



Waitākere Voices Choir

(a West City Music ensemble)

Welcome to our choir! We hope you enjoy singing with us, here are the key details.

About the Choir

Waitākere Voices is a mixed-voice community choir based in West Auckland, formed in 1998. Though previous singing or musical experience is helpful, we warmly welcome anyone who is keen to explore their voice and sing in a supportive environment. *No auditions required!*

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!* Email the choir manager (andrew.sutherland@westcitymusic.org.nz) or send us a message on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/wvoiceschoir/>
2. *Come along!* Sit and listen to a rehearsal or join us in singing to see if our group is for you! See location details below.
3. *Join as a member!* If you're keen to continue you need to join West City Music as a member and pay the annual fee. [Click on this link](#), then fill out the membership application and pay the fees listed under section 4.

NB: there are two fees – the base membership fee and the choir-specific fee. Please make sure to pay both!

Your fees help in covering costs for our choir director, 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 part way through rehearsals for a friendly chat. Please arrive with enough time to get your name badge, locate your music, find a seat, and catch up with fellow singers.

Important: Regular attendance every week (where possible) is key to feeling confident in the music!

Concerts and Events

We like to perform! We do between 8 and 10 performances per year, including public concerts, retirement villages, joint events with other ensembles from West City Music, and some festive concerts leading up to Christmas. You will be sent a performance and rehearsal calendar

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, speak to our Librarian, Trena.

Marking your music **with pencil** is encouraged, but please 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. When you return music, you must have **removed any markings** from it.

Concert Dress

- A top or button-up shirt of a single colour (think bright colours!), with black trousers or longer black skirt. Or the opposite (black top, colourful trousers or skirt).
 - Full-length dress of a single (bright!) colour.
 - Variations: For some themed concerts, all-black attire may be required. This will be confirmed in rehearsals well ahead of time.
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About the Choir Director – Rachel Alexander-Sutherland



Rachel studied at the University of Auckland and holds a Master of Music in Classical Performance Voice.

She has over 20 years' experience as a soloist, voice specialist, choral director and curriculum music teacher. Rachel has directed choirs to the highest level at both the NZCF Big Sing and Kids Sing Festivals. She also works with the New Zealand Choral Federation as an Outreach Mentor.

She has sung for many years with the Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir, as well as the New Zealand Opera Chorus and the New Zealand Youth Choir. She was also the Assistant Director and Principal Vocal Consultant of the New Zealand Secondary Students Choir from 2011-2021.

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.

