

Audition Information for the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir

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

There will be two people on your audition panel, they are:

NZSSC Music Director: Sue Densem *and*

NZSSC Asst. MD + Vocal Consultant: Ben Madden

Task 1: Song (30%)

You will be asked what song you will be singing, and what key you will be singing it in. *You will need to supply ONE printed copy of your music for the panel.* If you are not singing the song in the notated key, you will need to specify the key before you begin. The key chord and starting note will be played before you begin.

We will be assessing:

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

PLEASE NOTE: Your audition will be **UNACCOMPANIED**, and your song **MUST** be in English or Te Reo Māori. *We suggest you choose a simple folk song. You can choose your own, but here are some suggestions:*

English songs:

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

Te Reo Māori waiata:

Hine e Hine
Pōkarekare Ana
Purea Nei
Whakaaria Mai
He Honore
Ka Waiata

Task 2: Vocal Exercises (20%)

You will 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, as 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 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 provided below.

We will be assessing:

- *Pitch recall and accuracy*

Pitch Recall Examples

Soprano



Alto



Tenor



Bass



Task 4: Memory (5%)

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

We will be assessing:

- *Recall and accuracy*

Memory Examples:



Task 5: Harmonic Recall (10%)

Seven chords (a mixture of consonant and dissonant) will 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 Harmonic Recall 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 Harmonic Recall examples below.*

We will be assessing:

- *Harmonic discernment and accuracy*

Harmonic Recall Examples

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

Soprano + Alto

A musical staff with two staves. The top staff is a soprano clef and the bottom staff is an alto clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The notes are: Bar 1: T (Bb), B (F); Bar 2: M (Bb), T (F); Bar 3: Soprano (Bb), Alto (F); Bar 4: T (Bb), B (F); Bar 5: Soprano (Bb), Alto (F); Bar 6: T (Bb), B (F); Bar 7: Soprano (Bb), Alto (F); Bar 8: T (Bb), B (F); Bar 9: M (Bb), Alto (F); Bar 10: Alto (Bb), T (F).

Tenor + Bass

A musical staff with two staves. The top staff is a tenor clef and the bottom staff is a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The notes are: Bar 1: T (Bb), B (F); Bar 2: M (Bb), T (F); Bar 3: Bass (Bb), Tenor (F); Bar 4: T (Bb), B (F); Bar 5: Bass (Bb), Tenor (F); Bar 6: Bass (Bb), Tenor (F); Bar 7: T (Bb), M (F); Bar 8: T (Bb), M (F); Bar 9: T (Bb), M (F); Bar 10: Tenor (Bb), T (F).

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 then 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 A

A single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

Sight reading test B

A single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

Sight reading test C

A single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

Bass Clef

Sight reading test A



Sight reading test B



Sight reading test C



Final: 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 best for your upcoming audition – kia kaha!