

## **Australian Boys Choral Institute**

### **Artistic Policy**

The Australian Boys Choral Institute (ABCI) is committed to the pursuit and promotion of excellence in choral music, aspiring to leadership amongst choral organisations in Australia and international recognition for the quality of its performances and educational program.

The Australian Boys Choir and The Vocal Consort are the public expression of the ABCI and comprise talented, dedicated and trained singer members. No individual will be selected or permitted to perform as a member of one of these groups unless he meets the highest possible criteria in preparation, discipline and musical skill. These criteria are determined and continuously reviewed by the Artistic Director in consultation with Music Staff.

Only the highest professional standards will be acceptable in all matters concerning public performances sponsored by the ABCI. Selection of music, programming, accompaniment, associate artists and performing venues will all be subject to the closest artistic scrutiny and evaluation by the Artistic Director and staff on a continuing basis. Performances will normally be directed to the satisfaction and musical edification of audience and performer: the raising of funds will not normally be the primary purpose of, nor consideration in, performance.

Music staff are employed not only for their competence as music educators, but are also expected to maintain the highest standards of musicianship, judgment and performing skill.

The Artistic Director is ultimately responsible for all musical and artistic decisions regarding performances of the ABCI's performing groups and is responsible to the ABCI Board for the good order, staffing and educational progress of trainee and performing members of the ABCI.

The vocal tone of the choirs will result from the cultivation of quality and strength in individual voices and strict adherence to standard “Cultivated Australian” pronunciation of vowel sounds (modified towards “Received Pronunciation” where necessary to sustain tone), Italianate pronunciation of ecclesiastical Latin and the most stylistically appropriate pronunciation of other languages. The choirs’ tone will be flexible enough to meet a variety of stylistic demands.

All performances will be as authentic as possible, adhering to musicologically “correct” performance and stylistic conventions, using urtext editions wherever possible, original accompaniments and texts. Departures from these guidelines will be undertaken only after intense artistic and scholarly consideration.

Repertoire will largely be chosen from music written specifically for boys’ and mens’ voices. Concert programs will include a significant proportion of music from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and encompass a wide stylistic range and variety of music from other periods. Particular emphasis will be given to the performance of music by Australian composers, thereby encouraging the composition of new works.

The ABCI will actively cooperate and seek involvement with professional and “professional standard” musical groups, but will become involved with amateur groups only in exceptional circumstances.

In its dealings with musicians and other artists, the Institute will be guided by professional standards of payment and working conditions. Recognising that composers, arrangers and publishers deserve to reap the rewards of their work, the ABCI will endeavour to adhere to, and promote amongst its members, the law regarding copyright.

**Regular review:**

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

**Document History**

Version	Date	Adopted
1.0	14 Jan 2013	
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**Responsibility:** Artistic Director