



Radio Community Chest Incorporated

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

2026

This year's performances of Handel's *Messiah* will take place on
Saturday 12 December at 3.00 pm and Sunday 13 December at 3.00 pm
at Sydney Town Hall

IMPORTANT TIMES

Monday 7 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 12 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 we suggest you do not leave the Town Hall during the break.

Sunday 13 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 or southern side). The doors will be open at 11.30 am on Saturday and 1.30 pm on Sunday.

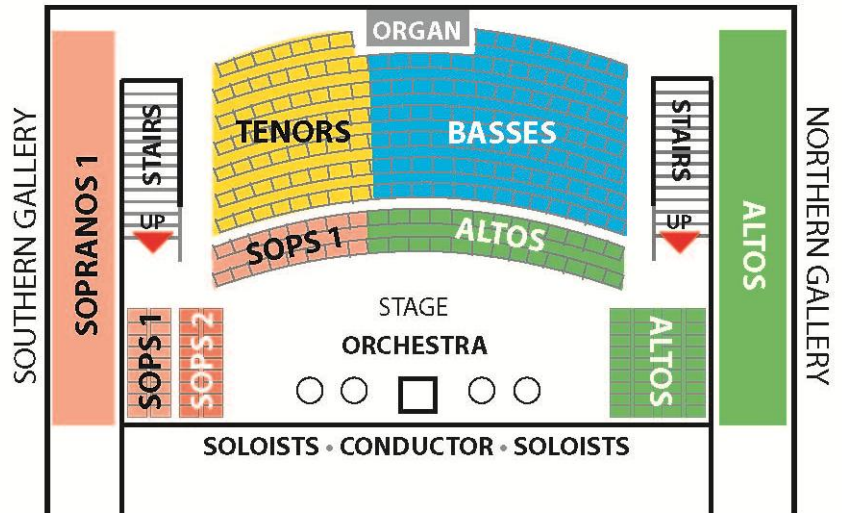
ACCESS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

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**.

Our choir rehearses and performs on the traditional land of the Gadi people, a clan of the Eora Nation

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 for women) 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.

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 7 February, 2027

**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 18 October, 2027

**St Stephen's Uniting Church, 197 Macquarie Street Sydney
First Rehearsal for 2027**

Rehearsals begin on Monday 18th October at 7.00pm for our 2026 Season.

If you enjoyed being part of Handel's *Messiah* Sydney in 2025, we invite you to come back for another wonderful season of singing. Registrations will be available online from 1 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 1 July 2027 at www.handelsmessiahsydney.org.au

Performance dates for 2027:

Saturday 11 December and Sunday 12 December



Contact us:

**Radio Community Chest Incorporated
Handel's Messiah Sydney
Website www.handelsmessiahsydney.org.au
Email 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.

Our choir rehearses and performs on the traditional land of the Gadi people, a clan of the Eora Nation