

WINDFIRE CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

The Windfire Chamber Choir was founded as part of the Music at the Basilica Inc concert programme. The choir is a mixed ensemble of 30 to 40 singers, which aims to give polished performances of fine music, presenting two concerts a year, often with orchestral accompaniment, in the grand space of St Mary's Basilica, Geelong, and is conducted by Joseph Hie, an experienced and highly regarded musician.

Up to eight choral scholarships a year are offered (four for sopranos or altos, and four for tenors or basses). We aim to give successful scholarship applicants the opportunity to sing exciting music with a fine choir, conducted by one of Australia's most exciting young choral conductors. Applications are now invited.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be:

- aged 15 to 27;
- currently studying, or intending to study, at an approved secondary or tertiary education institution, either full or part time, in 2025;
- Australian citizens

VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

Windfire Choral Scholars will receive \$500 per year to use as they choose to further their studies in an approved secondary or tertiary course. The scholarships are paid in two instalments: \$200 after the first concert of the year and \$300 after the second concert.

APPLICATION FORM AND DUE DATE

Fill in the accompanying application form and return by email of post:

Email: music.basilica@bigpond.com

Mail: Music at the Basilica Inc

PO Box 1425, Geelong 3220

Phone: 0447 238 432 (Jane)

Applications Close 31 January 2024

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection is by a short audition which will be conducted at a mutually convenient time and venue in Geelong prior to the first rehearsal.

AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIP

- Candidates will be advised of the results very quickly after the audition
- Candidates who are not offered a scholarship will be offered free membership of the Windfire Chamber Choir and may re-apply for a scholarship at future auditions.

Joseph Hie



Joseph Hie has an Honours degree in Music from the University of Melbourne and has studied conducting with Rick Prakhoff. He has conducted choirs, and other small ensembles as well as opera. He has also been an assistant conductor for the Zelman Memorial Symphony Orchestra and the Melbourne Bach Choir

Frank De Rosso OAM



Frank De Rosso is the founder and Artistic Director of Music at the Basilica Inc. to present concerts of sacred music at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels and is dedicated to preserving sacred music from the ancient to the contemporary in solo, ensemble and choral settings.

WINDFIRE CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____
_____ Postcode _____

Email _____

Phone(s) _____

Date of Birth _____ (Student must be aged 15-27)

Are you an Australian citizen? Yes No

Voice Soprano Mezzo Alto
Tenor Baritone Bass

PLANNED STUDIES IN 2025

Institution: _____
_____ Year

Level ____ E.g. Yr 11/12, or Yr 1/2 etc. tertiary. Name of
tertiary course:

Evidence that student remains actively engaged in the
approved course will be required before any scholarship
payment is made.

Are you planning to take music as a subject? Yes No

Have you had singing lessons?

If so, give names of teachers and length of study.

EXPERIENCE

Do you have any choral experience?

(school choirs, University Choirs, community Choirs if any.

Include dates and directors):

Application form (cont.)

Have you had any solo vocal experience?
(examinations, concerts etc. if any):

STATEMENT

Please explain why you would like sing as a Scholar with
Windfire Chamber Choir.

If you are not awarded a scholarship, would you like to be
invited to sing with the scholars as an Associate?

Yes No

REFEREES (Include the names, email addresses and phone
numbers of two referees with knowledge of your interest
and ability in music, e.g. choir or orchestra conductor,
director of stage production, music teacher, mentor.

1. _____

2. _____

DECLARATION I have read and understand and will fulfil the
conditions and requirements of the Windfire Scholarship
Program as in the Windfire Scholarship Program Information
Brochure for Applicants.

Signature of Applicant:

Date: _____

Candidates under 18 years of age need the signature of
parent or guardian to support their application.

Signature of Parent or Guardian:

SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

We aim to give our Windfire Scholars a great musical
experience in which they develop their choral and musical
skills and enjoy being part of a fine choir, giving exciting
performances. Our Windfire Scholars give back to the choir
and the community by being part of a core group of
enthusiastic young singers who provide leadership by
dedicating themselves to developing vocally and musically
and learning the music thoroughly.

Windfire Choral Scholars:

- sing with the Windfire Chamber Choir for two concerts in
2025;
- attend all regular rehearsals and the 'dress' rehearsal for
each concert. Rehearsals are once a week from 7.30
-9.45pm over a 6 to 8 week period prior to each concert;
- may be required to attend additional special rehearsals;
- are asked to be present five minutes before the
scheduled rehearsal or call time;
- are expected to practise music and vocal technique
between rehearsals so that they are familiar with the
music and in this way can be vocal leaders within the
choir;
- will be responsible for their choir music. Loss or damage
may need to be paid for at the Artistic Director's
discretion;
- need to provide their own all-black performing uniform
as directed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Requests for leave of absence must be received and
approved by the Artistic Director at least two weeks in
advance. Scholars must obtain the permission of the
Artistic Director before accepting other musical
engagements or work commitments which conflict with
the scholar's commitments to the Windfire Chamber
Choir. Extended absences due to illness must be
accompanied by a medical certificate.

RENEWAL AND CONCLUSION OF SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships are awarded for one year and are renewable
by the normal application and audition process. Special
consideration may be given to students taking a study
break. The Artistic Director may suspend, reduce or end
the scholarship if a scholar, after being warned, continues
to fail to fulfil commitments.