

St Stephen's Cathedral Choir Fact Sheet:

Trebles

Introduction The Cathedral Choir is a "men and boy's" choir in the tradition of the Cathedral choirs of England and Europe. The members range in age from about 10 years old for the younger boys to near retirement age for some of the men, and every place in between. The choir sings much music in four choral parts – treble (the soprano part sung by boys), alto, tenor and bass.

Basic Commitment

Thursday 4.15 – 5.30 pm

Friday 4.15 – 5.30 pm

Sunday 9.00 – 11.00 am (includes rehearsal and mass)

The choir does not sing during school vacation (excluding Christmas when it sings up to and including Christmas Eve). It does have commitments over the Easter weekend.

We expect boys to make a strong commitment to the choir, though there is some flexibility to allow for important family occasions, school sport etc. etc.

Boys are not required to be Catholic to be members of the choir.

Extra Commitment

The choir will sing for two or three extra events per year and there may be a few extra rehearsals for these.

The trebles (boy singers) also go on one excursion per term. From time to time the choir goes on tour and it is expected that it will tour in 2004.

Participation in extra musical or social commitments is optional.

Dress

Boys wear school uniform or neat casual clothes on weekdays. Sunday dress is white shirt, black shorts or trousers and black shoes. The choir supplies a robe, tie and medallion.

Remuneration

Trebles receive an honorarium of \$200 per year paid in two amounts in June and December.

There is also the opportunity to apply for scholarships to take singing lessons.

Why join?

Parents are often curious as to what boys find attractive about joining a Cathedral Choir. Here are some reasons:

- Challenging but fun rehearsals
- Great friends
- Enjoyable competition in a team system
- Singing in an excellent four part choir
- Singing great music
- Singing in a great “acoustic” for choral music
- The opportunity to sing with an \$800,000 pipe organ
- Excursions (e.g. Wet and Wild, Movies, Rock Climbing, South Bank, One Day Cricket)
- The opportunity to enhance music study
- Remuneration

Tryout

No matter how much information you receive, it is still difficult to make decisions about the choir. Will a boy like it? Will he make friends? Is his voice good enough? Does it fit into the family schedule? So we don't initially invite boys to join, we invite them to do a two-week tryout. In the two weeks they do everything a regular chorister does. Then they (and the family) are in a better position to make a decision. **We strongly recommend doing the tryout!**

Where Now?

If you or your son is interested, call the choir director, Ralph Morton 3336 9104 w. A call does not commit a boy to the choir, but it does allow you to discuss issues if necessary and also make a time for a try-out.