

EDGECUMBE CHOIR (WHAKATANE BASED) SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Are you a young person who loves to sing?

Would you like to improve your skills?

Have more performance opportunities?

And be financially rewarded?

Background

See website

<https://www.edgumbechoir.org/>

About the Scholarship Scheme

The Edgumbe Choir Scholarship Scheme started in 2023 under the Musical Directorship of Chalium Poppy, for high school, polytechnic, or university students.

Around the world choral music has been losing popularity compared with other forms of easier and instant entertainment, which has had an impact on the number of school-leavers joining community choirs.

Choral music immerses students in a unique soundscape that can only be experienced in a choir.

The Edgumbe Choir Scholarship recipient (hereafter referred to as “young scholar”) will have the chance to experience singing and music making in a semi-professional setting with a choir. Our hope is to kindle a passion for choral music and give students a positive, successful, and lasting impression of this beautiful music.

The Benefits

The principal reward or benefit will be the intellectual and musical rewards of studying, rehearsing and performing choral music in the company of competent fellow musicians under the guidance of a qualified conductor. A secondary reward will be financial, the scholarship funds being awarded at the completion of the year.

This is a golden opportunity for good musicians who have fine voices, the commitment to be part of a close-knit team and who wish to develop first class sight-reading skills.

As a young scholar you will:

- Be provided with a music package for rehearsals and concerts
- Be listed in the programme of the concert(s) in which you perform
- Be offered the opportunity for solo work in concert(s) at the invitation of the Artistic & Musical Director
- Be tutored during vocal workshops for each concert

- Be offered full membership of the Choir upon completion of your scholarship
- Receive \$ NZ500 for your commitment to a full Edgecumbe Choir annual season.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Applicants may be male or female, and preference will be given to those between 16 and 30 years old.

The applicant must be able to commit to a full year of the Edgecumbe Choir rehearsal and performances.

Competencies

- Vocal ability and some experience in singing in harmony
- Ability to organise own practice and prepare music by oneself
- Ability to learn music quickly and to a high standard
- Participate and interact appropriately in a group setting

Application/Selection Procedure

An application must be submitted in writing in the form of a relevant and brief CV to the Edgecumbe Choir Executive, via the Artistic & Musical Director, including:

- A description of vocal training and experience to date
- A music referee such as a teacher or choir trainer
- Another referee who can attest to the applicant's reliability in respect to a year-long commitment.

If successful at this point, you will be invited to a formal sung **audition** of two short excerpts (solo or choral) before the Artistic & Musical Director and one other member of the Edgecumbe Choir Committee.

During the audition, applicants will also be required to sight-read (after brief preparation and with piano accompaniment) an excerpt of music of a moderate level of difficulty.

The decision of the Edgecumbe Choir executive in the awarding of the Scholarship will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. More than one Scholarship may be awarded.

The Commitment & Duties

The Edgecumbe Choir will require the young scholar to:

- Attend rehearsals and concerts as set out in a calendar available to applicants at the time of application. A typical rehearsal schedule is 2 hours weekly on Thursday evenings from 7-9pm, a reading workshop from 10am to 4pm on a Saturday at the beginning of a rehearsal period and a polishing workshop 10am to 4pm on the Saturday a fortnight prior to a performance weekend. Performances typically include a Saturday evening and sometimes a Sunday matinee on the same weekend. Special requests for permission to be absent from rehearsals should be made to the Artistic & Musical Director and will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Rehearsals and performances are usually held at Church of St George and St John, 30 Domain Rd, Whakatane.

- Be available for additional non-scheduled rehearsal as they may arise. These may include, but not be limited to, sectional rehearsals, soloist rehearsals, or private tuition from the Artistic & Musical director.
- Be responsible for the safe-keeping of choir music in your possession, and pay for any loss or damage as the Artistic & Musical Director determines.
- Those to whom a scholarship is offered will be required to accept that because they will be singing in a religious setting from time to time, a high standard of behaviour will be expected.
- Young scholars will be required to wear the choir uniform or robes as directed by the Artistic & Musical Director.
- Young scholars will be required to adhere to all the terms and conditions as laid out in the Edgecumbe Choir Constitution and Code of Conduct, copies of which will be provided for you.
- Young scholars will be required to regard membership of the choir as a prime commitment for the time of tenure. Accordingly, they will be expected to obtain the permission of the Artistic & Musical Director before accepting any other musical engagement in the year of the scholarship.
- Young scholars will be required to make a written submission of their experience with the Edgecumbe Choir at the end of the scholarship year, submitted no later than the final performance, to be used for promotional purposes, for example on the website and in a newsletter.

Discipline

In the event of a continued failure to fulfil the expected duties and obligations, the Artistic & Musical Director will first give the scholarship holder a formal written warning, followed by one month for the holder to improve adherence to his/her duties and obligations.

Following the above process, the scholarship will be terminated if the holder continues to fail to fulfil the above duties and obligations. A scholarship holder's term which ends prematurely in termination will receive no portion of the scholarship funds.

To ensure consistency in musical dedication, a sum of money may be deducted from the scholarship at the discretion of the Artistic & Musical Director in the event of an unreasonable absence from rehearsal(s).