



**Radio Community Chest Incorporated**

## **PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

**This year's performances of Handel's *Messiah* will take place on Saturday 21st December at 3.00 pm and Sunday 22nd December at 3.00 pm in Sydney Town Hall**

### **IMPORTANT TIMES**

**Monday 16th December at 7.00 pm**

**St Stephen's Uniting Church**

Rehearsal with orchestra and soloists.

The choir will finish at the usual time of 8.45 pm (soloists will continue until 9.15 pm).

**Saturday 21st December at 12.00 pm** (for 3.00 pm performance)

**Sydney Town Hall**

Seating call to confirm chorister seating and sight-lines, followed by on-stage rehearsal with orchestra and soloists. ***During the seating call, if you CAN'T see the Conductor, please let him know IMMEDIATELY.***

We will have a short break, before **being seated onstage at 2.30 pm** for the performance.

***Time is limited on the performance days and we ask that you follow the directions of the Conductor and Stage Manager, find your seats quickly, and do not leave the Town Hall during the break.***

**Sunday 22nd December at 2.00 pm** (for 3.00 pm performance)

**Sydney Town Hall**

Choir warm-up before **being seated onstage at 2.30 pm** for the performance.

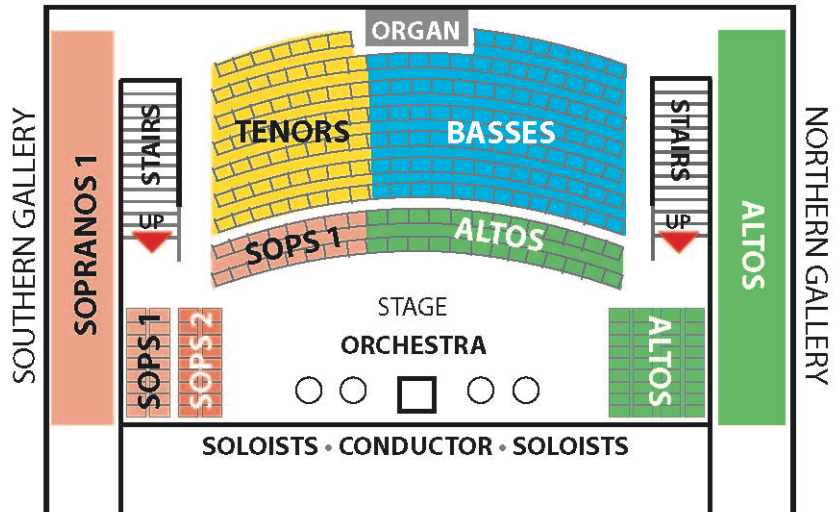
***Entry to Sydney Town Hall for the choir on both days is by the Sydney Square doors (the Cathedral side, or southern side). The doors will be open at 11.30 am on Saturday and 1.30 pm on Sunday.***

### **ACCESS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE**

The Sydney Town Hall is located at **483 George Street**. Ramp access is via **Druitt Street** (opposite QVB). There is no onsite accessible parking, but there are public transport options nearby. For further assistance, please call Customer Service on **02 9265 9178**.

## STAGE ACCESS

1. **Safety of all choristers and musicians is paramount.**  
Please follow the instructions of the Stage Manager at all times, and do so quickly, without running or pushing.
2. Access to the stage is **ONLY** by the two staircases shown on the diagram.
3. Sopranos and Altos sitting in the galleries can enter from the stage or use the gallery doors on the upper level.



## SEATING

The Stage Manager and Conductor are responsible for ensuring the choir is balanced for both sound and appearance. **If you are given directions from the Stage Manager or Conductor, please follow these instructions quickly and without discussion or complaint.**

Please don't reserve seats for friends (this leaves gaps).

You may be seated in a different place for the Saturday and Sunday performances. Please try to sit in the same area as previously, but be aware that you may end up somewhere different.

## STANDING AND SITTING

**The performance is in two Parts, a total of approximately 2 hours and 25 minutes, including a 15 minute intermission.**

**At the beginning** of each Part, the sequence is as follows:

1. The Choir is seated.
2. The bright stage light comes on, and the Choir remains seated as the Soloists enter.
3. The Conductor enters. The Choir stands as the Conductor nears the podium.
4. The Conductor will indicate to the Choir when to stand and sit during the performance.  
*Please follow these directions TOGETHER quickly and quietly.*

**At the end** of each Part, remain seated until after the Conductor has left the stage.

## DURING PERFORMANCES

1. Turn your pages quietly and unobtrusively.
2. While soloists are singing, please sit (or stand) still and quietly without flicking through your music, and avoid the temptation to sing along.
3. Please don't wave to friends and family in the audience from the stage.
4. **WHEN APPROPRIATE**, it is acceptable to applaud the Soloists, Organist and Conductor, but please do **NOT** applaud for the Choir. In general, you may applaud when seated, but **NOT** when standing. If in doubt, follow the directions of the Conductor.

# DRESS CODE FOR PERFORMANCES

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please read these instructions carefully, and follow them exactly. A consistent dress code allows the choir to look its best, and to look smart in photographs, including close-up photographs. Choristers who do not comply with the dress code may not be able to join the choir on stage, missing out on the performances.

**Your score or tablet must have a BLACK COVER (black paper or black plastic).**

### TENORS AND BASSES

*The dress code for tenors and basses applies to all men and women who sing the tenor and bass parts.*

**White shirt** with long-sleeves, collar

**Black bow tie.**

**Black trousers**, long or ankle-length.

**Black shoes.**

Shirts should be tucked into trousers.

No long ties or ribbons around the neck. No shorts.

### SOPRANOS AND ALTOS

*The dress code for sopranos and altos applies to all men and women who sing the soprano and alto parts.*

**White shirt or blouse.**

**Black trousers** (ankle length) or

**Black skirt** (ankle length or mid-calf)

**Black stockings.**

**Black shoes.**

No sleeveless shirts, short-sleeve tops or patterned fabrics. Shirts do not need to be tucked into skirts or trousers, but should sit on the hip (no long tops). No short skirts. No

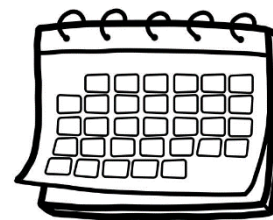
elaborate jewellery or accessories that will reflect stage lights, or distract from the black and white.

**WATER BOTTLES** PLASTIC water bottles are allowed on stage, but should not be large or brightly coloured. Please try to drink from them unobtrusively.

**BAGS** Please leave large bags at home, and keep handbags and other items out of sight (under or behind your seat). There is limited back-stage storage.

**NO PERFUME OR AFTERSHAVE** Please DO NOT wear perfume or aftershave, as a courtesy to other choristers.

# FUTURE DATES



## Sunday 2nd February, 2025

St Stephen's Uniting Church, 197 Macquarie Street Sydney

Thank you and Choir Reunion

Each year members of the choir reunite at St Stephen's Uniting Church to sing a selection of choruses from Handel's *Messiah* as part of St Stephen's 10.00 am worship service. Refreshments are served afterwards.

This is a great opportunity to say Thank You to St Stephen's for their hospitality over the weeks of rehearsals.

**Meet at the church at 9.00 am, wearing your black and white.**

**Conductor: Tim Chung, Organist: Mark Quarmby.**

## Monday 20th October, 2025

St Stephen's Uniting Church, 197 Macquarie Street Sydney

First Rehearsal for 2025

Rehearsals begin on Monday 20th October at 7.00pm for our 2025 Season.

If you enjoyed being part of Handel's *Messiah* Sydney in 2024, we invite you to come back for another wonderful season of singing. Registrations will be available online from July, or at the door at the first rehearsal. (Online is preferred – and quicker!)

You are welcome to bring along friends, colleagues, team mates and family to join in the fun and challenge of singing this iconic and world famous music.

Register online from July 2025 at <https://www.handelsmessiahsydney.org.au>

### Performance dates for 2025:

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Contact us:



Radio Community Chest Incorporated

Handel's Messiah Sydney

Website <https://www.handelsmessiahsydney.org.au/>

Email [info@handelsmessiahsydney.org.au](mailto:info@handelsmessiahsydney.org.au)

Facebook [handelsmessiahsydney](https://www.facebook.com/handelsmessiahsydney)

Radio Community Chest Incorporated (ABN 80 990 419 897) is a registered charity. Through our annual presentations of Handel's *Messiah* we are committed to encouraging a love for choral music; and surpluses are used to assist those in need in our city.

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*Our choir rehearses and performs on the land of the Gadigal people. We celebrate First Nations people as the original story tellers and music makers of this ancient land.*