

Secret Chorus Business

Integrity – Commitment - Fun
Dare to be Different

REHEARSAL THIS WEEK

Looking forward to catching up with you all on Zoom at our rehearsal this week.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8345956112>

Meeting ID: **834 595 6112**

Rehearsal Plan:

The meeting will open around 7.15pm tomorrow night

Themes this month will be:

Date	Theme
Sep 9	Meme theme – make your own meme sign or use a background
Sep 16	In recognition of International Talk Like a Pirate day (19 th September) come in your best pirate attire!!
Sep 23	Come along in blue to celebrate the Bluebird of Happiness Day
Sep 30	Today is “Ask a Stupid Question Day” – come along prepared with your best stupid question and see what answers you get...

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Pippa Anderson September 10
Kaye Kendall September 24

Judith Bourne September 24
Susan Kelly September 28
Liz Perry-Windhorst October 4



STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our latest
star

Emma Edwards

Noticed one of our CKC members doing something fabulous lately? Why not recognize them with a nomination for the Star of the Week?

To nominate a member: Please email Jen Senior (jasenior@hotmail.com) with the member's name and short description as to why you would like to nominate them.



Superstar!

CHORUS PAYMENTS



Please note that there is no option for cash payments available at this time and we ask you to use EFT for your payments to chorus. Please contact Sue Gray if you need further details, or if you have an issue that prevents you from paying using EFT.

CKC Bank Account Details for online payments:

Westpac Bank

BSB 032170

Account Number: 273702

Account Name: Circular Keys Chorus Incorporated

LATEST VIRTUAL PROJECT

We received a grant from WayAhead Mental Health Association NSW (Thanks Pippa ★) in support of Mental Health Month in October. As part of receiving this grant we are holding a 6 week workshop inviting people to join us for a virtual project using "The Secret of Christmas".

The event is free and registration spaces are limited. It will be released out on our facebook page mid week and you are welcome to share with friends. This will be run as a special rehearsal each Wednesday focusing on this song from 7.30-8.30pm via a different Zoom link which will be sent out for everyone to attend.

Our standard rehearsal will then be held after via the link we use each week.

We all know the mental health benefits of singing and also singing as part of a group, even a virtual one, so this is our opportunity to give others the opportunity to experience this as well.



Do you Love to sing?

Are you Looking to connect with others?

Do you Love a challenge?

Then TUNE IN and join Circular Keys Chorus' next virtual chorus project.

As part of Mental Health Month in October we are inviting you to join us virtually for six weeks to learn, laugh, and sing together. We sing in four parts, so if you sing high, if you sing low or if you sing in between, there's a place just for you.

Neuroscience proves singing makes us happier, healthier, smarter and more creative.

Singing is also a great way to make friends and find a community to belong to.



For more information & to register visit
www.circularkeys.org



REDUCED CHORUS FEES CHANGING IN NOVEMBER

As you may remember, your management team offered you an option to reduce your CKC fees during May, June and July 2020. At our management team in July, we decided to continue offering this option for the next 3 months (August, September and October 2020) unless we return to rehearsals at St Josephs.

At our last management team meeting, we discussed our ability to continue to offer reduced fees without further damaging CKC's financial situation.

As a result, from November, we will be returning to regular fees for all members whose circumstances have not been affected by COVID. So, if you have not had a loss of income because of the pandemic, we are asking you to revert to paying full membership fees from November. We will continue to offer the reduced fee option for any member who has lost their job and remain unemployed due to COVID.

A couple of important things to note:

1. Should the amount in your Escrow Account not be enough to cover your SAI/SAA membership fees when they fall due, you will be invoiced for the shortfall amount.
2. Normal fees will apply for all members once we begin rehearsing at St Josephs.

Fee structure from November 2020

CKC Normal Fees	Full Members	Youth members	Associate members
TOTAL fees due per month	\$50	\$25	\$15

CKC reduced Fee options	Full Members	Youth members	Associate members
TOTAL reduced fees due per month	\$15	\$7.50	\$15

We will continue to review this going forward may revert to normal fees based on the state of things.

The management team would like to thank the members who have continued to pay full fees. We appreciate your continued support as your fees help cover the continued costs of running the chorus.

MEMBER PROFILE –ARPY ISKIKIAN

I am Arpy Iskikian with a weirdly written middle name, Suzan. I sing Lead and I joined CKC in July 2019.



Brief personal history

I was born in Lebanon into an Armenian family with grandparents who were survivors of a Genocide that happened in 1915. This would explain the cultural backgrounds I relate to. For Armenians who had suffered many losses, maintaining identity was of great importance. Therefore, it followed as a matter of course for me to attend Armenian Schools established in Lebanon as early as the 1920s. This gave me the privilege of learning in three different languages, English, Arabic, Armenian with an exposure to French and Turkish. My 16-year-old sister looked after our family when my mother lost her battle with cancer three weeks before my eighth birthday.

I spent a big part of my growing years in shelters due to the Lebanese civil war. While explosions and rubble were part of a normal day, humour was always my best friend and the duets my father and I enjoyed singing had their healing powers. I studied Education and Psychology in Yerevan, Armenia and returned to Lebanon to start my teaching career, which I pursued for thirteen years before my migration to Australia on 11th September 2004. While many people took me for a fool for venturing forth on a date as 11/9 or 9/11, it turned out to be the most worth-celebrating date of my life. I fell in love with Australia the moment I set foot on it. The words “respect” and “kindness” were a match to their definitions. Receiving Australian citizenship in May 2006 gave me an incomparable sense of pride. I remember my first driving lesson with an instructor who kept asking if I was sure I had ever driven a car. I opened the passenger’s door to sit behind the steering wheel; I turned on the wipers when she said, “indicate right”.

In March 2005, I started teaching Armenian at Galstaun College, a community school in the Northern Beaches that my children attended. I am grateful that I had many professional development opportunities and was given the role of the Head of Department early this year, and this reinforced my wishful thinking for eight days a week.

Brief music history

My love for music was nurtured by my father, who put me to bed with his beautiful falsetto. I started singing in the school choir in Year 2 and enjoyed the two-part harmonies throughout my Primary school years. In my early twenties, for six years, I took part in a choir by the name ‘Youth for Christ’, a part of an international organisation. I do not consider myself a musically educated person in the conventional sense. Reading notes was like looking at crawling ants when I started taking piano lessons at the age of 15. It took a good year and a half for my piano teacher to realise that my eyes just followed the ups and the downs of the notes while my fingers played the tune by ear. In 2009, I joined a small choir by the name Melange Vocal which was conducted by my daughter’s vocal tutor in Hornsby. When the choir discontinued, I joined the ‘Rock and Soul’ choir for a very short period, but it felt like something was missing. I still hadn’t found what I was looking for until the day Jen Senior invited me to St. Joseph’s for an observation, in response to my letter.

How did you find out about CKC?

On Saturday, 18th May 2019, near the Hornsby Westfield fountains, I was mesmerised by the Barbershop performance of a man's choir singing a Paul McCartney song. I approached their conductor and asked whether I could join them disguised as a man. He did not deny the possibility but was kind enough to name a few female choirs. I cannot forget that moment when I watched the CKC on YouTube singing the funny song that "advertised" Australia. I never knew that soon I was going to be able to name each of those beautiful ladies in the melon-coloured shirts. I wrote emails to two choirs. Both responded, but by some lucky coincidence, the response from one choir escaped my attention.

Chorus Roles you've had over the years

I did not put my name down for any roles, as I am still in my baby steps on the risers of CKC.

Favourite Song (from repertoire)

My favourite song is "It Is Well". It brings back many childhood memories. I also love the lyrics of "I am Woman". Who wouldn't?

Some funny moments

- when Cy Wood told us that there was too much airing of armpits in our movements during singing
- on the night of this year's retreat, when Marea lifted her top to expose her crocheted bra
- during the "Guess the Celebrity" game when I kept talking to Courtney in Kermit the frog's and Miss Piggy's voices and she did not realise what I was insinuating

Best time/worst time/embarrassing time (either/or)

I was dealing with very difficult situations in my family. After our CKC Garage sale, I went to Lorraine's place to bring back my coat hanger racks. No matter what I did, I could not get the stupid racks into my car trunk. That moment was the straw that broke the camel's back. I broke down and started to cry. I called Lorraine to explain the situation, as I knew she needed to clear the space in her garage. She came out and took me in. She poured me a glass of wine and comforted me with her sweet, reassuring words. I can never thank her enough for her generous care on that day.

What CKC/Sweet Adelines has done for you.

CKC has made me realise what I'd been missing for more than a decade. Singing Lead has been a new challenge that I have enjoyed tremendously. Learning tongue-twisting lyrics in a second language will certainly prevent Alzheimer's. I cannot forget my second day of attendance, when Liz Perry told me to go on the risers to sing "Almost Like Being in Love". The encouraging words I received from everyone made me realise that genuine people exist in the world. Rachael's thorough feedback on how I should improve my vowels followed by her "Pass" for every song I emailed her, gave me goose bumps. The hugs and hellos I'm greeted with by all the members are more energising than a "V" drink. The way Vicki caters for different styles of learning helps me achieve at my own pace. The looks and smiles that we exchange

while we sing together is better than a tax return and like a thousand dollars saved on therapy.

How are you planning to use this 'off' time?

I did not have an 'off' time. I taught behind a screen for five weeks and then headed back to school for full-time, face-to-face teaching. It's been a test for my levels of paranoia.

Your message to the chorus

My message to the choir would be about something I always struggle with. Let's be kind to ourselves. We have a right to feel overwhelmed. In the Covid situation, away from the risers, we can only do our best. If our best is not up to a standard, let's forgive ourselves. Let's turn off the headless-chook mode and focus on staying healthy. I hope that these tough times will soon pass, and masks, gloves, and disinfectants will be a thing of the past. After all, we all miss Cheryl's sandwiches and the produce of Ann's garden.