CONVENTION BULLETIN #2
February 2026

We hope everyone has had a great start to the new year and is as excited as we are about coming to Convention in May. Both the National Convention Team and the local Manawatū Team have made great progress and have lots to share with you.

The Thursday May 14 Programme

- 2.30pm – The Registration Desk opens. One designated person from each chorus can pick up their choruses' packs from 2.30pm
- 3.00pm - Sound and Lighting Checks
- 5.00pm - The Regional Annual Members Meeting (RAMM)

We also intend to have a Quartet Reception after the RAMM to enable quartet members to socialise together. It is likely to be after the RAMM but we are still to decide on the venue.

Registration - now open!

This year, contest registration has been streamlined into one simple process using **Humanitix**. Humanitix is a not-for-profit platform that donates 100% of its proceeds to charity.

All registrations (including payment) are now fully electronic. Payments are no longer made via your chorus - instead, you'll pay directly through Humanitix using credit card, Google Pay, or PayPal.

When you register, you can opt in to Sound Check, Star Chorus and Education Classes, and purchase Afterglow tickets and Convention Pins - all in one place.

👉 **Register here:** *https://events.humanitix.com/harmony-manawatu*

Members are encouraged to register early to take advantage of early-bird pricing which ends March 2nd.

If you have any questions regarding SANZ Convention registration please talk to your chorus Team Coordinator or Finance person.

Tickets

Friends, family, and supporters can purchase tickets for the Quartet and Chorus Competitions through Ticketek, or directly from the Regent on Broadway - either in advance or on the day of the competition. Ticket sales will be announced on our social media channels once they become available, so keep an eye out for updates.

Education Classes

The Education Classes will be held at the Copthorne Hotel on the Sunday morning.

All four judges have indicated they will facilitate these classes. Jana Gutenson and Mary Rhea have confirmed that in the first classes they will explain the updates to the Music and Sound Categories and it is likely that Lisa Hunszinger and Jennifer Williams will focus on the Expression and Visual Communication Categories updates.

This will be followed by two separate "Coaching Under Glass" sessions where the judges will work in pairs with a chorus & quartet they have selected.

Registration for these classes is on a first in first served basis - and part of your registration.

The Afterglow

The theme this year is "Regent's Rural Rave." You won't be expected to wear gumboots but you are welcome to wear anything that has a rural theme.

We will use four separate areas in the Regent to accommodate all your interests. The Ground Floor/Entrance areas will have a DJ/dancing area and an area for photos. A separate room will be available for people who want some time to chat with friends and the "Quarteting" will be in a much larger room. We also intend to stop the music for half an hour to enable larger groups or whole choruses to sing together while standing on the stairs to the mezzanine floor.

Tea, coffee and supper stations will be set up in several areas. The main bar will be in the auditorium with at least one further bar upstairs. The two bars take cash or cards.

Star Chorus

There has been a change in SANZ policy about who is eligible to sing in the Star Chorus. Members attending our Regional Competition who are in any Evaluating Chorus, competing in the Open Division and those who are only in the Quartet Competition are able to sing in the Star Chorus.

Yellow and Orange colours are required for costumes for the Star Chorus. If members don't have full outfits in those colours, they can add blue denim, but no black please. Shoes should be comfortable and go with the outfit (such as white sneakers). Please avoid black shoes.

Reminders

If your chorus would like to be involved in the **Harmony Bazaar** please contact me: skgreaney@outlook.com

If your chorus or quartet has a **Trophy to return** please contact Kim58cai@gmail.com to advise the contact details of who currently has possession, and she will advise the process for engraving and returning it prior to the start of May.