

## **Café of the Gate of Salvation**

### **What it takes to sing with Café**

We sing music in the African American gospel tradition - music loved for its driving rhythm, soulful harmonies and its scorching energy, whether in the choir's wall of sound or in the soloist's vocal work.

We are looking for confident singers, who can hold a harmony and whose voices will blend with others in the group. Not everyone in Café has a lot of musical training, relying instead on learning songs by ear, so don't think you need to be able to sight-read from sheet music to join.

Because there is no instrumental accompaniment, the singers provide the rhythm that a band would otherwise add. We do this quite simply by stepping, moving and clapping - but there's a lot more to it than that. It is therefore really important to have "good rhythm" and a "feel" for the music.

Although the songs we sing are sacred in their nature, the choir is not a religious choir and is not affiliated with any particular religion. Individual members hold an eclectic mix of spiritual beliefs and are, above all, people who just love to sing.

### **We are looking for commitment**

It takes a lot of commitment to be part of the Café. We are a 'Not for Profit' organisation and our members contribute with their time and passion but not financially. We have a large repertoire that members need to learn off by heart, which takes time both at rehearsals and at home privately.

We rehearse every Wednesday night in Erskineville, and perform around 20 times a year. Most gigs are in Sydney, however each year we do 2-3 gigs outside the city. We realise that not everyone will be able to perform at every gig, but expect choir members to perform as much as they can. Once a gig is locked into our calendar we rely on people to honour that commitment. One of the joys of being a Café member is being involved in a wide variety of shows. From singing just one song at an event, to performing an entire concert, performing to a big audience at a large public venue or to a small group at an intimate wedding, we love it all.

### **Performing for good causes**

We love what we are doing and want to give back to the community through our music. The Café performs regularly at fundraising events for charities and good causes – this is an important aspect of the choir's ethos. The choir also performs at gigs it organises itself, in a range of venues from clubs, to church or community halls.

### **Auditioning for Café**

If you are interested in auditioning, please complete the form at [http://www.cafeofthegateofsalvation.com.au/dbpage.php?pg=joinus&\\_navlink=186](http://www.cafeofthegateofsalvation.com.au/dbpage.php?pg=joinus&_navlink=186)

We will contact you the next time we are holding auditions.

### **Other Sydney choirs**

Café isn't the only a cappella group in Sydney. Sydneysiders are incredibly lucky to have so many fantastic groups singing a variety of styles in our wonderful city. So if Café doesn't turn out to be the right group for you, take a look at <http://acappellacentral.com.au/> where you can get information about the other Sydney groups.