

COVID Choir Survey

	YES	NO
1. Did your group cease live rehearsals due to COVID restrictions?	61	1
2. Is your group in danger of disbanding due to COVID?	7	55
3. What other impacts has COVID had on your group?	comments	
4. Did your group undertake online rehearsals during this time?	34	28
5. What software did you use for your online rehearsals?	Zoom	Jitsi, Webex, Bandcamp, Facebook Live
	31	1 each
6. What was your experience of rehearsing online?	comments	

COVID Choir Survey

The Impact of COVID on choirs

Selection of comments:

- “There is considerable fear of infection and a strong desire to protect those most vulnerable”
- “...the current committee wishes to resign and we are yet to elect a new one”
- “...we lost 2/3rds of the choir at rehearsals”
- “There was a complete loss of revenue to the choir from concerts and fundraising activities”
- “All engagements at nursing and retirement homes were cancelled”
- “Dreadful withdrawals symptoms due to lack of singing”
- “No festivals or live performances...we’re struggling so much without the accolades!”

COVID Choir Survey

8. Are you planning to restart live rehearsals?	We have already restarted	We plan to start in the next 1-6 weeks	We plan to start in the next 1-4 months	We have no plans to restart
	19	17	17	11

9. Which of the following would encourage you to restart live rehearsals?	Further easing of restrictions	Availability of venues	Find out how other groups are managing risk
	37	26	34
Other items that would assist you to restart	comments		

10. Does your group have any special characteristics that makes restarting difficult right now?	We have a large number of members	A high proportion of vulnerable members	Our venue is not available	Our director is no longer available	None
	14	37	0	0	4
Other items that would make restarting difficult	comments				

11. Will you live stream future rehearsals for vulnerable members or provide some other option for them?	yes	no	have not considered it yet
	20	20	20



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The online experience for choirs – comments received:

- “It took us 3 sessions to find the best Zoom version, and for everyone to become familiar...”
- “Too difficult and we have ceased”
- “Good for maintaining contact but terrible for singing...”
- “Online was not possible due to the level of IT knowledge in our group”
- “It’s not much fun singing on your own”

But also some positives!!

- “Approx 70% of members continued to pay their term fees”
- “It was a wonderful opportunity to stay connected socially with members”
- “singing online allowed those who normally sing quietly to SING OUT loudly!”

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12. COVID Safety Plan to restart rehearsals	We have a COVID Safety Plan to restart	We need information about how to make a plan	Would like to hear what other groups are planning	We would be willing to share our plan to assist other groups
	27	21	30	22

13. SongFest is looking to provide an online resource for groups to make their own COVID Safety Plans	We would like to make use of such a resource	We would be willing to contribute to such a resource
	43	30

14. Considering future performance possibilities:	We already have a performance planned	We will consider performing later this year	We currently have no plans to perform	We would love SongFest to come up with an idea!
	18	31	23	14

15. What other concerns does your group have about restarting rehearsals?		comment
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16. What other support would you like to see provided to the singing community at this time?		comment
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17. Would you be prepared to share your groups COVID experience story?	YES	NO
	43	13

Widespread agreement to use and share resources



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What would help to restart live rehearsals?

Selection of comments:

- "A system of safely rehearsing and performing"
- "Scientific consensus on aerosol spread and choir safety..."
- "... encouragement that it is ok to sing"
- "A collective purchase of Choir-Friendly PPE..."
- "How to keep on singing when community transmission of the virus appears in Perth"
- "Some help to make a COVID plan is probably the most useful thing..."



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The Impact of COVID on choirs - SUMMARY

- Palpable grief at the loss of the joy of singing together
- 12% of groups in danger of disbanding altogether
- 45% of groups unable to manage online rehearsals
- 50%+ loss of members for online rehearsals
- 66% of groups had not yet considered how to include vulnerable members going forward
- Confusion and anxiety about how to move forward with live singing
- Widespread consensus to share experience, ideas and plans with other groups