

## VOYCE – Terms of Participation

### Mission

The Victorian Opera Youth Chorus Ensemble (VOYCE) re-imagines the potential of opera for young, aspiring singers through regular training and a range of performance opportunities.

### Objectives

As the state opera company, Victorian Opera strives to give young people in VOYCE a learning experience that they would not otherwise have access to through school or community programs.

VOYCE provides regular training for secondary school and tertiary students between the ages of 13-20, focusing on dramatic works and singing, with heavy emphasis applied to the delivery of text and expression of dramatic intent and movement.

Throughout the annual program, participants have access to professional singers, répétiteurs and directors from the performing arts industry, receiving educational and performance-based expertise and opportunities of state-company calibre.

VOYCE brings together like-minded and equally passionate young people to take part in a program that rehearses a range of operatic repertoire and develops skills essential to opera chorus and solo roles.

### VOYCE Performances 2020

VOYCE will give performances on following 2020 dates:

- Tuesday 16 June – VOYCE Showcase Concert – Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse.  
All rehearsals in the lead up to the Showcase Concert **are mandatory**.
- Monday 31 August – Saturday 26 September – Victorian Opera Youth Production, *The Friends of Salamanca* - Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse  
Optional participation by audition only. The Youth Opera Production is only open to those aged 15-25.

### VOYCE Benefits

As part of VOYCE, members receive:

- A discounted student ticket to Victorian Opera's productions of *Salome* on Tuesday 25 February 2020 – Palais Theatre, St Kilda.
- Special access to the General Rehearsal of the company's 2020 commission, *Three Tales*, on Thursday 25 June – Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse.

Attending either of these performances is not compulsory but affords insight to how the company runs its rehearsals and the diversity of productions it stages.

### **Attendance and absences**

VOYCE participants are required to attend a minimum 80% of rehearsals each term. Failure to do so will result in their dismissal from the program.

We recognise that participants will sometimes need to miss a rehearsal due to illness or other performance commitments. We do, however, encourage participants to manage their time so that their study requirements do not interfere with the VOYCE schedule.

Acknowledging that VOYCE participants are often chosen for solo roles in school productions, we feel that committing to both programs will not allow participants to get the most out of VOYCE and the opportunities it presents. By prior negotiation, those involved in school productions may be able to be absent from VOYCE rehearsals during this time. We encourage parents to continue a discussion with their children about their commitment throughout the school year.

If you are successful in your audition for VOYCE and are then selected to take part in your school production, please feel free to discuss your options with VOYCE Music Director, Angus Grant and Education Manager, Ioanna Salmanidis.