



Secret Chorus Business

12th March, 2025

RESPECT EXCELLENCE COMMITMENT EDUCATION FUN

This week's rehearsal will be in the Pacifica Room, and our songs will be:

- ❖ Always On My Mind
- ❖ I Just Found Out About Love

Please wear your medals and name badge 😊

Friendly reminders about attending rehearsals:

1. When you arrive, make sure you sign at reception.
2. Be ready on the risers at 7.30pm sharp.
3. We need to have vacated St Josephs by 11pm. Please leave quietly so that other guests are not disturbed.
4. Please think of your chorus sisters and keeping them safe from any illness. Please consider wearing a mask and/or sitting off the risers.

WHAT'S NEW

10 WEEKS UNTIL BHA EASTERN REGION

32 WEEKS UNTIL WE ARE ON STAGE IN COLUMBUS!



Star of the Week

Our Star of the Week is Kath, who is always generous with sharing her time and skills to help and support others. Her work on the public pages of the website, creating written content for various media, and as Costume Chair and Coach Coordinator is invaluable, and she is a great support to Cathy H. Recently Kath created and replaced old fading labels on two of our pitch pipes. Kath, thank you - you are a star!

Thank you, Ursula



A huge thank you to Ursula for sending to members the audio of our competition songs from our rehearsal – this is a very useful resource.

Can you hear where we sound most resonant, or where we lose resonance? Do we stay in tune? Are we singing vowel to vowel? Do we sing the plan?

AGM Date

The Management Team have decided that the AGM will be held during rehearsal time on 16th April 2025. More details to follow next week.

Ohio Travellers: Things you can do and think about now

Some information regarding travel preparations from Diane – thanks Di ☺

Passport / Visa

- Make sure you have a current passport, and that it has 6 months before it expires. Make a couple of copies of your Passport, pack one in your luggage and leave one with a family member at home.
- Apply for the USA “Visa Waiver” prior to leaving. Visit the ESTA website (see link below).

Applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel to the United States. The Department of Homeland Security recommends that travel authorization applications be submitted at least 72 hours prior to travel. Unless revoked, travel authorizations are valid for two years from the date of authorization, or until your passport expires, whichever comes first.

Go to the official website to apply or update if you have a current ESTA. Cost is \$21USD

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta>

Mobile Phone

- To you use your mobile phone you will need ‘International Roaming’ switched on through your mobile phone provider before you leave home.
- Investigate what your mobile phone provider has on offer regarding International Roaming at least 1 to 2 months before you leave.
- Some people may choose to purchase a sim card in the US for their phones, you will need to let people know what your new number in the US is.

Costume - Red Sparkle Tops

We are planning to quit our red Christmas sparkle tops to make some room in the costume storeroom. Could any member that has one of these, please return it to Kath as soon as possible. We'll be advertising them as a lot in the Regional 34 newsletter in the hope that another Chorus could make good use of them.

Thank you, Kath ☺

Doris Ward Award/Sweet Adeline of the Year

The Doris Ward Award was instigated in 2006 to recognize the work of CKC's founder and Director for the first six years, Doris Ward. The purpose of this annual award is to recognise, honour and thank a special member in our Chorus for her contributions to the chorus. The winner each year is awarded a trophy.

In 2015, following changes by the Region to the Quiet Achiever / Sweet Adeline (SA) of the Year Award, CKC Management Team decided to amalgamate this with the Doris Ward Award. The chorus member selected for the Doris Ward Award is also CKC's nominee for the SA of the Year. Full chorus members can nominate a suitable recipient. Doris Ward, the Music Director and the previous year's winner cannot be nominated.

The ideal candidate:

- Serves CKC to the best of her ability without thought of personal gain
- May hold an elected position or other high profile but is *not* the previous year's winner, or Doris Ward, or the Music Director
- Displays many or all of the following traits at chorus level
 - Has excellent attendance records at rehearsals, performances, fund raising and other chorus activities
 - Willingly takes on responsibilities and generously donates her skills when required
 - Can be depended upon to carry through tasks/projects to completion
 - Shows keen interest in chorus affairs, respecting and supporting decisions made by chorus Management Team/Board or Music Staff
 - Believes in the importance of her personal marketing responsibility to present her chorus, the region and Sweet Adelines International in the best positive way to the general public.

The recipient of the Circular Keys Chorus Doris Ward Award is recognised at the next annual Sweet Adelines Australia convention as CKC's Sweet Adeline of the Year.

Nominations are collected and collated and are sent to the Chorus prior to voting. Chorus members select one of the nominees by secret ballot on a rehearsal night determined by the Management Team. Absentee or postal ballots will also be accepted. The award is presented by Doris Ward and the previous year's nominee.

Please send your nominations for this award to Frances fgurto@gmail.com – thank you Frances ☺

Hospitality Roster

Below is the Hospitality roster for the rest of February, and also for March. There are six members of the Hospitality Team, and they do an amazing job, but would also appreciate some help from chorus members to provide some extra supper treats – please let Kaye know if you can help out sometimes, or if you are interested in joining the team colinkaye7@bigpond.com

Jenny Do and Kaye Kendall

12th March Wednesday Rehearsal Marea Witt and Sue Rosenblum

19th March Wednesday Rehearsal Ann Harris and Susan Kelly

26th March Wednesday Rehearsal* Jenny Do and Kaye Kendall

*Celebrate birthdays

RE-CAPS AND UPDATES

Thank You to our Anonymous Donors – continuing to thank you with all our hearts





Ohio State Tax Increase

Sweet Adelines International has been notified by the city of Columbus that the state sales tax will be increasing to from the current 7.5% to **8%** on April 1, 2025. The below information will help you prep and plan for attending convention in October.

This also will affect the housing tax rates which will increase from 17.5% to 18%. Please be aware that the tax rates and estimated taxes in the housing packet that you previously received will be slightly higher as of April 1, 2025. SAI has calculated what the estimated new taxes should be and have included them below for you.

Hilton Columbus Downtown-

Updated taxes equal:

King Bed Occupancy: \$42.30 USD/per night*

2 Queen Beds Occupancy: \$44.82 USD/per night*

Hyatt Regency Columbus-

Updated taxes equal:

King Bed Occupancy: \$39.42 USD/per night*

2 Queen Beds Occupancy: \$39.42 USD/per night*

Sonesta Columbus Downtown-

Updated taxes equal:

King Bed Occupancy: \$36.90 USD/per night*

2 Queen Beds Occupancy: \$36.90 USD/per night*

As yet, CKC does not know which hotel we will be allocated.

International Convention Registration...please wait

Registration for International Convention is now open, but we ask that you **please wait** while Diane researches the details of what is required – we may have to do a group registration for the whole chorus. Thanks Di ☺

Important Rehearsals for International

All our rehearsals are important, and we all miss members when they are absent. Preparation for performances and competitions is always extra important, and now that we are well on the road to the International Competition in October, we want to encourage you all to attend as many rehearsals as possible, and to arrive prepared and ready. We realise that life sometimes gets in the way of singing, and that we all have work, family and social commitments, and need to take time off sometimes for holidays or illness – this is sometimes necessary and unavoidable. But we do LOVE having everyone with us on the risers.

To sing our absolute best on stage in Columbus, we need to be fully prepared and well-rehearsed, and we expect this of ourselves and our sister singers. To this end, please attend as many rehearsals, coaching sessions and weekend workshops as you can, and when you do miss one, make sure you catch up by watching the livestream or the recording on our Circular Keys Chorus-On Key Facebook page. If you need to miss a weekend session, please discuss this with Vicki.

We ask that you do not plan long holidays between August and October, so that you do not miss any of the crucial polishing and refining that occurs during this time.

We are all investing a lot of time, money and energy to travel this exciting singing journey, so we owe it to ourselves and each other to show up and shine ☺ We really appreciate the dedication of time and energy that members give to singing with Circular Keys Chorus.

If we embrace our core values of Respect, Excellence, Commitment, Education and Fun, we will excel in all that we do, and have a blast singing our beautiful music together.

The last rehearsal before we leave to meet in Columbus will be 15th October 2025.

Barbershop Harmony Australia Eastern Region Contest

CKC is planning to enter the Barbershop Harmony Australia Eastern Region Contest which is scheduled for Saturday 24th May 2025. The venue is not yet confirmed but will be located in the Sydney area. More details will follow in time. This will be a great opportunity to sing our new contest songs on a competition stage, so it will be an important part of our preparation for International and is great stage and competition experience for all members. Members are invited to attend whether they are competing in Ohio or not, so please add this date to your diary. You will need to qualify to participate in this event.

CKC Storeroom at St Joseph's

The CKC storeroom at St Joseph's is under the care of the Costume Coordinator (Kath W) and the Fundraising Coordinator (Crystal F). If you need to access the storeroom, please contact one of them first – they'll be able to help you with what you need. If you are planning to visit St Joseph's for any reason (eg to work in the storeroom or the kitchen) outside of rehearsal times for any length of time, please contact St Joseph's to make sure that it is convenient for them. Whenever you visit, please remember to check in with Reception staff on your arrival and sign the visitors book so that have a record of who is in the building. Thank you ☺

Riser Etiquette

Just a friendly reminder about riser etiquette: riser etiquette is an important part of showing respect to our fellow members and our Musical Director, Coach, Leaders, or any person who is addressing the chorus. It is always important, but is extra important when we have a coach

- ❖ Pay close attention to the person out the front
- ❖ Do not make comments or suggestions unless you are specifically asked to do so
- ❖ Raise your hand if you have a question
- ❖ Focus on learning
- ❖ Do not chat with other members when the Director or Coach is working with another section – it is distracting and can make it difficult to hear

Thank you for remembering our top value – **RESPECT** 🙏

Dates for International Saturday Rehearsals 2025 – Aug 1 and Sept 28 Confirmed

We have booked the following dates for our rehearsals this year. I have received confirmation from St Joseph's regarding the rehearsals on 1/8 and 28/9 – these dates are now confirmed. Please mark these in your diaries now to minimise any commitment conflicts – thank you.

NB: we realise that not all Ohio singers will be able to attend every Saturday rehearsal, but please attend as many as you can and notify me and Vicki if you can't attend. Please prioritise those dates with external coaches, and the last weekend in September.

NB The Saturday 6/9/25 rehearsal has been cancelled.

There will also be a family and Friends Concert on Saturday 11th October. There are no rooms available at St Joseph's, so we are sourcing an alternative venue.

Date	Time	St Joseph's Room	Coach
Saturday 1/2/25	9:00-17:00	Mechtilde Woods Room	Vicki Dwyer
Saturday 1/3/25	9:00-17:00	Pacifica Room	Emily Moriarty
Saturday 5/4/25	9:00-17:00	Pacifica Room	Vicki Dwyer
Saturday 3/5/25	9:00-17:00	Pacifica Room	Vicki Dwyer
Saturday 7/6/25	9:00-17:00	Main Chapel	Bec Hewitt
Saturday 5/7/25	9:00-17:00	Pacifica Room	Vicki Dwyer
Friday 1/8/25	19:30-22:00	Pacifica Room	Nikki Blackmer
Saturday 2/8/25	9:00-17:00	Pacifica Room	Nikki Blackmer
Saturday 27/9/25	9:00-17:00	Pacifica Room	Bec Hewitt
Sunday 28/9/25	9:00-17:00	Pacifica Room	Bec Hewitt

Saturday 11/10/25 Family and Friends Concert	TBA	TBA (not at St Joseph's)	Vicki Dwyer
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Ohio T-Shirts

Carol has kindly offered to print a t-shirt for any member who would like one. **We would like to encourage all members travelling to Ohio to purchase one of these shirts – we will be using them as rehearsal shirts during our Saturday International rehearsals, and also as a fun travel shirt in Ohio.**

To order a T-shirt you will need to:

- ❖ Provide Carol with a BLACK T-shirt of your choice (any fabric is fine): it will need to be pre-washed WITHOUT fabric softener – this helps the design to adhere to the fabric
- ❖ Transfer \$15 to the CKC account with your name and Ohio t-shirt in the reference
- ❖ This will cover Carol's costs and be a small fundraiser for the chorus
- ❖ Carol will return the completed t-shirt once she has been notified that the amount has been transferred into CKC's account
- ❖ Please place your t-shirt in a bag labelled with your name

THANKS CAROL 😊

Billeting Dual Members

We will have dual members attending our Saturday rehearsals, and some of them are coming from some distance, both from interstate and regional NSW. If you can host any dual members, please let Rachael know. A big thank you to Kath and Crystal who have already volunteered 😊

If you are able to host on an occasional basis, that is also great – you do not need to volunteer for this for each coaching session.

Bunnings BBQs – Extra Date

Please let Crystal know if you are able to help at the Bunnings BBQs. We have 2 more dates so far for 2025, so please put these in your diary:

- ❖ Saturday 12th April
- ❖ Monday 21st April (Easter Monday)

BBQs are great fundraisers for the chorus, and many hands make light work, so please volunteer for these if you can.

Return and Earn – every 10c counts!

A Return and Earn account has been set up for the chorus for fundraising, so remember to keep your plastic and glass bottles, aluminium cans and some tetra packs aside for our Return and Earn. Compatible items have 10c marked on the packaging. Remember **not to crush** your eligible items. You can deposit them at a depot using the barcode below and at the end of the newsletter. You can take a screenshot of the barcode to use at the depot. If you prefer, you can print the barcode.

If you are not a big consumer of drinks yourself, why not ask your friends, family, colleagues, church group etc. to give you their empty bottles?

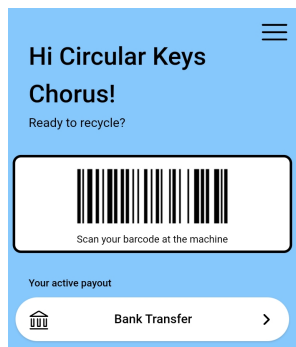
How to Return and Earn:

<https://youtu.be/OYDROMQIDbU>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=966272033522727>

Return and Earn Location Points:

<https://returnandearn.org.au/map/>



Copyright

Circular Keys Chorus pays for the copyright of our sheet music, and membership of CKC entitles us to access this sheet music. Visitors and prospective members are not entitled to receive copies. We do have Visitors books which have copies of our current repertoire for use during rehearsals – these folders remain the property of CKC and must not be taken home by non-members.

New Mission Statement for Circular Keys Chorus

The Management Team have been working on a new Mission Statement based on the values chorus members prioritised in our workshops with Diane a few months ago: Respect, Excellence, Commitment, Education and Fun. We believe that this new Mission Statement incorporates these values. Many thanks to Crystal who got the ball rolling on this project. The new mission statement is:

'We unite through music, creating a harmonious space where voices blend, friendships grow, and artistry thrives'

If you notice any missing or incorrect information in the Secret Chorus Business, please let Rachael know – thank you 😊



CKC COMMITTEES AND TEAMS 2024-5

Thank you for the time and energy you spend supporting our chorus

Integrity ☆ Commitment ☆ Fun ☆ Dare to be Different

Committee	Team Leader	Team Members
Hospitality	Kaye K	Jenny D, Susan K, Sue R, Marea W, Anne H
Fundraising	Crystal F	Ann K, Kaity D, Courtney D
Rehearsal Equipment	Kaye K	Anne T, Spring Z, Emma E, Heather B,
Coach Coordination	Kath W	Pippa A, Rachael M
Website		Carol L (Webmaster), Kath W (Public Pages)
Costumes	Kath W	
Social Committee		Jessi F, Anne T, Jen K
Makeup	Kaity D	

Management Team

- ❖ Musical Director: Vicki Dwyer
- ❖ Team Co-ordinator: Rachael Moessis
- ❖ Finance Manager: Susan Kelly
- ❖ Secretary: Anne Harris
- ❖ Public Relations Co-Ordinator: Jen Kumar
- ❖ Performance Co-Ordinator: Crystal Forbes
- ❖ Membership Chair: Frances Gurto
- ❖ Appointed Member: Diane Jenkins
- ❖ Appointed Member: Crystal Forbes
- ❖ Appointed Member: Pippa Anderson

Music Team

- ❖ Musical Director: Vicki Dwyer
- ❖ Assistant Musical Director: Diane Jenkins
- ❖ Bass Section Leaders: Jenny Do Rozario, Betty Fuller
- ❖ Baritone Section Leader: Kaity Dwyer
- ❖ Lead Section Leaders: Rachael Moessis, Susan Kelly
- ❖ Tenor Section Leader: Diane Jenkins
- ❖ Visual Team: Courtney Churchward (and Heather Baeza)

If there are teams or team members missing from the lists above, please let Rachael know

Member Birthdays



Integrity ☆ Commitment ☆ Fun ☆ Dare to be Different

❖ Jessica Foulke	March 27
❖ Kath Ware	April 2
❖ Kaity Dwyer	April 4
❖ Anne Harris	April 7
❖ Vicki Dwyer	April 20

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.

- ❖ Heather Baeza – date of return unknown
- ❖ Emma Edwards – November return
- ❖ Frances Gurto – 24th May-9th June 2025
- ❖ Jen Senior – 1st August -13th August 2025



Remember that our rehearsals are streamed on our Circular Keys-On Key Facebook page and are saved there, so if you do need to miss a rehearsal, you can watch at home or catch up later – also a great way to review any content to consolidate your learning.

Diary Dates 2024

2025	
Fri 4 th Apr 7:30pm	Management Team Meeting on Zoom
Sat 5 th Apr 9am-5pm	International Competition Rehearsal Pacifica Room
Sat 12 th April 8am-5pm	Fundraiser: Bunnings BBQ Castle Hill
Wed 16 th Apr time TBA	CKC Annual General Meeting
Mon 21 st April 8am-5pm	Fundraiser: Bunnings BBQ Castle Hill
Sat 3 rd May 9am-5pm	International Competition Rehearsal Pacifica Room
Sat 24 th May time TBA	BHA Eastern Region Competition, Sydney area
Sat 7 th Jun 9am-5pm	International Competition Rehearsal Pacifica Room
Sat 5 th Jul 9am-5pm	International Competition Rehearsal Pacifica Room
Fri 1 st August 7:30-10pm	International Competition Rehearsal
Sat 2 nd Aug 9am-5pm	International Competition Rehearsal Pacifica Room
Sat 27 th Sept 9am-5pm	International Competition Rehearsal Pacifica Room

Sun 28 th Sept 9am-5pm	International Competition Rehearsal
Sat 11 th Oct time TBA	Family and Friends Concert venue TBC
Wed 15 th Oct 7:30pm	Last rehearsal before International Convention
October 20–25	Sweet Adelines International Convention & Competition, Columbus Ohio

Chorus Fine Print

SUGGESTION BOX

Have a suggestion you want to raise? Send it to suggestionbox@circularkeys.org

This email has been set up so that it is sent to the Team Coordinator. All suggestions will be discussed by the Management Team.

Please remember to send your suggestions with kindness – it makes it easier for the Management Team to receive them with kindness.

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 Frances Gurto (fgurto@gmail.com) 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.

CKC FEE INFORMATION

Circular Keys Chorus charges an annual fee to cover the costs of venue hire for rehearsals and coaching sessions, Director's Honorarium, International and Regional fees, costumes, insurance and other costs related to running an organisation, music and learning tracks, promotional materials such as banners ... and more. As you can see, not all of these expenses are related to running rehearsals, which is why we pay every month including the weeks we do not rehearse (eg Christmas/January break).

The annual fee is broken up into 12 equal payments of \$60 per month. It can be paid annually (\$720), quarterly (\$180), or on another regular basis (always in multiples of \$60 please), but it needs to be paid in advance for a member to be in good standing. These fees are also payable even if you are not attending rehearsals, and if a member is taking leave, fees should still be paid in advance so that membership is maintained. This is because all our costs remain the same, whether or not individual members are attending.

If paying your fees slips your mind, add it to your diary, or set up direct debit so that the fees are paid when due. If you do forget your fees and the Finance Manager reminds you, please pay the outstanding amount promptly. Remember that the Finance Manager is a volunteer, and we need to be considerate of her time by paying our fees regularly and by responding to her requests promptly and with courtesy.


CHORUS PAYMENTS

Please be advised that EFT should be used for your payments to chorus. Please contact our Finance Manager 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 the finance team 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




Hi Circular Keys Chorus!

Ready to recycle?



Scan your barcode at the machine

Your active payout



Bank Transfer

