



Singapore Symphony Youth Choir Handbook 2019/20

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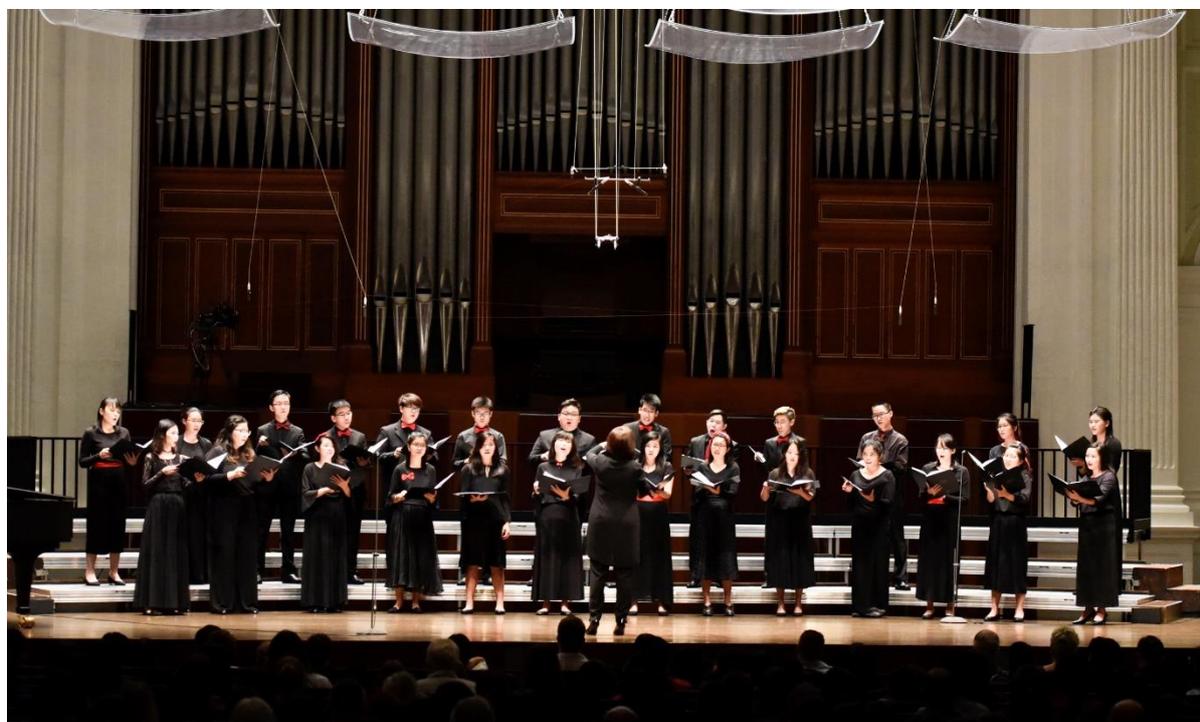
ABOUT THE SSYC

SINGAPORE SYMPHONY *Youth Choir*

Comprised of Singapore's finest young choristers aged 17 to 28, the Singapore Symphony Youth Choir is an energetic ensemble inaugurated in 2016 to complement the SSO with a chorus of vibrant voices.

Exploring the best of different musical worlds and styles, the youth choir has performed Scriabin's Prometheus, Puccini's La Boheme, as well as recorded Borodin's Polovtsian Dances and Mahler's Symphony No. 2. In 2017, it also toured with the SSC and SSO, presenting Brahms' Shicksalslied at the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas in Kuala Lumpur.

In the 2018/19 season, the youth choir performed independently for the first time, under the baton of esteemed conductor Eimear Noone.



SSYC Timeless Splendour, 27 May 2018

CHOIRMASTER

As Choirmaster of the Singapore Symphony Children's Choir (SSCC) and the Singapore Symphony Youth Choir (SSYC), Wong Lai Foon oversees a family of choral ensembles that is dedicated to the development of young voices, and the continuing appreciation of choral and classical musical. Under her leadership, these two choirs have received praise for their polished choral tone, and for delivering performances with precision and clarity. The SSCC's recording of Bob Chilcott's *Little Jazz Mass*, featured on their CD, *And I'll Sing Once More*, has been complimented by the renowned composer for its "fine sound and style".



Apart from performances with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Wong has led both choirs in collaborations with other ensembles. The Concert Choir has shared the stage with the celebrated ensemble, The King's Singers, the *Maîtrise de Radio France* at the *Philharmonie de Paris*, and the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra at the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas, Kuala Lumpur. The Youth Choir performed with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Chorus on their tour to Kuala Lumpur. The 18/19 season saw both choirs in SSO's performances of Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*, while the SSYC also featured in Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*, and a highly successful concert of Video Games Classics with Eimear Noone.

Committed to growing the body of treble choral works by local composers, Wong has commissioned works by Kelly Tang, Zechariah Goh, Chen Zhangyi, Darius Lim, and Lee Chin Sin. She is equally adept at the symphonic, operatic and *a cappella* choral repertoire, and has worked with ensembles including the Singapore Symphony Chorus, the Singapore Lyric Opera, Westminster Opera Theatre, and The Philharmonic Chamber Choir. She graduated from Westminster Choir College, under the tutelage of Joseph Flummerfelt.

COMMITMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Membership in the Singapore Symphony Youth Choir is a commitment to faithful, consistent and punctual attendance. Every member is obligated a personal duty to promote the prosperity of the choir; consistency is essential to the success of both the individual member and the organisation.

I. REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Day: Mondays and occasional Thursdays

Time: 7:30PM – 10:00PM

Location: Dance Studio, L3, Victoria Concert Hall or occasionally Victoria Concert Hall

The Youth Choir meets weekly on Monday evenings, with additional sessions on Thursdays and consecutive weeknights during concert week. Members are to check the latest announcement from the management for possible sudden changes of venue or theatre-related protocols.

Rehearsal schedules are subject to change; the SSYC reserves the right to add and cancel sessions. The information disseminated via email should be taken as the most accurate.

II. COMPULSORY REHEARSALS

Compulsory rehearsals are highlighted in a **bolded** box on the schedule; mandatory sessions are typically piano and orchestra rehearsals preceding a performance. Individuals should consider these rehearsals carefully when deciding their availability for a project.

Concert day warm-ups, run-throughs and production briefings are generally scheduled 2-3 hours before a performance. It is imperative that all members be present for these pre-performance protocols. Members who choose to skip these sessions may be excluded from the performance. (*See IV. Attendance Requirements*)

III. PROJECT PARTICIPATION

The commitment form for projects should be completed and returned to the choral office at the soonest possible, or by the deadline whichever is earlier. This will help the choral management program and coordinate the logistics of rehearsals and concerts more precisely.

Members are to be present for the full duration of the concert programmes planned, especially where concert programmes stretch across multiple performances. An absence or unavailability, in any one performance for a particular concert, may mean a withdrawal from the said project.

For reasons of conflicting schedules or personal exigencies, changes in commitment must be promptly communicated to the choral management in writing or by email.

New members, who are accepted into the YC after performance numbers have been finalised, will only be able to participate from the next project on. This ensures the new member's smooth transition to the learning pace of the YC.

Members who are not participating in a project may be requested to sit out from rehearsals. The choral director has the final word whether a member's voice fits in a particular project or not, and whether he/she be part of that said project.

IV. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

(A) Minimum Attendance

A minimum attendance of 75% is required for all rehearsals and performances scheduled. This percentage excludes compulsory rehearsals in its tabulation.

(B) Attendance below 75%

1. Project-Specific Attendance

Attendance falling below 75% may disqualify a member's participation in a scheduled performance. The choral director's approval must be sought for exceptions — he has the authority to bar an underperforming or ill-prepared member from partaking in a project at any point in time.

- **Excused absences:** Absence with apologies can be acquired by submitting a notice to the choral management in writing or an LOA form. Excused absences will still count against the 75% attendance requirement. Individuals, who need to leave early or know that they will arrive late, should let the choral management know beforehand.
- **Unexcused absences:** 4 consecutive weeks of unexcused absences will be considered a voluntary withdrawal from the project.

2. Cumulative Attendance

At the end of each season, overall attendance statistics are compiled for each member. **Members with** an absenteeism rate of $\geq 25\%$ of rehearsals over a year, or, have missed at least two consecutive concerts, without sufficient and/or prior notification, may have their SSYC membership renounced.

V. LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA)

The SSYC recognises that unforeseen work or personal exigencies, e.g., illnesses, family tragedy or work-related activities, may necessitate absence from a choir rehearsal. In such circumstances, members should inform the choral management at the earliest opportunity via email to choral@sso.org.sg.

(A) Short Term LOA

Regular leaves of absence may be granted for up to 4 sessions for a project, up to 16 sessions in the whole season, subject to the nature of the request.

(B) Extended LOA

The extended absence must be discussed in advance with the choral director and choral management. Members returning from extended leave (9 months or more) will be subject to a re-evaluation.

VI. WITHDRAWAL/TERMINATION

(A) Withdrawal

Members who wish to withdraw from the choir must submit a written withdrawal notice to the choral management. The announcement of withdrawal should include a reason for departure and the date from which the resignation is to be effective.

(B) Termination

The SSYC reserves the right to terminate a membership at its discretion. Any of the following reasons shall be deemed as grounds for termination of membership: regular absenteeism without good reason, poor discipline, and unsatisfactory performance.

Membership is also liable for termination if a member is found to have acted in a manner that is prejudicial to the interests or the reputation of the SSYC.

Any member who is the subject of termination shall be informed in writing, by email. Termination is effective immediately. Upon the cessation of membership, all music must be turned in and any outstanding dues paid in full. Withdrawn/terminated members who wish to re-join the SSYC will be subject to a stringent review and re-audition.

Decisions made by the choirmaster and choral management are final.



YC members with Maestro Lan Shui, 21 January 2019

DECORUM

As an ambassador of the Singapore Symphony Youth Choir and an affiliate of the Singapore Symphony Group (SSG), one's conduct is a direct reflection on the establishment. Members are expected to demonstrate a chorister's professionalism at all times.

I. IN REHEARSAL

- **Punctuality:** Endeavour to arrive 10 minutes before the start of all rehearsals and activities, to ensure sufficient mental preparation for the rehearsal
- **Attendance Registration:** Attendance is to be signed for before entering into a rehearsal or chorus event
- **Attention:** Talking, whispering or visiting during rehearsals is inappropriate and inconsiderate to the choral director and co-members. All electronic devices should be silenced and kept away. If a member must take a call, he/she should excuse himself/herself from the rehearsal.
- **Courtesy:** Be cognisant of the needs of others; patience and helpfulness will be much appreciated
- **Respect:** Be respectful of the positions of the directors, musicians, and officers of the choir

II. IN PERFORMANCE

The choirmaster may have stage arrangements planned. These settings are fixed unless necessarily modified by the choral director or choral staff. Performers' entry and exit will be coordinated. Members are expected to give their full attention to all staff for such arrangements.

III. CONDUCT

The SSYC is committed to a policy of equal opportunity. The choir aims to provide an environment free from prejudice that will afford members the opportunity to fulfil their personal potential.

(A) General Conduct

- Bullying, harassment, discrimination or inappropriate conduct against another member or choral staff will not be tolerated.
- Disputes between members should be referred to the choral management for mediation. Members (external to the disagreement) are discouraged from being partisan and getting involved.

(B) Social Media Conduct

The SSYC encourage members to upkeep proper engagement between peers and the general community through social media. Conversely, individuals are trusted to use such tools for good purpose and in good faith.

- Observe principles of integrity, professionalism, and privacy when using social media
- Members may associate themselves with the SSYC and SSO when making online posts but must brand their online posts as personal and purely their own
- Content pertaining to sensitive organisational information should not be shared
- Disrespectful content such as racial, ethnic, sexual, religious, and physical disability slurs will not be tolerated

FINANCES

I. MEMBERSHIP FEES

Programme fees for the SSYC are listed in a separate 'Fees' document. Payments (either in full or half yearly) can be made by cash, cheque or bank transfer, and should typically be completed by the first scheduled rehearsal of the semester (January and July).

Programme fees are non-refundable. If a member withdraws from the SSYC programme at any time during the season, fees will not be refunded.

II. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

(A) Penalties

An administrative fee of s\$50.00 will be imposed for late payments as other administration duties may have to be carried out. SSYC reserves the right to terminate a member's enrolment should fees remain outstanding for more than 6 weeks after the due date

Programme fees mentioned above cannot be used to offset any miscellaneous penalties incurred, including but not limited to: score replacement, loss of SSYC ID card and damage of stage/dressing room equipment.

An administrative fee of an adequate amount will be determined by the choral management and the member made liable to bear the cost. Music will not be distributed to any member with delinquent dues of 1 month (30 days) or more.

(B) Travel Expenses

Overseas concert tours with the choir will come with some expense. While the organisation strives to bear the full costs of such travels, members may at times be required to share a portion of that sum.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

I. DIGITAL RED CARD

An honorary SSO Season Pass membership is awarded to every current and joining member. This Season Pass access is awarded for **one year**, and allows members to enjoy merchant privileges at our partner establishments [linked here](#).

To activate merchant discounts, flash your digital Red card at the merchant counter before purchase.

II. DISCOUNTS

Members are eligible for two types of discounts as below.

Type	Performers' Discount	SSG Family Discount
What is it	Only applicable for concerts that the Chorus is performing	All members of ensembles under the Singapore Symphony Group are entitled to this discount
Pre-requisites	Must be an SSYC member	
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either 20% or 40% depending on the concert <i>(Please refer to dedicated link for info)</i> • Limited to 4 tickets per transaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% off SSO Subscription and Red Balloon concerts • 10% off all other SSG shows
How to activate it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-service purchase of discounted tickets via dedicated links only (members will receive an email with these information) • Not available via counter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-service purchase online via SSO webpage • Enter promo code when prompted • Not available via counter
Ticketing Help	For any concerns or queries relating to ticketing, kindly drop SSO Ticketing a note: ticketing@sso.org.sg	

CONCERT WARDROBE



L-R: Jon Loh, Tiffany Tam, Tan Liang Rong, Aaron Koh, Freda Tan, Carine Tan

Members are responsible for the acquisition and costs of their wardrobe. The designated concert attire must be worn for dress rehearsals and performances.

I. LADIES

- Black long sleeve or $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve blouses
- Black ankle length skirts, OR,
- Black dressy, flowy pants
- No tights/ figure hugging pants, short skirts
- Appropriate undergarment is compulsory
- Visibly bright red accessory (think SSO / National Day red)
- Black court shoes or ballet pumps

II. GENTLEMEN

- Black dress shirt
- Black dinner jacket
- Black trousers
- Red neck or bow tie (think SSO/ National Day red)
- Black, polished leather shoes with black socks

Fragrance-Free Policy

Some members have environmental sensitivities to scented products that could trigger severe allergic reactions. Personal fragrance products (perfumes, colognes, lotions, hairsprays and other similar products) that are perceptible to others should be used in minimal quantities or not at all—especially on dress rehearsal and performance days.

MUSIC

I. RESPONSIBILITY

Each singer is expected to learn the music assigned for each rehearsal on his or her own. It is expected that each member will make a reasonable effort to develop his or her vocal skills, and will make every effort to contribute positively to the work of the group.

II. DISTRIBUTION & RETURN

The SSYC management owns music scores entrusted to members. They are copyrighted, and cannot be copied or duplicated – except as directed by the Music Librarian.

(A) Distribution

- A unique music code will be assigned to each member that will be indicated on the score(s). Members are responsible for the proper care and accountability of assigned music
- Use only 2B pencils to mark music
- Members are expected to carry their score(s) in the SSYC black folder

(B) Returns

- Members are individually responsible for turning in music on the date requested
- Those who are unable to turn in music by the deadline will be liable for the shipping costs of returning the scores to the publisher
- Scores should be returned in good condition - free of tarnish save for pencil markings, pages intact including cover

The choral management is authorised to withhold new music if previous music has not been returned.

WELL-BEING

I. PERSONAL HEALTH

Individuals have the onus in making honest assessments of their health and physical condition in meeting the demands of choir rehearsals and performances. Singing with the SSYC is invigorating and stimulating –at the same time, it is rigorous and physically demanding.

- Extended periods (up to 60 mins) of standing are required during rehearsals and performances
- Climbing and descending steep stairs are required at times

Individuals with any pre-existing illness(es) that could potentially affect their attendance/ performance must inform the choral management of their conditions.

II. MEDICAL FITNESS FOR CONCERT TOURS

A contracted travel agency makes all travel arrangements. The choir or its travel partners make no promise of handicapped accessibility to facilities, venues, and tour attractions. Travelers must be physically fit and healthy for participation in tours, for their safety and the comfort and enjoyment of others. A doctor's evaluation should be considered.

VENUE RULES & REGULATIONS

- The SSYC is subject to national and international house rules and regulations of any performance hall
- Members are to have their SSYC passes with them for every rehearsal session
- Food & beverage consumption (except for bottled water) is strictly prohibited within the premises of concert halls and rehearsal venues
- Do dress appropriately when attending rehearsals
- Chorus rehearsals are closed-door sessions. Members are not allowed to invite guests to the rehearsal location unless the session is to be an open rehearsal and choral management has given prior approval
- Do refrain from moving or removing any stage equipment from its original position
- Please reinstate the rehearsal space to the same condition as it was before

COMMUNICATION

There are several ways by which the choral management communicates with SSYC members. The most commonly used channel is email. Mailchimp is the current mail host used for choral updates. Ensure that the chorus email is whitelisted and edit spam/junk filters to exclude the choral email address. Alternatively, members may be contacted by phone or paper mail.

Thus, it is important that members write in by email at the earliest opportunity, should they need to make official changes to their particulars.

CHORAL MANAGEMENT

Acting Manager, Choral Programmes
Direct office line
Email

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STAY CONNECTED



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www.sso.org.sg/about/chorus/singapore-symphony-youth-choir