



## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

### WELCOME BACK!

Hope everyone has had a lovely summer break and is ready to get back into action for 2024! Welcome back to our returning families and a big welcome to all our new families starting with us this year. We have some wonderful events planned for 2024 so please make careful note of the dates at the bottom of the newsletter and pop them in your calendar asap. Each event tells you which choir/s are performing too. You will receive a newsletter roughly once every couple of months that will give you important information about upcoming events as well as more general week to week things, so please print off and read carefully!

We are also back at our old rehearsal venue at 75 Reid St. but as we now have an extra choir, so check slightly different times and rooms on a Wednesday! If you are unsure what choir your child is in just send Renee an email to confirm.

#### Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Feb

YV Kids – 4.30-5.30pm – Reid Room  
(Teacher: Peta Rust)

Junior Yarra Voices – 4.30-5.30pm – Auditorium  
(Teachers: Renee Heron & Ciara McCoppin)

Mezzo Yarra Voices – 5.45-7pm – Auditorium  
(Teachers: Renee Heron, Peta Rust & Ciara McCoppin)

#### Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

Performing Choir – 4.30-6.30pm – Auditorium  
(Teachers: Renee Heron, Tim Mallis & Marj Butcher)

### 2024 MEDICAL FORMS AND CONTRACTS (IMPORTANT)

2024 medical forms & contracts must be returned by **ALL** choristers before rehearsals start in Term 1 and are to be submitted via the two links below. Thank you to returning choristers who sent in their medical form last year.

[CONTRACT](#)

[2024 MEDICAL FORM](#)

## 2024 CHOIR CONTACTS

For general enquiries about anything choir related please contact Renee Heron - [renee@theyarravoices.com](mailto:renee@theyarravoices.com)

For absences for Junior Yarra Voices, Mezzo Yarra Voices & Performing Choir also email [renee@theyarravoices.com](mailto:renee@theyarravoices.com) or send me a text on 0402 626 068

For absences for YV Kids please email Peta Rust - [peta@theyarravoices.com](mailto:peta@theyarravoices.com)

For any financial/payment questions please email Margie Francis our administrator at [admin@theyarravoices.com](mailto:admin@theyarravoices.com)

For Child Safety people contact Belinda Ashe at [yarravoicesboard@gmail.com](mailto:yarravoicesboard@gmail.com)

## SEMESTER 1 FEES

There will be a change to how we pay fees in 2024. You should have received an email with an invoice from Margie our music administrator, if not, please check your spam and make sure [admin@theyarravoices.com](mailto:admin@theyarravoices.com) is saved to your safe list.

Returning choristers - These have been sent out and need to be paid in full by **Feb 4<sup>th</sup>** before choir starts on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. Your 2024 holding fee will be deducted from your invoice.

\* Weekend workshop and camp fees are now included in Semester 1 fees so you will not need to pay separately. As camp/weekend workshops are an essential part of our program, these fees are not refundable if your child chooses to not attend.

New choristers – After your 2 week trial we will be in touch to see if you would like to continue. You will not receive an invoice until then.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to Margie at [admin@theyarravoices.com](mailto:admin@theyarravoices.com) if you have financial needs that the choir can assist with. We can offer a payment plan to help with the distribution of the new semesterly fees and also offer fee help to students when needed.

## FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Don't forget to like our Facebook & Instagram accounts for photos, videos from concerts & events!  
<https://www.facebook.com/theyarravoices/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/theyarravoices/>

## **CHILD SAFETY**

The Yarra Voices is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. We have a page set up on our website that has our Child Safety Policy attached. Over the coming term this will be further updated with other documents and links that you and your children can access. [www.theyarravoices.com/current-parents](http://www.theyarravoices.com/current-parents)

If you have any concerns with anything child safety related you are always free to contact any of the Yarra Voices Staff or Belinda Ashe, one of our YV board members, who is our official child safe contact at [yarravoicesboard@gmail.com](mailto:yarravoicesboard@gmail.com)

## **CALL FOR 2024 VOLUNTEERS!**

As a small not-for-profit organisation, The Yarra Voices relies on the assistance of the community to ensure projects like workshops, camps, fundraisers and concerts run smoothly. Therefore, we ask all parents to volunteer in some capacity, helping to maintain lower fees for all families, and to build a strong choir community.

Can all new families and returning families please complete this google form to tell us which volunteer team you would like to join (you may choose more than one) or outline other skills you believe might be useful to the Choir Community. We are also looking for a parent that might be interested in joining The Yarra Voices committee that runs approx. once a term (usually on Zoom)!

[VOLUNTEER FORM](#)

## **YV CAMP – MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> – PERFORMING CHOIR & MEZZOS**

The Performing Choir and Mezzo Yarra Voices will be heading to a new camp this year, Camp Manyung in Mt Eliza for the weekend of March 2/3. Each group will rehearse separately but it will still be a wonderful opportunity for our singers to come together and get to know each other as a community. We will also have a bus to take us both to and from the campsite this year. Families with children attending camp will be emailed separately with more details.

<https://camps.ymca.org.au/camp-manyung>

## **WEEKEEND WORKSHOP – SUNDAY APRIL 21<sup>st</sup> – JUNIOR YARRA VOICES**

We have made the decision this year that our Junior Yarra Voices won't do an overnight camp, so we have planned a fun weekend workshop for them at Abbotsford Convent instead! It won't happen until Term 2 on April 21<sup>st</sup> between 10-3pm but please save the date in your diaries now.

## **SIGHT SINGING SCHOOL**

I will contact all new families about setting up a Sight Singing Account online for their child. This is only for children in Junior Yarra Voices, Mezzo Yarra Voices & Performing Choir.

## COMMITMENT AND COMMUNICATION REMINDER

We expect all singers will be at every performance, camp and choir activity unless we have heard from you. We understand that sometimes it is not possible to attend and if that is the case we need to know as soon as possible, and not last minute, so check the calendar and let us know asap if you have any clashes. Also, just a reminder that students are to arrive **5-10 minutes** before rehearsal starts so they are ready to start warmups with us as soon as rehearsal begins. As I tell the kids, 'Early is on-time and on-time is late!' There are so many important social things that happen before rehearsal starts too, and it's a lovely chance for the kids to make friends and have a bit of a play and laugh before we get started.

## SINGING LESSONS

We often have people contact us about private vocal lessons for their child and we now have the wonderful Marjorie Butler on our staff as a tutor at YV! Marj also run a private studio in Brunswick East, so if you are interested in finding out more about private vocal tuition reach out to her at [contact@marjoriehannah.com](mailto:contact@marjoriehannah.com)

## 2024 Calendar

Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Information Evening on Zoom for New Families 7.30pm (info about this zoom evening will be emailed direct to new families)
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	First rehearsal for YV Kids, Junior Yarra Voices & Mezzo YV
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	First rehearsal for Performing Choir
Sat & Sun 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Choir Camp (compulsory) Camp Manyung – Mt Eliza <b>MEZZO YARRA VOICES &amp; PERFORMING CHOIR ONLY</b>
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Open rehearsal with YV Kids, Junior Yarra Voices & YV Mezzos
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Open rehearsal with Performing Choir
27/28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last rehearsal for Term 1
17/18 <sup>th</sup> April	First rehearsal for Term 2
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Weekend Workshop (compulsory) Abbotsford Convent 10am-3pm <b>JUNIOR YARRA VOICES ONLY</b>

- Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June      Mosaic – YV Winter Concert  
Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School  
Rehearsals from 12.30pm  
Concert at 3.30pm  
**ALL CHOIRS**
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Sep      Kodály National Conference Workshop & Performance  
**MEZZO YARRA VOICES & PERFORMING CHOIR ONLY**  
3pm – early evening  
(during school holidays – please advise ASAP if not available)
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov      Sounds of Summer – YV End of Year Concert  
Methodist Ladies College, Kew  
Rehearsals from 12.30pm  
Concert at 3.30pm  
**ALL CHOIRS**