and Night Performance

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE 2023

The 2023 Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival Committee consists of:

Committee Member	Role	Committee Member	Role
Tim Fisher	President	Lynda Murphy	Musical Director
Susie Hamers	Musical Director	Valerie Burton	Technical Director
John Thompson	Treasurer	Sonia Milgate	Secretary

PRE-FESTIVAL ORGANISATION

1.1 Student Participation Fee:

All schools will be charged a non-refundable **participation fee of \$10 per student** to cover costs associated with the props and participation ribbon for Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival. Schools will be required to indicate on their acceptance form the number of students in their item and schools will be debited through an Interschool Journal at the beginning of term 2. Please ensure you have confirmed your choir numbers and received their \$10 payment **by Thursday 6th April**. All numbers will need to be in by this date for organisation purposes and to allow for a long lead time for the purchase of props due to distribution issues.

1.2 Conductors Meetings:

There will be two meetings scheduled in 2023 at dates to be announced. These will be held at Corrimal East Public School Hall from 1.30pm to approx 3.30pm.

1.3 Music:

The 2023 repertoire may be downloaded from the [2023 Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival Google Drive](#) and contains 10 songs in both unison and 2 part harmony. Please ensure that your choir is split evenly with strong singers in both parts. We encourage you to download the music and familiarise yourself with the music before attending the first choral festival meeting.

The songs for the 66th Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival in 2023 are (in no particular order):

1. I'm Still Standing
2. I Have a Voice
3. Sues Medley
4. That's My Team
5. Radio Gaga
6. Simple Melody
7. Firefly
8. Dare to Dream
9. Coming Home
10. Start the Engine

1.4 Individual Item Accompaniment or Backing Tracks:

If you are using an accompanist (pianist) for your item, please indicate this on [Form 1: Nomination](#). If you would like a pianist to accompany your item but don't have access to one, please email Lynda Murphy at LYNDA.F.MURHPHY@det.nsw.edu.au by the end of term 1, and she may also be able to organise a backing track for you to practise with and play your item on your performance night.

If you are using a backing track/s please upload it to the [2023 Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival Google Drive](#) by **Friday 23 June 2023**.

- Locate your choir's folder within the '2023 Music'
- Drag and drop a copy of your music out of the playlist into this folder
- It must only be saved as a mp3 file or wav file

1.5 Student Participation & Publicity Consent Deed and Participation & Publicity Consent Form:

All of your students are required to complete the Student Participation and Publicity Consent Deed. Print this form (see appendix 1 at end of booklet) to distribute to students and **retain all at your school**.

1.6 Cluster Rehearsals and Performance Nights:

Schools may nominate a preferred date for their performance night and cluster day rehearsal and the Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival will do its utmost to accommodate your requests. The organisation of each night is determined by numbers and a balance of schools, ages and individual items. Please ensure that your choir has completed all unison and 2 part songs prior to the cluster rehearsal. If your students have not learnt a song by the cluster rehearsal date, it makes it extremely challenging for the massed conductor. Students should not bring their lyric booklets to the cluster rehearsal as this is far too distracting. The massed conductor will give them clues so they will not require their words.

1.7 Choir Part Allocation:

Please ensure that you have split your choir evenly into 1sts and 2nds so that all performances are balanced in terms of sound and seating. If your choir is less than 30 students, please email Lynda Murphy on LYNDA.F.MURPHY@det.nsw.edu.au as she *may* be able to allocate one part to your school. When rehearsing, please place your 1sts on the left hand side and your 2nds on the right hand side. This will become very important when your students perform their individual item on the individual item steps.

1.8 Individual Item Song Selection:

The time limit for Individual Items is approximately 6-7 minutes. This should be enough for two songs unless a medley is selected. Given that there are 4-5 schools performing per night, there may be more than one school that nominates a particular individual item. Therefore, the school who nominates an individual item first will have preference. All individual item choices are subject to approval depending on the number of schools choosing the same items, and the content and context of the lyrics for the chosen songs. You will receive notification from the Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival committee once your songs have been approved.

A reminder to please remember that all songs need to reflect the fact that we have primary aged students so all lyrics and contexts should be appropriate. Please upload a copy of your lyrics into your schools' folder on the [Shared Google Drive](#) so that they can be checked. If you are doing a medley, please include all lyrics. If you intend to change any lyrics that you think are inappropriate, please include them on the lyrics sheet that you send. Please fill in [Form 3: Individual Item Nomination](#) as soon as your decision has been made and you have sought approval from your Principal.

1.9 Opportunities for Soloists

There will be opportunities for soloists in some massed items. The solo sections will be made available in the 2023 Music section of the [Shared Google Drive](#) so that interested students can practice. Choir teachers will be required to audition students at your school before the cluster rehearsal. Due to time constraints, only two students from each school can audition for each song (you may have different students for the different songs if you wish).

1.10 School Photos

Every school will be required to supply 6-8 photos which will be used while students are walking from their seat to the individual item steps. These photos can be of your school participating in a range of activities. Please upload them onto the [Shared Google Drive](#) in jpg format only. If you have any further questions, please email Val Burton on valerie.burton@det.nsw.edu.au

1.11 Official Compere Script and Student Compere

Please compose your Official Compere Script and select your student compere and fill in [Form 4: Official Compere Script and Child Compere Information](#) by Friday 23 June. Further information can be found in the form link.

Official Compere Script about your school: This will be used while your individual choir is making its way to the individual item steps. This does not have to be specifically about your choir, it can be about your school, its location, any programs you have at your school etc. **Some** or all of this information will be used depending on how long it takes for your choir to get into their position.

Child Compere: You will be required to choose a child compere to introduce your individual items. Please ensure that you do not repeat any information that has already been said by the official compere. This should be brief and succinct as your choir will be standing on stage, eager to sing.

Please select your child compere from your choir members and have them learn their script. Bring it to the Town Hall morning rehearsal so your child compere can have a chance to rehearse it on stage. You are not required to send this script to the committee.

1.12 Tickets

Tickets for all Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival performances will be available (at a date TBA) through the IPAC Box Office (Ph. 02 4226 3366) or through their website. <https://merrigong.com.au/your-visit/ticket-and-general-info>

Appendix 1

Please complete and return to your teacher by Friday 23 June 2023. This form is to be held at the school by the coordinating teacher.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION & PUBLICITY CONSENT DEED

STUDENT NAME:	
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Please tick the appropriate boxes below -

PARTICIPATION (required)

I give permission for my child, as named above, to participate in the 2023 Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival and understand that NSW Department of Education guidelines and behaviour policies must be followed at all times.

PUBLICITY CONSENT

We are seeking your permission to allow Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival, The Department of Education to publish photographs, sound and visual recordings of your child's participation in Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival.

The communications in which your child may be published or disclosed include but are not limited to:

- Public websites of the Department of Education including the Arts Unit website, the school website, the Department of Education intranet (staff only), blogs and wikis
- Department of Education publications including the school newsletter, Arts Unit promotional material published in print and electronically, including on the Department's websites
- Official Department and Arts Unit social media accounts on networks such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter
- Local and metropolitan newspapers and magazines and other media outlets

Parents should be aware that when information is published on public websites and social media channels, it can be discoverable online for a number of years, if not permanently. Search engines may also cache or retain copies of published information. Published information can also be linked to by third parties.

I give permission to Wollongong Schools' Choral Festival and The NSW Department of Education to publish information (as described above) about my child, including in publicly accessible communications.

I do **NOT** give permission for information (as described above) about my child to be published.

Parent/carer/caregiver's name:

Parent/carer/caregiver signature:

Date: