



Waitakere Voices Choir - 2025

(a West City Music ensemble)

Welcome to our choir! We hope you enjoy singing with us. Here's some key details to get you started.

About the Choir

Waitakere Voices is a mixed-voice community choir based in West Auckland, formed in 1998. Our choir is open to everyone – *no auditions required!* Previous singing or musical experience is a bonus, but we warmly welcome anyone who is keen to explore their voice and enjoy singing in a supportive environment.

Our repertoire spans a wide variety of genres, styles, and languages. Some songs will feel familiar and easy to learn, while others may offer a rewarding challenge as we grow together musically. We're a friendly and inclusive group, and we want you to feel right at home here.

How to Join

1. Get in touch! Either email the choir leader viviane.vagt@westcitymusic.org.nz, or send us a message on the Waitakere Voices Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/wvoiceschoir/>
 2. Come along to a rehearsal. Have a sing and see if our group is for you! See location details below.
 3. Join as a member. If you're keen to continue you'll need to join West City Music as a member and pay the annual fee. See the instructions below. Your fees help to cover costs including our choir director and accompanist, venue hire, and music licenses.
-

Rehearsal Time & Location

- When: Tuesday evenings, 7:15 PM to 9:15 PM (February to December)
- Where: Liston College – 69 Rathgar Road, Henderson.
See map and directions at <https://westcityband.org/about/joining-an-ensemble/>

We take a short break during rehearsals for tea, coffee, and a friendly chat. Please arrive with enough time to sign in, locate your music, find a seat, and catch up with fellow singers. We'll ask you to sign in when you arrive.

Attendance

Regular attendance at weekly rehearsals is an essential part of being a choir member—every voice matters! If you're unable to attend a rehearsal, please let us know by emailing viviane.vagt@westcitymusic.org.nz

Music

Music will be issued during rehearsals. Please store your sheet music safely in your own folder and handle it with care. If you're missing any pieces, contact our Librarian, Trena. Marking your scores with pencil is encouraged, but avoid using pens or highlighters. You will be expected to return all music by the end of the year or if you leave the choir.

Membership & Fees

1. Join West City Music through this online form. West City Music are our parent organisation. [Membership Form 2025](#)
2. Pay the annual fees. You need to pay both the membership fee and the choir ensemble fee. The fee structure is as follows:

	West City Music Membership	Waitakere Voices Ensemble Fee	Total to pay
Individual Member	\$110	\$90	\$200
2 Family Members	\$200	\$180	\$380

Payment Details:

Account number: 12-3071-0259267-00

Particulars: Membership

Reference: Your name

(If there is insufficient space in the reference field, please use the first initial and surname)

Financial Hardship

We believe that financial difficulties should never be a barrier to membership. If you're facing hardship, please speak confidentially with one of the team to discuss options for reduced fees.

Concerts and Events

We like to perform! We aim to do 2 main public concerts per year supported by performances in retirement villages through the year. We also have an active in performing Christmas music toward the end of the year at various locations. You will get sent a performance and rehearsal calendar.

Concert Dress

- Options:
 - Full-length black trousers or skirt with a long-sleeved black top/shirt and black shoes
 - A long black dress
- Accessories (e.g., scarves or bow ties) will be provided and collected after each concert.
- Variations: For some themed concerts, alternate dress may be suggested. This will be spoken about in rehearsals well ahead of time

Choir Team

Director:	Rachel Alexander Sutherland
Accompanist:	Do Hee Kim
Ensemble Leader:	Viviane Vagt
Librarian:	Trena Lile

About the Choir Director

Rachel studied at the University of Auckland and holds a Master of Music in Classical Performance Voice. She is a member of the Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir, having sung with them since 2010. Rachel has also sung with the New Zealand Youth Choir and the New Zealand Opera Chorus and served as the Assistant Director and Principal Vocal Consultant of the New Zealand Secondary Students Choir from 2011-2021.

Rachel has over 20 years experience as a soloist, voice specialist, choral director and curriculum music teacher. Rachel has directed choirs to gold award winning level at both the NZCF Big Sing and Kids Sing Festivals. She also works with the New Zealand Choral Federation as one of their Outreach Mentors.



She is deeply passionate about choral music, education and fostering a lifelong love of singing. Rachel is committed to creating collaborative, welcoming and inclusive spaces for all singers, to help them develop confidence and skills through demystifying technique, language and repertoire. She crafts dynamic and energetic learning and performance experiences while ensuring that her practice is culturally responsive.

