











Participation Guidelines



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1. Program overview

Creative Generation Choral Fanfare (Choral Fanfare) is a biennial choral festival for Queensland state schools which promotes and celebrates school-based choral music programs. More than 9,000 state school students participate in the program which showcases the outstanding vocal talents in our schools.

The program is managed at the state level and coordinated regionally, and involves regional festivals, regional finals and a state final.

Choral Fanfare aims to:

- offer students, as well as conductors, the experience of expert adjudication and feedback
- provide students with the opportunity to perform alongside choirs from other state schools
- highlight school-based choirs
- promote excellence in choral performance.

Choirs of all levels are encouraged to take part in the festivals to gain performance experience, as well as receive valuable feedback from a professional adjudicator and have the opportunity to watch other choirs perform.

2. Contacts

For gueries about Choral Fanfare 2025, please contact:

Kate John Choral Fanfare Program Manager Department of Education PO Box 15033 City East QLD 4002

Email: fanfare.program@qed.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 3328 6636

Teachers may also contact their regional coordinators for regional festival and regional final information.

Choral Fanfare regional coordinators

Region	Name	Email address
Central Queensland	Matthew Johnston	mjohn365@eq.edu.au
Darling Down South West	Sharon Gilbert	sharon.gilbert@qed.qld.gov.au
Far North Queensland	Ruth Pols	rpols7@eq.edu.au
Metropolitan North	Malcolm James	mjame38@eq.edu.au
Metropolitan South	Harmony Woollett	hwool11@eq.edu.au
North Coast	Allyson Brown	allyson.brown@qed.qld.gov.au
North Queensland	Janice Campbell	jcamp409@eq.edu.au
South East	Alana Russell	aruss38@eq.edu.au

3. Program information

3.1 Key dates

Monday 4 November 2024 Friday 28 February 2025 May/June 2025 August 2025

Nominations open Nominations close Regional festivals and finals State final concerts held in Brisbane

3.2 Participation fee

A participation fee of \$130 per choir will be charged to schools to assist in the delivery of the program.

For choirs participating as a combined school group (see section 7.2), the participation fees will be charged against the coordinating teacher's school, unless otherwise advised.

Should a choir wish to withdraw from participating in the Choral Fanfare 2025 regional festivals, they will need to contact their regional coordinator and the program manager by Friday 14 **March 2025**. After this date, no refund will be given if a choir chooses to withdraw.

Fees for all participating schools will be processed/swept from school accounts in April 2025.

4. Regional festivals and finals

4.1 Regional festivals

The regional festivals for Choral Fanfare will be held throughout May and June 2025 in various performance venues around the state.

Once nominations have closed, all schools will receive further details regarding their regional festival via email from their Choral Fanfare regional coordinator.

Every nominated choir will be allocated a session time for their performance at their regional festival. This will be communicated to schools through the coordinating teacher by the relevant Choral Fanfare regional coordinator. It is the responsibility of the school's coordinating teacher to inform the various conductors, teachers and choirs involved from their school of these details.

Each choir performance will be professionally adjudicated.

The regional festival adjudicators will:

- provide positive and constructive feedback to the students and the conductor
- award each participating choir with a certificate at the end of their performance
- in consultation with the Choral Fanfare regional coordinator, determine how many and which choirs will perform in the regional final.

4.2 Regional finals

The regional finals will be held across the state in June 2025. After each regional final, the adjudicators will select and award the regional Most Outstanding Performance awards according to the table below. There is no requirement for adjudicators to allocate the full number of awards.

Region	Secondary division	Primary division
Central Queensland	1 choir	1 choir
Darling Down South West	1 choir	1 choir
Far North Queensland	1 choir	1 choir
Metropolitan North	2 choirs	2 choirs
Metropolitan South	2 choirs	2 choirs
North Coast	2 choirs	2 choirs
North Queensland	1 choir	1 choir
South East Queensland	2 choirs	2 choirs

In addition to the allocated numbers above, there are discretionary Most Outstanding Performance awards available for choirs across the state who the adjudicators deem to be worthy of the top regional honour. No more than one discretionary award can be given per region. These awards will be given out at the adjudicators' discretion.

It is the role of the regional final adjudicators to determine which choirs from the group of most outstanding regional award winners will progress to the state final.

4.3 School funding

Travel and associated expenses for schools to attend their relevant regional festival and regional finals must be covered by the school.

As outlined on page 4, there is a participation fee of \$130 per choir for Choral Fanfare 2025.

5. State finals – primary and secondary

After all regional finals have finished, the adjudicators will convene to select up to 5 primary choirs and up to 5 secondary choirs from the most outstanding performance awardees at the regional finals. These choirs will be invited to perform at the Choral Fanfare state final concerts in Brisbane in August 2025 as follows.

- The primary choirs selected at regional finals will perform for adjudicators at the Choral Fanfare 2025 primary state final concert.
- The primary choir deemed to have given the most outstanding performance will be invited to open the secondary state final concert later in the day. This performance is not compulsory.
- The secondary choirs selected at the regional finals will perform for adjudicators at the Choral Fanfare 2025 secondary state final concert.



The most outstanding primary and secondary performers will receive the respective Choral Fanfare perpetual trophy.

Please note that:

- No more than one choir from any one school can be represented in the state final.
- The maximum number of choirs who can progress from each region is listed in the table below. No region can have more than this allocated number represented in the state final.

Region	Secondary division	Primary division
Central Queensland	1 choir	1 choir
Darling Down South West	1 choir	1 choir
Far North Queensland	1 choir	1 choir
Metropolitan North	2 choirs	2 choirs
Metropolitan South	2 choirs	2 choirs
North Coast	2 choirs	2 choirs
North Queensland	1 choir	1 choir
South East Queensland	2 choirs	2 choirs

5.1 Travel subsidy for state finals

Schools who are invited to attend the state final concerts, and are located more than 60 km from the Brisbane CBD, will receive a travel subsidy for up to 70 performers per choir. Eligible schools will also receive a travel subsidy for one teacher per 15 students, for up to 5 teachers. The subsidy per student is based on the distance of the school from the Brisbane CBD, as follows:

School location	Subsidy per student
Schools less than 60 km but less than 99 km to Brisbane	NA
Schools more than 60 km but less than 99 km to Brisbane	\$ 15.00
Schools more than 100 km but less than 199 km to Brisbane	\$ 25.00
Schools more than 200 km but less than 299 km to Brisbane	\$ 40.00
Schools more than 300 km but less than 749 km to Brisbane	\$ 250.00
Schools more than 750 km to Brisbane	\$ 300.00

Schools less than 60 km from Brisbane are responsible for covering all their travel costs to and from the state final.

All travel arrangements, including flights, accommodation, and transfers while in Brisbane, must be organised and paid for by the school. Any expenses exceeding the subsidy will also be covered by the school.

6. Nominations

Schools wishing to participate in Choral Fanfare should nominate via the website. Schools should nominate in primary or secondary divisions according to the highest year level of students in the choir.

Choirs may be nominated by their conductor, school teacher, music/arts coordinator or principal.

When completing the nomination online, choirs from Metropolitan North, Metropolitan South, North Coast and South East regions will be required to select their first and second preferences for performance times and venues for the Choral Fanfare regional festival. Please note that while we do our best to offer all schools their first preference of time/venue, this is not always possible and preferences are not final. The regional coordinator for each of these regions will confirm all allocated performance times and venues after nominations have closed.

Choirs from Central Queensland, Darling Downs South West, Far North Queensland and North Queensland regions will be allocated a performance time and notified of the venue for their Choral Fanfare regional festival by the regional coordinator after nominations have closed.

6.1 Nomination process

Nominations for Choral Fanfare 2025 will open on **Monday 4 November 2024** and close on Friday 28 February 2025. Please read the participation guidelines, in particular the Eligibility Requirements on page 8, prior to nominating.

Only one account per school can be set up through the nomination website. One teacher must set up the account as the coordinating teacher. Other teachers at the school may access the nomination website using the log in details created by the coordinating teacher. It is recommended that the coordinating teacher use their departmental email address and create a generic password that can be shared with other teachers at the school who require access to the school's account.

If a teacher wishes to be the coordinating teacher for other schools where they teach, they must set up a separate account for each school. They may use the same email but must create a different password for each account.

When nominating for Choral Fanfare 2025, the coordinating teacher will be asked to:

- Nominate the division for each choir. Refer to "Divisions" on page 11 which explains the different categories of participation.
- Acknowledge that:
 - o the school principal has endorsed the nomination and approves the participation fee
 - they accept the Terms and Conditions of Choral Fanfare 2025
 - they certify that all information submitted is true and correct at the time of submission
 - the school will ensure adequate supervision is provided for students participating in the regional festival, regional final and state final
 - parents/guardians and students understand the entire program and the expectations and level of commitment required

o all students (and parents/guardians of those students) understand the Department of Education is collecting personal information, and will handle this material in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 and the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.

6.2 Project consent

Everyone selected to perform in the Choral Fanfare primary and secondary state final concerts (students, conductors and accompanists) is requested to complete a Choral Fanfare 2025 project consent form and ministerial project consent form. All parents/guardians of students and choir conductors must read the terms and conditions of these forms.

The use of the project consent forms is part of the department's consent procedure regarding the use of photos and/or video images from the Choral Fanfare 2025 state final concerts.

Choirs selected for the state final will be required to submit the completed forms to the Choral Fanfare program manager prior to the performance. Copies of the Choral Fanfare 2025 project consent form and ministerial consent form will be made available via the nomination database in June 2025.

Please note that these consent forms will not be required for the regional festivals and finals, unless requested by the regional coordinator.

Any questions or concerns regarding the project consent forms should be directed to the Choral Fanfare program manager.

7. Eligibility

All choirs are welcome to participate in the Choral Fanfare regional festivals and all will receive a professional written adjudication and certificate. However, to be selected to progress to the regional final, choirs must meet the following eligibility criteria. You will be asked when nominating, whether each choir meets these criteria.

For any questions or concerns regarding eligibility requirements please discuss this with your Choral Fanfare regional coordinator.

7.1 Choirs

A choir must consist of:

- No fewer than 10 students
- No more than 100 students
- Students who are currently enrolled at the nominated school.

As mentioned above, choirs that are outside these numbers may still participate but will not be eligible for regional and state finalist selection due to venue implications. If a choir exceeds 100 choristers, the nominating teacher must contact their regional coordinator to raise this and discuss logistics around performance and venue capacity.

When a school has the same students performing in more than one choir nominated in the same division, only one of these choirs will be eligible for regional final selection. After seeing the performances at the regional festival, it will be the adjudicator/s decision as to which choir is eligible for regional final consideration (if applicable). If a teacher/conductor has some or all of the same students perform across multiple choirs, they must indicate this in the nomination form so that the regional coordinator and adjudicators are aware of this when considering eligibility. All choirs will still receive a platinum, gold, silver or bronze award and a written adjudication.

7.2 Combined schools

Combined school groups are encouraged to participate in the regional festivals in which they will receive a professional adjudication and be awarded with a certificate. However, they will not be eligible for progression to the regional finals.

You will be asked to indicate this in your nomination by selecting "No" when asked "Does this choir meet the full eligibility criteria for regional final selection?".

7.3 Time limits

- Primary choirs are required to perform for 5-12 minutes.
- Secondary choirs are required to perform for 10-18 minutes.
- Performance times are to be strictly adhered to for all categories.
- The timing of a choir's performance will commence from the beginning of the first item and conclude at the end of the last item. Breaks between songs are included in the performance time.
- Conductors may choose to have no applause between items. The compere/audience should be advised of this before the performance.

7.4 Programming

Choirs from the same school are not permitted to perform exactly the same program. More than 80 per cent of the repertoire (for example, at least 8 minutes of a 10 minute program) must be different.

Both primary and secondary choirs are to perform a minimum of 2 contrasting songs or movements at a regional level.

Choirs who progress to the state finals (both primary and secondary) will be expected to perform a minimum of 3 songs. Secondary choirs may choose to perform a fourth song in their program providing it fits into the given time limit.

Choirs selected to perform in the Choral Fanfare state finals are permitted to make changes to their program between the regional events and state finals (whether that be in full or in part).

Please note that as this is a choral focused event, no more than a third of any program can feature a soloist.

7.5 Conductors

There is no restriction on who can conduct the choir for adjudicated performances.

7.6 Accompaniment

- As with the conductor, there is no restriction on who can accompany the choir for adjudicated performances.
- A digital/acoustic piano and a conductor's stand will be provided at the live regional festivals and final events as live accompaniment is preferred.
- Choral conductors choosing to use backing tracks for the regional festivals will need to bring their own device (C4T/mobile phone/tablet etc and appropriate cables) that can be plugged into an amp, as well as provide their own assistant to operate the device and manage sound levels. If this is required, please contact the regional coordinator to ensure there is access to amplification for recorded accompaniment.
- Please be aware that there may not be time for sound checks prior to performances at the regional festivals and finals.
- Please confirm with the regional coordinator if additional instruments and/or stands are to be used as part of the performance.

All schools performing in the regional and state finals will need to perform either with live accompaniment or unaccompanied. No backing tracks will be permissible. Please consult with the Choral Fanfare program coordinator or your Choral Fanfare regional coordinator for any queries about this.

8. Other guidelines for performances

8.1 Microphones and amplification

Wherever possible, a microphone will be provided for a solo vocalist. This availability will be venue specific. If your program does feature a vocal soloist, please contact your Choral Fanfare regional coordinator to confirm microphone availability. Requests for multiple microphones for small groups or semi-choruses may not be able to be accommodated.

8.2 Risers

There will be choir risers on stage for all regional festival and final performances however, there will be limited stage crew meaning that it won't be possible to move risers once they are in place. Any movements will need to be choreographed with this in mind.

8.3 Scores

Conductors must provide a complete copy of the scores being performed by the choir on the day of the regional festival/final to the Choral Fanfare regional coordinator, prior to adjudication. The scores should be in a clearly labelled folder. Lead sheets are accepted; lyrics only are not.

9. Divisions

Schools must nominate a division for each choir when completing the online nomination. Schools should nominate in a division according to the level of repertoire being performed by the choir. Refer to the guide below. Choirs with students from both primary and secondary levels (i.e. a P-10 school) should nominate in a division according to the highest year level of students in the choir, e.g. a Year 5-8 choir would be nominated in the appropriate secondary division.

Primary school choirs

Primary Division 1	Primary Division 2	Primary Division 3	Primary Division 4
 A program of 3 contrasting songs is highly recommended Majority complex part singing (e.g. SA/SSA) and complex melodic lines No more than 30% of the program can be unison work Live accompaniment as per the score or unaccompanied No backing tracks Repertoire: Medium – difficult 	 A combination of unison and simple, harmonic part singing A combination of simple pentatonic and more complex melodic lines Up to 50% of the program can be in unison Live accompaniment as per the score or unaccompanied is preferred Backing tracks permitted Repertoire: Easy – medium 	 Majority unison singing with some simple part work (including canons, simple partner songs, simple two-part songs) Simple melodic lines (e.g. pentatonic) Live accompaniment as per the score or unaccompanied Backing tracks permitted Repertoire: Very easy – easy 	 Unison singing (including call and response of the same melodic line) Simple melodic lines (e.g. pentatonic) Live accompaniment as per the score or unaccompanied Backing tracks permitted Repertoire: Very easy

Secondary school choirs

Secondary Division 1	Secondary Division 2	Secondary Division 3
 Program must include a minimum of 3 contrasting songs Highly complex part singing (e.g. SAB, SSA) and complex melodic lines No more than 30% of the program can be unison work Live accompaniment as per the score or unaccompanied only. No backing tracks. Medium – difficult repertoire 	 A combination of simple and complex part singing Majority complex melodic lines No more than 30% of the program can be unison work Live accompaniment as per the score or unaccompanied is preferred Backing tracks permitted Easy – medium repertoire 	 Simple melodic lines or repertoire Any combination of unison and/or simple part singing The amount of unison singing may exceed 30% Live accompaniment as per the score or unaccompanied Backing tracks permitted Very easy – easy repertoire

Choirs will be adjudicated according to the division they have nominated in. This allows all choirs, including beginners, the chance to achieve a platinum award.

A reminder that as this is a choral focused event, no more than a third of any program can feature a soloist.

To provide further assistance when selecting divisions, a list of repertoire examples for each division has been created to accompany these participation guidelines. These can be found on the Choral Fanfare website and nomination portal. These suggestions are not set pieces. There is no requirement for schools to perform any of these titles. They are meant as a guide only.

If you have any queries regarding the division your choir should nominate in, please contact your Choral Fanfare regional coordinator.

8 Adjudication

Choirs are adjudicated on the quality of their performance against the set criteria and standards, with consideration given to the division they are participating in. Adjudication is not based on a comparison with other choirs performing in Choral Fanfare events.

The eligible choirs chosen to proceed to the regional and state finals can come from any division. The decision of which choirs progress will be at the adjudicator's discretion.

Every choir will receive either a platinum, gold, silver or bronze certificate, based on the adjudicator's assessment of the choir's performance 'on the day'. The adjudicator/s do not take into consideration the past achievements of the choir or the choir's future potential.

9.1 Overall awards

Platinum Certificate	Gold Certificate	Silver Certificate	Bronze Certificate
The choir has demonstrated a consistently excellent standard across the 4 criteria.	The choir has demonstrated a high standard across the 4 criteria.	The choir has demonstrated a satisfactory standard across the 4 criteria.	The choir has demonstrated a basic standard across the 4 criteria.

9.2 Criteria and standards

The **standards** of platinum, gold, silver and bronze are accompanied by **descriptor** statements that outline the expected qualities of each group's performance and should help students to understand the merits the adjudicator/s will be looking for.

The descriptor statements should be read in conjunction with the 4 criteria. Together the criteria and the descriptor statements provide succinct and easily understood directions of what students and conductors need to aim for to reach a certain standard.

The final standard awarded (platinum, gold, silver or bronze) is an overall judgement of all the criteria collectively — even though it is not necessary for the group to have met the same standard descriptor statement for every criterion. The weighting of this criteria will be at the adjudicator's discretion.

	Descriptor statements			
Criteria	Platinum Standard	Gold Standard	Silver Standard	Bronze Standard
Criterion 1: Programming and overall presentation In this criterion the choir is judged on the program suitability and overall presentation of the choir. Program suitability refers to the: • extent to which the expertise and capabilities of the choir are demonstrated • alignment of the difficulty of the repertoire with the standard of the choir • presentation of a balanced and age appropriate program, with consideration given to vocal health. Overall presentation refers to the overall appearance, stage presence, conduct and posture of performers in a choir.	The choir has demonstrated a consistently excellent standard in programming and overall presentation.	The choir has demonstrated a high standard in programming and overall presentation.	The choir has demonstrated a satisfactory standard in programming and overall presentation.	The choir has demonstrated a basic standard in programming and overall presentation.
Criterion 2: Sound quality In this criterion the choir is judged on the tone, blend, and balance of the choir. Tone refers to performing with individual and group tonal quality that includes: • richness of sound • a centred tone • tone which is even throughout register and dynamic changes. Blend refers to a matching of tonal qualities within a section and from section to section. Balance refers to a choir's ability to achieve the appropriate volume levels within sections and between sections.	The choir has demonstrated a consistently excellent standard of sound quality.	The choir has demonstrated a high standard of sound quality.	The choir has demonstrated a satisfactory standard of sound quality.	The choir has demonstrated a basic standard of sound quality.



Criterion 3: Technical elements In this criterion the choir is judged on the technical accuracy, intonation, rhythm and articulation of the choir. Technical accuracy and intonation refers to a choir's ability to perform the music with pitch, rhythmic and harmonic accuracy. Rhythm refers to singing with rhythmic pulse, rhythmic accuracy and displaying strict consistent rhythm across the choir. Articulation refers to a choir's ability to perform with the appropriate enunciation, diction, attacks, length of notes, accents, uniformity and consistency of vowel sounds.	The choir has demonstrated a consistently excellent standard in technical elements.	The choir has demonstrated a high standard in technical elements.	The choir has demonstrated a satisfactory standard in technical elements.	The choir has demonstrated a basic standard in technical elements.
Criteria 4: Musical interpretation In this criterion the choir is judged on the stylistically appropriate use of phrasing and dynamics in the performance. Phrasing refers to a choir's ability to begin and end the phrases correctly and perform the required phrase lengths and shapes in order to present the work as the composer intended. Dynamics refers to a choir's ability to accomplish the indicated dynamics, including crescendos, decrescendos, dynamic nuances, tiered dynamics and accents.	The choir has demonstrated a consistently excellent standard of musical interpretation.	The choir has demonstrated a high standard of musical interpretation.	The choir has demonstrated a satisfactory standard of musical interpretation.	The choir has demonstrated a basic standard of musical interpretation.

10 Terms and conditions of entry

In these terms and conditions 'the department' means the State of Queensland acting through the Department of Education.

- 1. Information on how to nominate for the Choral Fanfare program including all program guidelines, information books and forms form part of these Terms and Conditions of Entry. Participation in the program will be considered acceptance of these terms and conditions.
- 2. The department (ABN 76 337 613 647) is the owner of the Choral Fanfare program.
- 3. Once entered, details are not transferable to any other person or organisation or school.
- 4. Late or partially completed nominations that do not satisfy the nomination requirements or program guidelines at the time of the program entry closing will not be judged as eligible for participation in the program.
- 5. All information submitted must be true and correct as at the time of nomination.
- 6. The school principal has endorsed the nomination and approves the participation fee.
- 7. The decision made by the department to accept a work as eligible to proceed to the next stage of the program is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 8. The department accepts no responsibility for inability to or failure to submit or nominate by the final
- 9. The nominee grants the department the right to use personal information (including student details, photographs and/or video) in accordance with the Project Consent Form.



- 10. By providing material (including student details, photographs and/or video) to the entry portal the nominee warrants they either own the material or have acquired sufficient right to use the material for the purpose of the program and agree to indemnify the department against any loss or damages caused by breach of this warranty.
- 11. Where an entrant is a part of a group, the person completing the nomination must be an authorised representative of the group and all organisations/schools affiliated with each person.
- 12. Where there is more than one category, each category may have individual eligibility criteria as well as judging criteria.
- 13. Although every effort will be made to ensure project materials (including certificates, prizes and awards) are sent to the address stated on the nomination, the department takes no responsibility for lost or misdirected items not received by students/schools.
- 14. The department will not be responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any network or lines, servers, providers, computer equipment, software, traffic congestion on the Internet, etc. including, but not limited to, any injury or damage to participants or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation in or downloading any materials in this program.
- 15. The department will not be responsible for any failure by sponsors to fulfil their contractual obligations made between the department and the sponsor.
- 16. If for any reason the program is unable to run as planned including causes beyond the control of the department, the department may at its sole discretion cancel, suspend or modify the program.
- 17. The program may be withdrawn at any time without notice.
- 18. The participant agrees to indemnify the department against any loss or damages caused by a cancellation, suspension, modification or withdrawal of the program.
- 19. These Terms and Conditions may be altered where necessary, and any changes will be notified on the program's website.
- 20. The department reserves the right, at any time, to verify the validity of a nomination, reject a nomination or disgualify a nomination that is not in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.