

Secret Chorus Business

2 November 2022

THIS WEEKS REHEARSAL

This week's rehearsal will be in the Pacifica Room.

- Arrival: 6.30pm onwards
- Rehearsal starting at 7.30pm
- Departure: 10.30pm 11.00 pm

This week's rehearsal will also be shared on our private Facebook page Circular Keys Chorus – On- Key via Facebook live for those who are unable to make rehearsal or prefer not to attend in person.

Unfortunately there will be no zoom meeting for this week's rehearsal.

Please Note:

- 1. On arrival at St Josephs, sign in as usual at the front desk
- 2. Please think of your chorus sisters and keeping them safe. We ask that you do not attend in person if:
 - a. You have tested positive for Covid within the last week
 - b. You are a close contact of someone with Covid
 - c. You are not well or have any symptoms, even if you have tested negative for Covid
- 3. If you are a casual contact with a covid case, should you attend rehearsal, we ask that you wear a mask

Integrity 🖈 Commitment 🖈 Fun Dare to be Different



Rehearsal Songs

- Do You Want to Build A Snowman medley
- Text Me Merry Christmas
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Up On The Housetop
- All I Want For Christmas Is
 You
- It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas
- Here Comes Santa Clause
- Various themes of "Fa-La-La"
- Jingle Bells

Christmas Songs for 2022

Get those risers recorded if you want to perform

The list of Christmas songs for 2022 is:

- All I Want for Christmas is You
- Christmas Chopstix
- Do You Hear What I Hear
- Do You Want to Build A Snowman medley
- Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
- Here Comes Santa Claus
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Santa Baby
- Santa Claus Is Coming to Town
- Text Me Merry Christmas
- The Little Drummer Boy
- Up On the Housetop
- Various Themes Of "Fa-La-La"
- We Need A Little Christmas

We have 2 Christmas sing outs booked at this stage:

- Thursday 24th November Blacktown Christmas Performance 5pm -7pm
- Saturday 3rd December Kenthurst Christmas Carols 6pm -9pm

Please check the website and mark your attendance for these events. If you plan to join in the performances, you will need to have passed risers for the above songs. Check out your song status on the website and submit recordings for assessment for those that are not Approved.

For your convenience, you can download the Christmas Carols Book 2022 (Double sided print) containing these songs at: https://circularkeys.org/node/7705 You can print this double sided and bind it if you wish.



This week we have been contacted about performing as part of the City of Sydney's Choirs in the City. Jane has sent in a list of dates that suit us and fingers crossed we get some additional performances.



herry Christmas_

RISER RECORDINGS

Check out the new guides from our wonderful Music Team

On the website, under Chorus Documentation there is a new entry called: All about Risers and Recordings. This has all the information about recording and submitting risers.

Check them out: https://circularkeys.org/node/12093

Oh and they are also at the back of this SCB. 😊

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Are you getting a little excited yet?

We hope you've all put in your diaries for Wed 14th December for our CKC Christmas Party.

As mentioned last week - make sure you fill in the survey that was sent out (if you haven't already) by this Wed night, so we can be democratic in our decisions.

Put your thinking caps on if you have any spare Christmas decorating items that we can 'borrow' for the night. We'll be dressing the room prior to our dinner, and then will be busy little elves and take it all down before 10.30pm - being careful not to damage the space. Here's a list of items we're on the look out for:

- Indoor lights (we're thinking fairy lights white or colourful) that we can plug in, or put in batteries
- An easy 'pop up' Christmas tree (not too big)
- Large Christmas decorations that are easy to put up and fill the space

If you think you have any items that fit the brief (or other ones that could work well) that you could bring in by Wed 30 November then email Jessi (<u>j-fo75@hotmail.com</u>) prior so we can confirm that it is still on our wish list. Ideally, bring them in a bag or box with your name on it, so we can get them back to you easily.

We're looking forward to having a magical night with you all!

*

The Christmas Angels Social Committee

Jessi, Anne-Maree, Jen K, Dani





- Alison Anderson Nov
- Emma Edwards
- Anne Thompson
 - Cathy Horner
- Belinda Stewart
- November 05
- November 21
- November 23

 - November 24
 - November 27

Quartetting Why not just give it a go?

Are you interested in quartetting? Don't know where to start? Want to know what's involved? Want to try another part?



Circular Keys is starting a Quartet Program, so if you've ever wanted to try it, now is a great time.

How it will work:

- Register your interest by emailing Jenny Do Rozario and Rachael Moessis nominate your **first** and **second** preference for singing part (Bass, Bari, Lead, Tenor)
- Vicki and the Music Team will place volunteers in quartets based on voice matching (if you would like to sing with someone in particular, let us know)
- Each quartet will decide on a Christmas song from CKC repertoire which they can perform for the chorus at our Christmas Party in December
- Each quartet will give itself a name and meet and rehearse in their own time
- Resources will be provided to help you get started
- Members of the Music Team will be available to support quartets and individual singers along the way with tips on how to get started, vocal and performance skills, and rehearsal techniques (usually before or after chorus rehearsal, by arrangement)
- If you want to try another part to the one you sing in chorus, give it a go! We will need Tenors!

Quartetting is challenging and fun. It can also take your singing to the next level by building vocal and performance skills, understanding of interpretation and delivery ... and much more.

Go on, try it!

Quartet Program Team: Jenny D, Kaity and Rachael ©



CONVENTION PLANNING

Get ready to Rise Shine and Sing in Brisbane – 4-7 May 2023

Next year the Region 34 convention will be held in Brisbane at the magnificent Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre located in Southbank.

Competition is a central part of the Sweet Adelines International experience, not just so a proportion of members can win medals and be recognised for their achievements, but so that all ensembles have something to strive for. Performing at convention gives us something to work towards and is a hugely valuable opportunity for learning. We learn from watching each other's performances and also gain expert feedback from a highly trained panel of judges.

We, Circular Keys Chorus, are planning to compete on stage in Brisbane.

Contest Songs: I Wish You Love and Almost Like Being in Love

To compete on stage, you need to have been assessed as **Performance Ready** on both these songs. This means you have mastered the interpretation of the piece such as dynamics and vocal textures and also the visual communication aspect such as physical moves, facial expressions and commitment to the story. We will be working on these in the lead up to competition, and Vicki will let us now the deadline for achieving Performance Ready as we approach competition.

In the meantime, you need to decide if you will be coming to Brisbane to compete. This requires a personal commitment to attendance and learning, along with a financial commitment.

Expenses you will need to cover:

- Accommodation minimum 3 nights
 - o you must arrive by Thursday 4th May and stay until Sunday 7th May
 - o goggle search shows price range from \$166 \$464 per night for a double room
- Flights (or other transport to Brisbane) flights currently from \$154 to \$268 return according to google
- Food and spending money
- Contest Registration Fees budget estimate: AUD \$150 (Youth) AUD \$300 (Adult) there is usually an early bird reduced price

Accommodation is not being organised by Region this year, so you will need to book your ownyour management team is currently compiling a list of preferred accommodation as we would like everyone to stay close together. There are a number of options in Southbank which are close to the convention centre. Stay tuned for more details and start thinking about a room buddy, as a number of rooms have multiple beds and this can help offset some costs.



2023 Regional Convention

Brisbane Conv & Expo Centre, 4-7 May 2023

About **12** Wednesday rehearsals before we take the stage 😳

CONVENTION ACCOMMODATION

Thanks to Jane for the following research

I have been looking into accommodation for the Brisbane Convention in May. The following is a list of places that we suggest you book as they are with 5-10 minutes walk of the Convention Centre and each other:

CLLIX Group have a number of hotel apartments close to the convention centre, with a mixture of 1,2 and a few 3 bedroom apartments.

- Atlas Apartments 39 Cordelia Street
- Brisbane 1 Apartments 1 Cordelia Street
- Soda Apartments 27 Cordelia Street
- Arena Apartments 9 Edmonstone Street
- Ivy & Eve Apartments 22-28 Merivale Street
- Hope Street Apartments 19 Hope St

If you book with CLLIX directly we have been offered a 10% discount. Use code "CKCBris23" when booking http://www.cllix.com

You will also find them on Booking.com, Wotif and other accommodation sites, so shop around and make sure you're getting the best rate at the time of booking. A 2 bedroom apartment is approximately \$460 a night for 4 people, so hopefully you will find this affordable.

If you would prefer somewhere more budget friendly you might also consider:

- Somewhere to Stay Backpackers. 47 Brighton Road. Double room with ensuite is approx \$100/night on Booking.com. This is the furthest option from the Convention Centre, approx 15 mins walk, so you will need to take this into consideration.
- Morgan Suites, 14 Merivale Road. This is only 5 mins to Convention Centre and is approximately \$303/night for a 2 bed apartment on Booking.com

If you would think you would be happier in a hotel:

• The Novotel and Rydges are both close to the Convention Centre and CLLIX Apartments, but are potentially the most expensive option.



Post Convention Trip?

How about some R&R with chorus friends in Fiji? Sue Gray is planning to go to Fiji and is wondering if anyone else would like to go. Please see the information in last week's SCB and have a think about it.

CONVENTION ACCOMMODATION continued

Things to Consider

The cheapest rate is often the least flexible, so you might want to pay a little more for free cancellation should anything happen to stop your travel plans.

None of the above accommodations have guaranteed availability, so please start finding your room mates so you can get something organised. Feel free to reach out to the Management Team if you are finding it difficult to find someone to share with.

If you would prefer to book somewhere other than the options above, please make sure you're not on the other side of town so that we can still meet up easily. South Brisbane/Southbank is the area you need to be looking at.

Carol Lutz

Sue Gray Pippa Anderson

Candace Deller

Hope the above is helpful. Let me know if anything needs clarifying.

Cheers!

Jane

YOUR 2022 MANGAGEMENT TEAM

- Team Co-Ordinator
- Finance Manager
- Secretary
- Public Relations Co-Ordinator
- Performance Co-Ordinator
- Membership Chair

dinator Jane Masters Anne Thompson

Appointed members:

- Diane Jenkins
- Susan Kelly
- Marea Witt

It's important to remember our chorus etiquette. We need to work as a team and respect each other when rehearsing. Look out for the Riser etiquette signs at each rehearsal.



COMMITTEES HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE





To all our wonderful members who volunteered to help on the various committees. You rock!

SUGGESTION BOX

Submitting Suggestions

Have a suggestion you want to raise? Simple the suggestionbox@circularkeys.org

This email has been set up so that it is sent to me (Team Coordinator) only and as you can see in this screenshot, I do not know who sent the email unless you want to sign it.

All suggestions will be discussed by the management team and outcomes of the discussions will be included in SCB.

CHORUS PAYMENTS

Please be advised that EFT should be used 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.

Make sure you include your relevant information in the reference field so Sue knows who the payment is from and what it is for.



CKC Bank Account Details for online payments:

Westpac Bank:	BSB: 032170
Account Number:	273702
Account Name:	Circular Keys Chorus Incorporated

ABOUT THE STAR OF THE WEEK

Any member of the chorus can nominate someone who has gone above and beyond, who has personally helped you, who has made a special difference or contribution to the Chorus or who has tried extra hard.

There are many other positive attributes that can be recognized with this award.

To nominate a member, simply email Anne Thompson (<u>amthompson@live.com.au</u>) with the member's name and short description as to why you would like to nominate them.

If no nominations are received, the star will not be awarded.



Congratulations to

Jane Masters

our star of the week for her fabulous work in booking us for performances and searching out convention accommodation options

DIARY DATES

2022	
Friday 11 th November	Management Team Meeting – 7.30pm – Sue Gray's House
Thurs 24 th November	Blacktown Christmas Performance – 5pm -7pm
Wed 30 th November	November Shared Supper and Birthday night
Sat 3 rd December	Kenthurst Christmas Carols – 6pm -9pm
Wed 7 th December	Last rehearsal for 2022
Wed 14 th December	CKC Christmas Party
2023	
Wed 1 st February	First rehearsal 2023
Wed 8 th March	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE for competing members
Wed 15 th March	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE for competing members
Wed 22 nd March	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE for competing members
Wed 29 th March	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE for competing members
Wed 5 th April	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE for competing members
Friday 7 th April – Monday 10 th April	EASTER 2023
Wed 12 th April	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE for competing members
Wed 19 th April	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE for competing members
Wed 26 th April	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE for competing members
Wed 3 rd May	No rehearsal – night before convention
Thu 4 th May	Start of Convention - you need to be in Brisbane on or before this day



Please don't forget to logon to the website and update your attendance and song status on a regular basis. Your Music Team and Management Team work very hard behind the scenes and if you can assist by taking responsibility for always making sure your status is up-to-date this will certainly assist

LOCK UP ROSTER

If you are not able to make it on the night, please arrange with someone else on the roster to swap weeks and let me know so I can update the roster.

DATE	NAME
Wed 2 November	Kath Ware
Wed 9 November	Anne Thompson
Wed 16 November	Carol Lutz
Wed 23 November	Deb Martin
Wed 30 November	Rachael Moessis
Wed 7 December	Marea Witt
Wed 14 December	Amanda Lovegreen
Wed 1 February	Alison Anderson
Wed 8 February	Inese Kamenyitzky
Wed 15 February	Cathy Sugar

MEMBER LEAVE

Current member leave

Are you planning on taking holidays or unable to attend rehearsal?

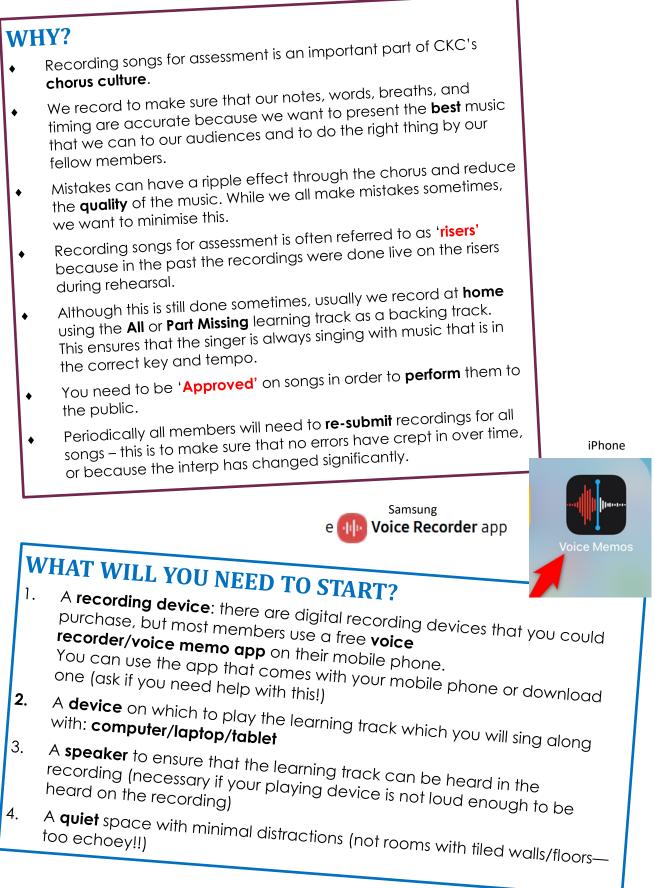
If so please email absence@circularkeys.org

Using this email address ensures the Musical Director, Team Coordinator, Membership and the Music Team are all notified at the same time.

Sue Winter	9 September - 23 October	
Barb Morris	10 October- 14 October	
Liz Perry	5 October- 26 October (estimated)	
Jen Senior	12 – 26 October	
Jenny DoRozario	13 – 24 October	
Alison Anderson	18 October - 6 November	
Anne Harris	18 October- 20 November	
Kath Ware	26 October – 15 November	

How to Record for Song Assessment





https://www.howtogeek.com/769338/how-to-record-audio-on-iphone/

https://www.samsung.com/au/support/mobile-devices/using-voice-recorder/

HOW TO PREPARE?

- 1. Make sure you **know** the song well and can sing it **without** referring to the sheet music before you start recording.
- 2. You will be assessed on correct notes, words, breaths and timing. Your assessor may offer some advice on how to improve your singing & breathing too.
- 3. Make sure you have a good amount of **time** to record often we need to record several times before we have a recording that we are happy with.
- 4. Do a short **test** recording to make sure that both the track and your voice can be heard **clearly**, but that your voice is heard predominantly.
- 5. Take some deep breaths to help you relax!

HOW TO RECORD? 1.

- Press '**record'** on your device or phone app. Start the backing track – either the All track or your Part Missing track 2. 3. Breathe out as the pitch pipe is sounding, then breathe in and sing with the track (it can be tricky to start at exactly the same time as the track, but you will get better at this, and as long as you're close, that will be fine) Sing with the track to the end of the song and then press 'stop' on your 4. If you make a larger error (such as losing your place in the song), don't 5. worry, just stop the recording, and start the process again. If you make one or two small errors such as an incorrect breath, note or 6. word, keep singing to the end. Then make separate correct recordings of those sections where you made errors – this shows your song assessor that you are aware of the errors and can sing it correctly. Listen back to your recordings and check that they are correct. 7. When you are satisfied that the recording is correct, if possible please 8. label the recording with your name and the song title; (if you need help doing this, just ask!)
- Send the recording to your assessor. You can upload this onto the 9. website, or send by email or a message app – check which method your assessor prefers. Mp3 format is preferred (see p4).
- Your assessor will listen to your recording and send you feedback and 10. either mark the song as 'Approved' on the website, or ask you to

Status:

re-submit parts or the whole song. (You'll receive a confirmation email from Groupanizer about this status change).

Change the state to Approved •

Approved

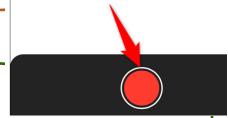
11. If after several days you haven't heard from your song assessor, check that they have received your recording.

Memos, at the bottom, tap the large red button to start recording



IN PROGRESS







ARE THERE OTHER METHODS?

Some songs are more difficult than others. If there is a song that you find difficult to get right, you can record the song in sections. 1. Make sure you overlap the recorded sections so that the assessor knows that you can do the transitions. Send **all** the sections to your assessor at the same time.

- If you make a mistake while you are recording, you can stop or pause the recording, rewind the track to a place before the error 2. occurred and continue recording from there.
- Occasionally, 'live risers' can occur during rehearsal. You will sing into the assessor's ear while the chorus is singing, and you are 3. given feedback straight away. This method is not the norm – it might be used to check that you have corrected an error in a recording, or to check that you are singing long-term repertoire correctly (eg Christmas repertoire).
- If you use either 1 or 2, be aware that you need to be able to sing and perform the whole song, so make sure you keep practising 4. until you have it right!



FAQ'S

1. When should I record for assessment? As soon as you feel confident that you have mastered the song, then submit your recording - don't wait to be told to submit

- What should I do if I am struggling with a song? 2. Contact your Section Leader/s if you need help. Send an email outlining your difficulties, or speak to them at rehearsal. They may arrange to meet with you to work together on the song - this would usually be before or after chorus rehearsal
- What happens if I haven't passed all the songs listed for a 3.

If you have passed some but not all the songs for a performance, you may (depending on the type of event) be able to perform the songs you have passed and discreetly step down from the risers/ performance space for those songs you have not passed. This decision will be made by the Musical Director.

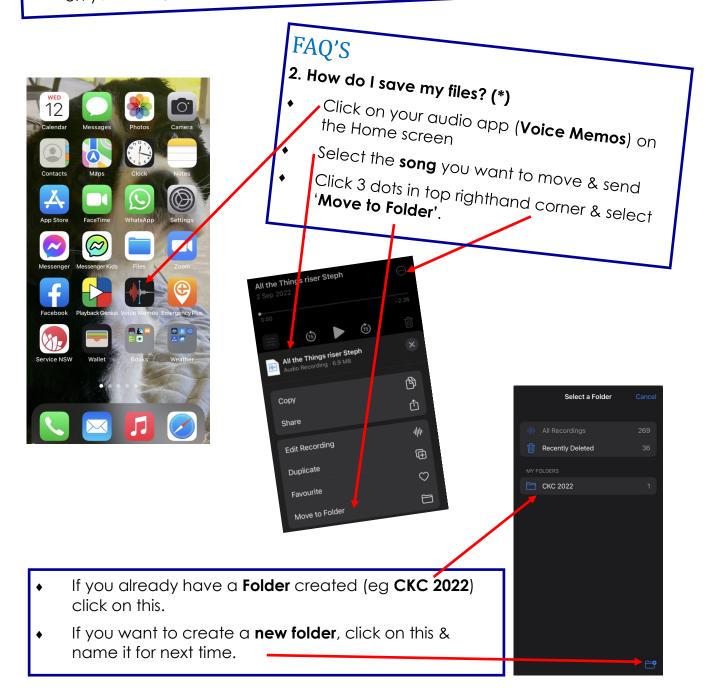
How do I change my recording format (convert file to mp3)? 4. See separate handout!

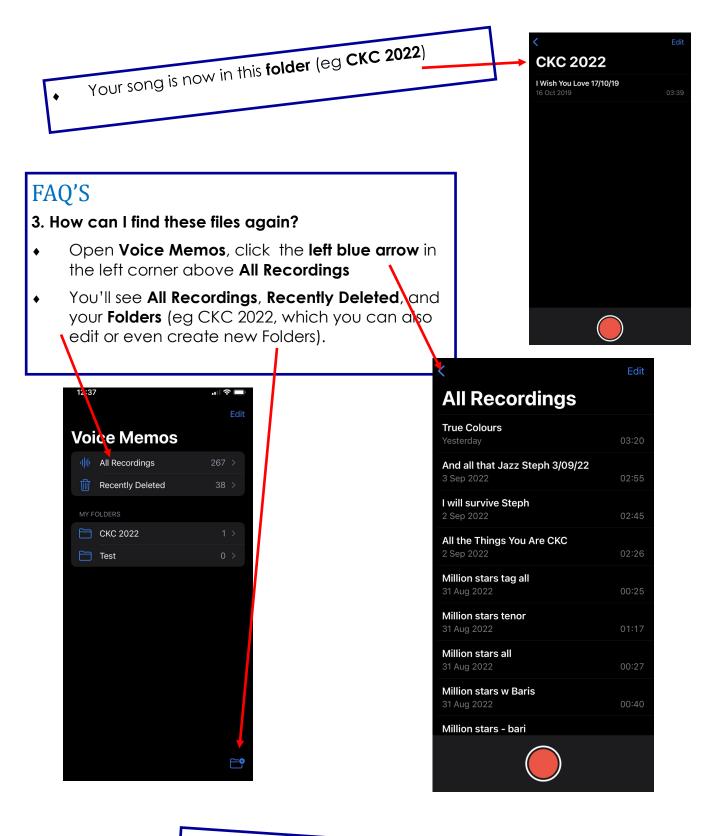
How to convert audio files to mp3 For iPhones

FAQ'S

1. What format am I recording in?

- If you record on your mobile or computer your file may record in a format ٠ like **m4a**, wav or aac.
- These files can be easily converted to the smaller **mp3** format to make sure all assessors can access them easily on their platforms!
- It's a good idea to **save** your recordings (files) to your mobile file folder **(*)** or ٠ on your computer for easy access.



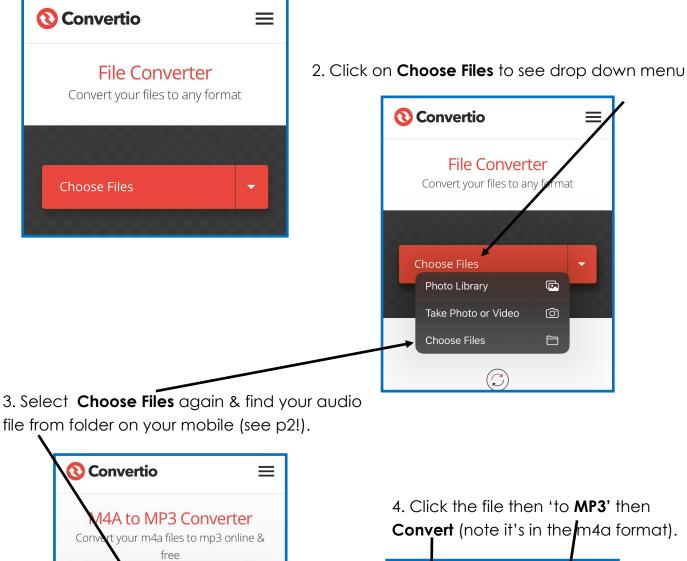


FAQ'S

4. What program or app can I use to convert files?

- Use a free online converter (try Google!), eg convertio.co (see below for iPhone steps) or online-audio-converter.com, or iTunes.
- How do I do this? (see p3-4!)

1. Open free program eg Convertio.co on web browser (on your iPhone or computer)



All the Things riser.m4a

READY 6.57 MB

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Convert

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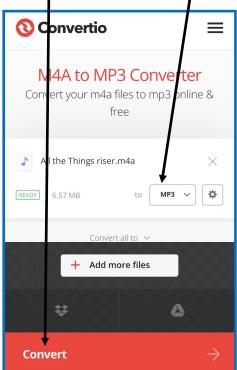
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MP3 🗸

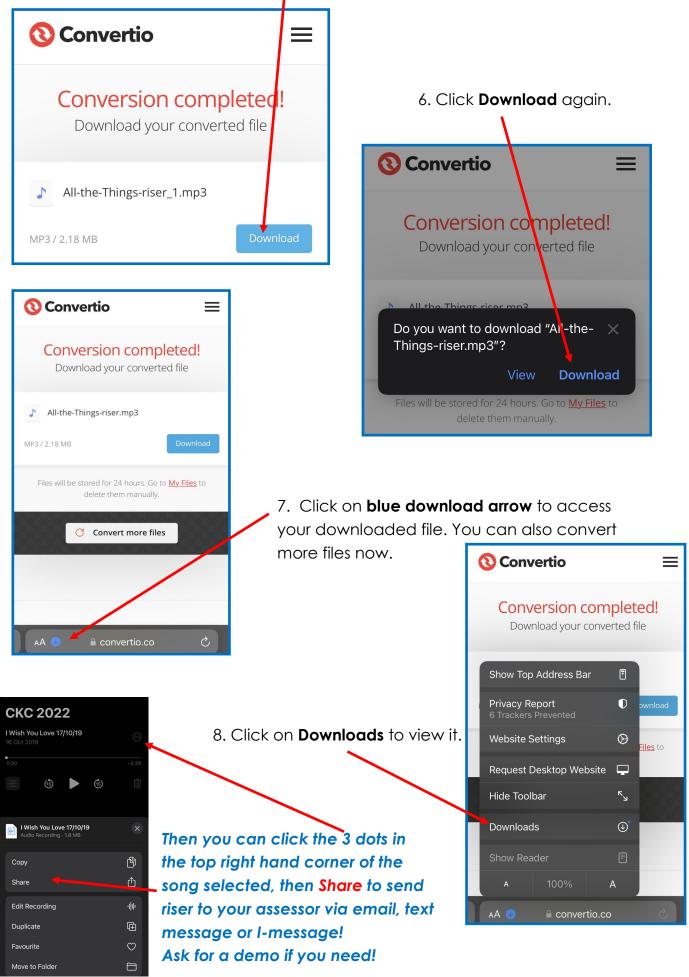
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Convert all to v

+ Add more files



5. When conversion is completed, click Download

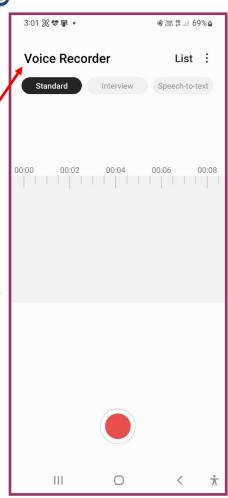


How to convert audio files to mp3 For Androids

FAQ'S 1. What format am I recording in?

- If you have an Android mobile you may already have a voice recorder app installed, eg Samsung mobiles have the Samsung Voice Recorder app pre-installed.
- This may record in any of these audio formats: MP3 (preferred format), M4A, WMA, WAV, AC3.
- If you don't already have a voice recorder app on your phone, you can download one from the Google Play Store. Search for 'voice recorder.'

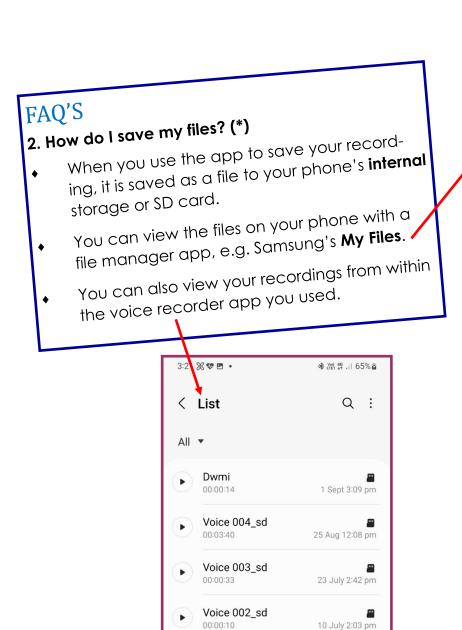




HINT

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- Look for one that has the option to **save to MP3** (so you don't need to convert your files before you send them to your riser checker/assessor!
- Search in the Google Play Store for 'convert to mp3'
 - Be aware that **free** apps often include **ads**, so it may be worth **paying** for an app that is **add free**!



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You can **share/send** your recording either from **My Files** or from your **voice recorder app**.

