



Radio Community Chest Incorporated

2026 REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Welcome to the 2026 season of Handel's *Messiah Sydney*, to be sung in the Sydney Town Hall by the Radio Community Chest Choir. Whether you have sung with us before – or if this is your first time – we hope that you will find singing Handel's *Messiah* to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Register for the Choir Online

- **Register for the Choir** online at www.handelsmessiahsydney.org.au. Registrations close after the second week of rehearsals (or earlier if we reach the maximum number of registrations). Last year we closed registrations before the first rehearsal, so please register early to avoid missing out. If the choir is full, you can join our waiting list. We will notify you if this is the case, and what this means.
- There is a **small registration fee** for adults and concession-card holders, and students can join the choir for free.
- **Students under-18** are also welcome to join the choir, but must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian.
- Don't forget to read the **Chorister Terms and Conditions** on the Choir Resources page on our website.

What You'll Need to Bring

- **The Messiah score** (the printed music). The Prout Edition (SATB Vocal Score Novello) is preferred, as this is the edition our Conductor Tim Chung, will be referring to for page numbers and other directions. Copies of the Prout Edition are available for sale at your favourite online or real-life music seller, and we also sell copies at the Registration Desk at rehearsals. For those who use tablets, free pdf copies of the score can also be found online.
- **A copy of the Doxology and Vesper** which are short hymns we traditionally sing to start and end the rehearsal. These are on the last page. Copies will also be available at the rehearsal.
- Your **Trybooking Ticket as a paper printout**, that you received when you registered online. This ticket is stamped every week as your Record of Attendance. We recommend you tape this sheet into the front cover of your score. When you arrive each week, we stamp this to confirm your attendance.

The Where and When of Rehearsals

- Rehearsals are held at **St Stephen's Uniting Church, 197 Macquarie Street Sydney** (across the street from NSW Parliament House and near Martin Place). Public transport is the most convenient way to get there, with trains and metro to Martin Place Station, and buses nearby. Paid parking is available at the Domain (a 10 min walk).
- There are **eight Monday evening** rehearsals.
- **Each rehearsal starts promptly at 7.00 pm**. The church will be open from 6.00 pm onwards, and you should plan to arrive early to get your seat and settle in.

Tables are set up at each rehearsal to assist you with registration and other questions, score sales and to stamp your Trybooking Ticket as your Record of Attendance . **It is especially important to arrive before 6.30pm for the first rehearsal**, as it takes everyone time to find their place.

- **Rehearsals finish on time at 8.45 pm.** Don't forget to take your belongings home with you!

Each Rehearsal

- We begin by **singing the Doxology**. This is a short hymn in SATB harmony to begin the rehearsal, and is a long-standing tradition of the choir.
- The conductor leads us through **some vocal warmups**.
- **There is a short break from singing mid-way through the evening.** This is a time where we share news and announcements, and then have time for a (quick) drink and stretch.
- **We conclude by singing the Vesper**, a two-verse evening hymn in SATB (short for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass). Again, this is a long-standing tradition of the choir, and dates from the very early days of the choir when it was the Combined Churches Choir. While you may not be used to this, the words are a charming way to say goodnight as each chorister begins their journey home.

How to learn your Vocal Part

- **You don't need to memorise the music!** You will have your score when you perform, and you can make notes on it in pen, pencil or coloured highlighter.
- We strongly recommend the **Chord Perfect rehearsal videos** for your vocal part. You will find the link on the Choir Resources page of our website.

The link will take you to the Chord Perfect YouTube playlist for your part with a video for each chorus. You will see the score on the screen and hear your part professionally sung and synchronised with the score. The orchestra and other parts are in the background. These are excellent aids and very helpful for new singers to become familiar with the music, and also for more experienced singers to practice any challenging sections as needed. We suggest you watch and sing along with each video at least twice before the first rehearsal.

- **Sectionals for each vocal part SATB** will be held at 6:30pm starting in week 2. This additional rehearsal time for each of the four sections of the choir is optional, but are a real benefit to choristers.

Get ready to perform on stage!

- **Information about performances** is provided at rehearsals closer to the performance dates, and on our website. You will have everything you need to have a wonderful time singing Handel's Messiah on stage at the Sydney Town Hall in December.



Contact us:

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 any surpluses are used to assist those in need in our city.

Doxology

OLD 100TH L.M.

French Psalter, 1551

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Vesper - The Lord Be With Us

LLOYD C.M.

C. Howard, 1856-1927

1. The Lord be with us as we bend His bles - sing to re - ceive;
2. The Lord be with us as we walk A - long our home - ward road;

1. His gift of peace on us des - cend Be - fore His courts we leave.
2. In si - lent thought or friend - ly talk, Our hearts be near to God. A - men.