New Orleans Bulletin # 2 - 2 December 2018

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74th Annual Sweet Adelines International Convention

When: 16-21 September 2019

Where: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA (Smoothie King Centre http://www.smoothiekingcenter.com/about-us)

Smoothie King? It's a chain of fast-food outlets that specialise in healthy whizzed-up fruit and vege drinks. They have naming rights to the arena, where sports teams play. And Sweet Adelines sing.

What happens: We arrive on 12-13 September. There will be rehearsals each day from Friday, 13 September to Wednesday 18 September. Jan Alexandersson, Rasmus Krigstom, Darlene Rogers, Lea Beverley, and Ryan Heller sill all be coaching us at our rehearsals from the beginning.

On the night of Sunday 15 September we will perform in a show with A Capella West Chorus (Perth) and some Queen of Harmony quartets, which will serve as a dress rehearsal. We compete in the semi-finals on Thursday 19 September. You'll have the chance to watch the small chorus competition and the quartet competitions Tuesday evening, even from your room on your phone. We rest as much as is possible and rehearse twice a day for two, 2 hour sessions with a lunch break in between. Early to bed – it is exhausting work keeping focused on self-improvement. There is very little time to go out and tour – plan on resting and relaxing. The temperature will be high 20-s and into the 30's so we can swim in the hotel pool in between rehearsals to cool off!

Competition dates: Semi-finals are all day Thursday, 19 September. We are competitor #18 in the semi-finals, meaning we'll be on stage for our 7 minutes at about 3:30 in the afternoon. There will be about 34 choruses competing.

Final competition (the ten top-scoring choruses from the semis) is Saturday 20 September. Our goal is to be in that top ten!

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Contest songs for New Orleans

Semi-finals

This Joint is Jumpin'

May I Never Love Again

Manhattan Transfer Finals package

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square

Birdland

Manhattan Transfer

Twilight Tone

Trickle Trickle

Latest Travel and Accommodation Details

The chorus is having a final rehearsal weekend in Christchurch on 6-8 September 2019. We are NOT performing at the Isaac Theatre Royal in Christchurch on Thursday 12 September. This has been cancelled. **You need to arrive in New Orleans on Thursday 12th or Friday 13th September**. Rehearsals begin in New Orleans on the evening of Friday 13 September.

The whole chorus stays together in a convention hotel, at the convention rates. This is organised by the chorus. The convention hotels are both on Canal Street: the New Orleans Marriott, and the Sheraton New Orleans. You have the option of sharing a room with a chorus member, rooming on your own, or sharing with a partner or travelling friend. But you **have to** stay with the chorus! This allows us to have rehearsal space, meals on site, and bus transport to the competitions.

Flight Options

The Chorus does not organise group airfare bookings. There is no financial benefit for individuals, given the airline pricing policies. Also, chorus members may fly to New Orleans around the same time, but afterwards we all head off in different directions, some straight back home, some to tour around the States, some head off to Europe or the Caribbean.

Air New Zealand flies directly from Auckland to Los Angeles, Houston, and Chicago. Other carriers, such as Qantas, Virgin Pacific, Hawaiian, Air Tahiti Nui, and Fiji Airways also go to the West Coast of the USA. Several of these airlines require stopovers at their home bases (Tahiti, Fiji, Honolulu, Sydney), but that may work well for some people wanting a holiday. Many airlines also offer group fares for 10 or more people, so you could get together with like-minded travellers and explore the options.

Flight specials to the USA often come up in February-March

Jan Mathieson will help anyone who needs advice, and keep an eye on specials and let the chorus know. Don't buy tickets quite yet.

Current round trip flight costs, Christchurch – New Orleans return:

Air New Zealand – NZD2712.00
Virgin – NZD2120.00 via Australia
American Airlines – NZD2462.00
Qantas – NZD2512.00

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If you want to employ a professional to simplify the whole process of itineraries, bookings, and ticketing, there is a travel agent in the chorus– Liz Watts, an OOTM baritone from Palmerston North is a Senior Travel Consultant with Hello World. 06 357 4605 Liz.watts@helloworld.co.nz

Letters of support from chorus for your employers

See Bulletin #1 for more details. Letters are on the New Orleans page of the chorus website. Contact Jeannette McGrath for a personalised, signed copy if you want to approach your employer with a request for additional or special leave.

Estimated costs and due dates

Estimated costs to you of travelling to and attending the 2019 Sweet Adeline's International Convention

Note: due to the current low exchange rate for the NZD, prices are considerably higher when USD are converted. It is hard to predict whether this rate will persist into 2019.

Item	Due date	Price NZD
Convention Registration $225 USD	24 March 2019	$345
Contribution to Chorus Shared Meals (lunches on competition days, dinners after competitions)	30 May 2019	$150
Air Travel – book your own, Christchurch to New Orleans return approximate price based on current fares	From February 2019	$2,500
Cost $189USD per night for the room plus $15.2% tax plus $3 per person daily occupancy rate = about $340NZD per room per night. If two share a room the cost will be $1530 each for 9 nights, but this is subject to exchange rates. ***See the webpage for more about hotel room costs***	September 2019	$1,530
Ground Transport (personal travel, taxis, shuttles, airport to hotel) $50USD	September 2019	$80
Travel Insurance	From Feb 2019	$150
Food ($50 USD per day, 9 days, total $450USD)	September 2019	$700
TOTAL (Estimated)		$5,455

Other costs coming up in March and April

Remember that attendance at the Living Springs annual chorus weekend is compulsory, and you should budget for this. Kim Vaughn will be our coach in residence. The price for full accommodation and all meals, Friday 8 March to Sunday 10 March 2019 will be about $190.

The Regional Convention will be held in Dunedin from 2-5 May 2019. The Chorus will evaluate (sing for the judges and receive comments and a grade), in order to see what we have to work on for New Orleans. The songs we will sing are *May I Never Love Again,* and *This Joint is Jumpin'.* Transport to Dunedin will probably be by car pooling or hired vehicles. The cost to each person will be for the convention registration (about $200) and accommodation (about $300).

Show with Australian Chorus, Sunday 15 September

On Sunday evening we have a show from 7-10pm that we charge entry to. A Capella West the Australian Champions, and the Australian and NZ quartet champions, and any wild card quartets, will perform, along with some Queens of Harmony Quartets.

We perform our semi-finals package and our finals package to experience the final performance preparation with an audience of friends. Sweet Adelines and many judges and Directors of choruses who aren't competing or judging will be in the audience. This is a fun night that we enjoy.

Viber Group

A Viber Group has been set up for New Orleans - CCC New Orleans 2019.
Please download the Viber app if you haven't already done so. If you were previously on the Vegas Viber Group you will have been added to this group. Once you have downloaded the app please text Rebecca Gourlay on 027 3555 352 so you can be added to the group. Virginia will use this Viber group to send regular messages to the chorus.

With Viber you can send free texts, make free phone calls, and even send photos and other attachments, as long as you are on Wi-Fi. You can switch off your phone's mobile data and not incur any charges from your provider here in NZ, but still use your phone to text or call, through Viber. When you join Viber, a list comes up of everyone else in your phone's contact list who is on Viber. Then you can make a group, and keep in touch with one another about rehearsals, meals, sightseeing etc!

Health Team for New Orleans – Volunteers Needed

It's best to be confident that you are able to manage your own health issues when you travel, therefore **BEFORE** the trip, to minimise your risk of illness or flare-ups of existing conditions when you are in New Orleans, consult your own GP or Practice Nurse, if you have concerns or worries.
Within the chorus are a number of medical, nursing and allied health personnel who volunteer their skills and make themselves available to assist with any information or concerns while we are away. **More information and advice about this service will be provided in a separate document.**
Be Prepared: Think and plan ahead now to be independent and avoid problems which can be costly. **Everyone should have TRAVEL INSURANCE** with medical cover as treatment in the USA is VERY expensive.
Store your health details on your phone. Download one of the health storage apps, such as Care Zone, that allows you to record your medications, list your allergies, scan your health insurance documents, and document your medical conditions. You may need these details when you are travelling.
First Aid Kits: Prepare a small first aid supply for yourself of paracetamol tablets, migraine medication, flu/cold medication, throat lozenges, band aids, a crepe bandage, and whatever else you think you may need.

What will our New Orleans fundraising go towards?

We will use the money raised in the coming year for expenses that benefit the whole chorus: hiring risers and venues for rehearsals in New Orleans, shared meals for the whole chorus (lunches and dinners on competition days), and paying for our coaches who work with us in New Orleans in the run-up to competition.

In 2016 the chorus took 133 singers to Las Vegas and spent an additional $21,000 on in house coaches, transport, printed material, rehearsal venue hire, riser rental, and lunches on competition day. There will be fundraising for New 0rleans, and this means that we do not individually have to contribute to those costs.

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Kiwi Express

This coach tour departs New Orleans the day after the Convention finishes (22 September) and travels through Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. Options include a 7 day, 10 day, or 14 day tour. This is a budget tour with costs shared by all participants. The tour is open to SA members from around the world, spouses and family members. See the New Orleans page on the chorus website
https://sites.google.com/a/ccchorus.co.nz/members/

New Orleans Planning Team

Coordinators Susan Noseworthy Jan Mathieson	**Registrations** Rebecca Gourlay Edna Byron Robyn Harvey	**Accommodation** Masayo Yoshida Jean Dobbs	**Newsletters** Trish Morrison Marilyn Bishop
Meals in New Orleans Miriam Spragg Rebecca Gourlay	**Travel Advice** Jan Mathieson	**Health Team Coordinator** Edna Byron	**New Orleans t-shirts** Amelia Davis
Chorus Handbook Amelia Davis	**Hair/Make-up Coordinator** Sandy Gunn	**Travelling Supporters Coordinator** Angela Blank	**Show with Rönninge Chorus** Virginia