



28 October 2011

Dear Students

Thank you for expressing an interest in the St Cuthbert's College Senior School Choral Programme for 2012. Things are changing a little for 2012 and it is important that you understand the commitment that you are making if you decide to be part of the choirs. Next year there will be three choirs in the Senior School:

Saints Alive

Saints Alive will be an auditioned choir for Y9-13. The group will meet twice weekly to rehearse. This choir has a significant profile in the College and is often called upon to perform at events both inside and the outside the College. Students in this choir will need to make a significant time commitment to weekly rehearsals, Sunday chapel services, weekend workshops and other performance expectations as well as take responsibility for independently learning music. All singers in Saints Alive are expected to take private voice lessons, either within the College itinerant programme or with a teacher outside the College. This group will be directed by Ms Flint. The choir runs for the whole school year. Rehearsal times are yet to be confirmed but are likely to include one evening per week and one before school practice at 7.30am.

Black Watch Singers

BWS will be an all-comers choir for Y9-13. Students will need to audition to allow a voice part to be allocated. The group will meet twice weekly to rehearse. BWS will be involved in chapel services and *The Big Sing* competitions, as well as other in-house performance opportunities such as assemblies and music showcase evenings. This group will be directed by Ms Flint. The choir runs for the whole school year. The rehearsal times are yet to be confirmed but are likely to be one after-school practice and one practice before school at 7.30am.

ReZonation

ReZonation is an all-comers ensemble directed by Mr Allan. Anyone from Y9-13 can join. It is a project-based choir that will run from late Term 1 (approximately) until the end of Term 3. The group will rehearse on Friday lunchtimes.

It is very important that you are able to sustain the commitment to whichever choir you are placed in if you choose to audition. Like any team, the choir is a sum of all the parts and every member is crucial to the success of the group. Both Saints Alive and Black Watch Singers are weekly, year-long commitments and this needs to be taken into account when you are considering which other co-curricular activities you commit to.

I am very excited about the programme for next year and the line-up of activities and performance opportunities that are in the pipeline. I would welcome your enthusiasm and contribution to the programme.

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Audition Procedure (for Saints Alive and Black Watch Singers):

- Discuss the membership expectations with your parents. Have them sign the Audition form and Fair Play Agreement
- Return your form to the music department by Friday 4 November. You will be sent an email with your confirmed audition time.
- Prepare a short unaccompanied piece to sing, in English. This should not be a pop song. A folk song is a good idea. Alternatively, you could sing *Happy Birthday* or the *New Zealand National Anthem* in English. You must come to the audition having decided what you will sing.
- At the audition you will sing your prepared song and then sing some short vocal exercises to determine your range and most suitable voice placement. The audition will last about 10 minutes. You will also be asked to sing a short melody at sight.
- Once all of the auditions are complete, you will be sent an email advising which choir you are being offered a place in. At this point, the rehearsal times will be confirmed and preliminary dates for 2012 given. You will then be asked to confirm your place for 2012.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on megan.flint@stcuthberts.school.nz

Yours sincerely

Ms Megan Flint
Choral Director

Mrs Sally Tibbles
Associate Director of Music, Co-curricular Programmes