

# Audition Information for the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir 2023-2024 Cycle

This document provides you with further information, including aural and sight singing examples, for your upcoming audition for the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir.

First of all, you will be introduced to the two people on your audition panel. These will be NZSSC Music Director Sue Densem and NZSSC Assistant Music Director/Vocal Consultant Ben Madden.

## **Task 1: Song (30%)**

One of the panel will ask you what song you will be singing, and what key you are singing it in. If you are not singing the song in the notated key, you will need to specify the key before you begin. You will need to supply at least one copy of the music for the panel. The key chord and starting note will be played before you begin. **Note: your song MUST be in English or Te Reo Māori.**

### ***We will be assessing:***

- *Intonation (ability to sing in tune);*
- *Vocal quality/tone;*
- *Vocal technique;*
- *Diction (clarity of text);*
- *Musical artistry, communication and performance.*

### **Some English song suggestions:**

- ❖ Afton Water
- ❖ Annie Laurie
- ❖ The Ash Grove
- ❖ Deep River
- ❖ Early One Morning
- ❖ Linden Lea
- ❖ O Waly Waly
- ❖ The Salley Gardens
- ❖ Scarborough Fair

- ❖ Shenandoah

Some Te Reo Māori song suggestions:

- ❖ Hine e Hine
- ❖ Pokarekare Ana
- ❖ Pūrea Nei
- ❖ Whakaaria Mai
- ❖ He Honore
- ❖ Ka Waiata

**Task 2: Vocal Exercises (20%)**

You will then be taught some simple vocal exercises in a range of keys within your vocal range. This section of the audition will be similar to a voice lesson in that one of the panel will work with you and your voice.

***We will be assessing:***

- *Intonation (ability to sing in tune);*
- *Vocal quality/tone;*
- *Vocal technique;*
- *Responsiveness to instruction;*
- *Range.*

**Task 3: Pitch Recall (10%)**

You will then be played ten pitches once on the piano (one by one) within your vocal range. You will be asked to sing them to the syllable 'ba'. Examples are provided below.

***We will be assessing:***

- *Pitch recall and accuracy.*

Pitch Recall Examples

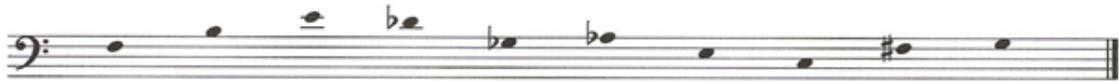
**Sopranos**



### Altos



### Tenors



### Basses



### **Task 4: Memory (5%)**

You will then be played a four bar melody in either 2/4 or 3/8 time twice. You will be asked to sing it back. Examples are provided below.

### ***We will be assessing:***

*Recall and accuracy.*

### Memory Examples



Memory - play an octave lower for tenors and basses



### **Task 5: Harmonic Recall (10%)**

Seven chords (a mixture of consonant and dissonant) will then be played to you once on the piano (one by one). You will be asked to:

- Sing the highest or lowest note of two-part chords;
- Sing the highest, middle or lowest note of three-part chords;
- Sing the soprano, alto, tenor or bass notes of four-part (SATB) chords, appropriate to your voice range. See the first seven chords in the examples below.

Three more chords will then be played to you once on the piano (one by one), however, you will also be provided with the music for each of these chords. You will be asked to:

- Sing the highest or lowest note of two-part chords;
- Sing the highest, middle or lowest note of three-part chords;
- Sing the soprano, alto, tenor or bass notes of four-part (SATB) chords, appropriate to your voice range. See the last three chords in the examples below.

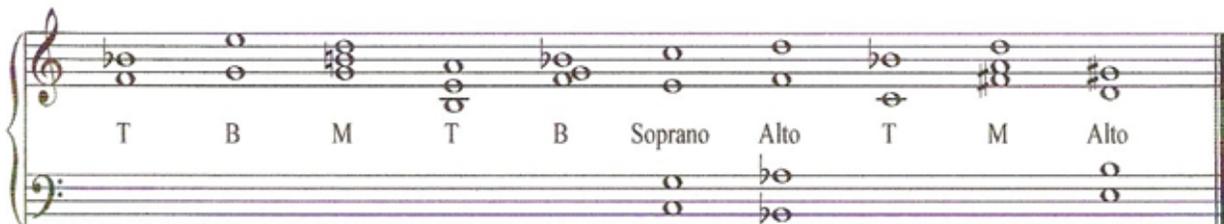
#### ***We will be assessing:***

- *Harmonic discernment and accuracy.*

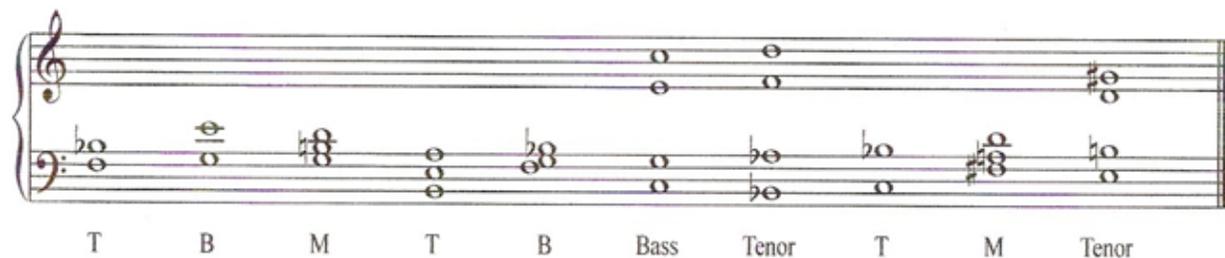
### Harmonic Recall Examples

*Note: T = top note, M = middle note, and B = bottom note.*

### **Sopranos and Altos**



## Tenors and Bases



The image shows a musical score for tenors and basses. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for Tenors and a bass clef staff for Basses. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music is written in a simple, clear style with large notes and stems. Below the staves, the vocal parts are labeled: T, B, M, T, B, Bass, Tenor, T, M, Tenor.

### **Task 6: Sight Reading (15%)**

1. You will be required to clap a four-bar rhythm pattern (5%). For example, bars 1-4 of the sight singing examples below.
2. You will be required to sing at least one unaccompanied sight singing exercise. The key chord and starting note will be sounded and you will also be given approximately 30 seconds to have a look at it. During this time, you may sing it through if you wish. The key chord and starting note will be sounded again before you commence the test. You may also be required to sing the sight singing exercise a second time while the one of the panel plays an accompaniment on the piano (10%). An example is provided below.

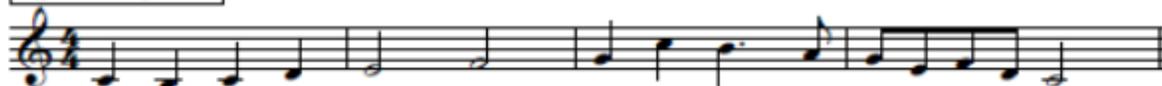
### ***We will be assessing:***

*Sight singing accuracy.*

### **Sight Reading Examples**

# Treble Clef Sight Reading Test - NZSSC 2015-16

Sight reading test A



Sight reading test B



Sight reading test C



# Bass Clef Sight Reading Test - NZSSC 2015-16

Sight reading test A



Sight reading test B



Sight reading test C



### **Overall Impression (10%)**

You will be given a final overall assessment with particular consideration given to vocal quality, presentation, and communication skills.

#### ***We will be assessing:***

- *Vocal quality and tone;*
- *Potential contribution to the Choir;*
- *Communication and presentation skills;*
- *Overall performance.*

**All the very best for your upcoming audition!**

The image displays a musical score for a piano piece, consisting of two systems of staves. The first system begins at measure 9, marked 'Andante' with a tempo of quarter note = 84. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is written for a grand piano, with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The upper staff features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) at the start and *mp* (mezzo-piano) later. The lower staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines, also marked *mf* and *mp*. The second system starts at measure 13, continuing the melodic and harmonic development with similar dynamic markings.