

Instrumental Ensemble & Choir Membership Policy/Agreement

General Information

- Entry into Concordia **ensembles** is by audition or invitation at the discretion of the Head of Music.
- **Membership in an ensemble or choir is for the duration of the current school year, or the entire duration that ensemble runs for (i.e. Orchestra runs for Terms 2 and 3).**
- An instrumental ensemble member must currently be receiving regular tuition on their instrument or have achieved a level of experience consistent with the required repertoire.
- Any change in tuition arrangements must be communicated to Music Faculty Staff.
- Except for Camps and Tours that specified students are involved in, there are no additional costs associated with being involved in Concordia ensembles.
- **Members of specialized ensembles** such as Big Bands, Pit Band and Orchestra **must** play in a Concert Band or String Ensemble.
- **Members of specialized choirs** such as Jazz Choirs must sing in their relevant year level choir.

Ensemble Schedule

A Rehearsal Timetable will be confirmed at the start of each year.

Any changes to the previous year's timetable will be sent out as a Proposed Timetable first.

For some ensembles, there will be times when student-led sectionals will also be expected. These will be specified by ensemble directors.

Student Requirements

Rehearsal Preparation and Etiquette

Each ensemble member must bring their:

- Instrument and all required accessories (rosin, reeds, leads etc.)
- Music as either paper in a folder or a digital document on a portable device if not kept onsite in the school folders
- A pencil and eraser, or stylus as necessary
- A sealable bottle of water

In rehearsal, all ensemble members are asked to support one another by:

- Maintaining optimal playing/singing posture
- Setting up their music stands and any large percussion instruments efficiently
- Warming up and tuning their instrument **5-minutes** prior to the rehearsal officially commencing
- Conducting themselves in a timely, respectful and positive manner
- Maintaining their focus during rehearsals, acknowledging that all have come together to rehearse as a committed team
 - This includes proper phone etiquette during rehearsals

Attendance – expectation that priority is given to school rehearsals

Attendance at all scheduled and extra rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

Rehearsals and performances may be scheduled during school holidays at the Head of Music Performance's discretion.

Absences

Excused Absence: Illness, death in the family, school event.

Un-excused Absence: Forgetting, homework, birthday, outside-of-school activity commitment e.g. driving lesson.

Foreseen absences: Notification of an impending absence must be provided at the earliest convenience to music@concordia.sa.edu.au or communicate directly with your ensemble director via their preferred email.

Unforeseen absences: Should a rehearsal be missed due to unforeseen circumstances, the ensemble director must be advised as soon as possible of the absence and reason for it.

Personal Practice

There is an expectation that each ensemble member will include ensemble and choir repertoire in their weekly practise routines and study repertoire parts with their instrumental or vocal tutor. Sectional rehearsals may also be required at times throughout the year.

Ensemble directors will often provide recordings and practice tracks for repertoire. It is essential ensemble members utilize these between rehearsals.

Eligibility of Continued Membership

A lapse in meeting any of the above requirements will incur an assessment of the eligibility of the student's membership of an ensemble or choir. Dismissal of an ensemble or choir member is at the discretion of the Head of Music.

Agreement

Student

By clicking the Agreement box on Clipboard for Ensemble Selection, the Student agrees to adhere by the conditions set out in this policy and further agrees that a failure in meeting these conditions may jeopardise their position in the Music Program.

Parental

By clicking the Agreement box on Clipboard for Ensemble Selection, I/We agree to support the commitment my/our child has made to ensembles and/or choirs and agree to the conditions set out in this policy. I/We acknowledge and understand the responsibility to ensure my/our child has transportation to and from each rehearsal and performance, and endeavour to communicate Foreseen and Unforeseen absences to rehearsals. I/We will also endeavour to communicate any foreseeable or unforeseeable difficulties associated with meeting these conditions to the Head of Music Performance, Music Administrator, or relevant ensemble director.

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