

Employment Conditions

- HPI Accompanists are employed by the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECD) with their salary allocated against the Primary Schools Music Festival Support Service which is responsible for their placement in schools.
- The Primary Schools Music Festival allocates a prescribed number of hours for each school. This amount may be topped up from school resources.
- HPI Accompanists work collaboratively with Choir Teachers to teach and rehearse the PSMF repertoire in preparation for school and Festival performances. Whilst not primarily responsible for the training of the choir, accompanists are encouraged and expected to have some input into the learning process and behaviour management of students during choir sessions. Complimentary teaching/management strategies should be negotiated with the Choir Teacher.
- HPI Accompanists should be under the supervision of a registered teacher at all times.
- The HPI Accompanist is responsible to the Director of Music.

Conflict Resolution

The *Complaint Resolution for Employees 2007* policy sets out a structure for managing the resolution of complaints involving DECD employees. There is a focus on the achievement of positive outcomes and minimising negative impacts on working relationships. The first step in resolving any difficulties is to approach the person directly to discuss the conflict.

If the situation cannot be easily resolved, HPI accompanists may approach the school Principal, the Director of Music or the Primary Schools Music Festival Manager.

If an HPI Accompanist has a concern about the conduct of any party which compromises the safety and welfare of students they should approach the School Principal.

Parent Complaints should be dealt with according to

<http://www.festivalofmusic.org.au/GeneralPdfs/ParentComplaintBrochureDECD.pdf> and

<http://www.festivalofmusic.org.au/GeneralPdfs/ParentComplaintBrochureFofM.pdf>

Quality Management

The Director of Music is responsible for the conduct, standard of work and development of the HPI Accompanist and provides them with written feedback at Performance Management meetings.

Accompanists are encouraged to discuss issues which they feel are working well and determine strategies to move forward with their accompanying/choir

People wishing to work as HPI accompanists should in the first instance contact:

The Manager
Primary Schools Music Festival Support Service
Klemzig Primary School
2 Hay Street, Klemzig 5087
Tel: 8261 5438 Fax: 8261 9799
suzanne.rogers668@schools.sa.edu.au
For further information please visit :
www.festivalofmusic.org.au Jan 2013

PRIMARY SCHOOLS MUSIC



Role Statement for HPI Accompanist



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Accompanists play a valued role in the development of the Festival of Music program which is jointly managed by the Primary Schools Music Festival and the SA Public (Primary) Schools Music Society.

Roles

The role of the accompanist is to:

- Support the choir teacher with fluent, accurate and musical piano accompaniment during choir teaching sessions and performances.
- Detect, respond to and support immediate rehearsal needs as they arise.
- Assist with choral warm-up routines.

Responsibilities

CHOIR STANDARD

Accompanists work collaboratively with choir teachers to teach and rehearse the PSMF repertoire. Accompanists are encouraged and expected to contribute to the choral standard achieved by providing feedback and advice to the choir teacher and students around a variety of performance details which might include:

- Musical inaccuracies including pitch, melody, rhythm, tempi, lyrics and pronunciation, phrasing and breathing
- Discussing strategies which may improve the teaching of the choir such as placement/position of the piano and choral warm up routines to improve vocal techniques

RESPONSIBILITIES SHARED WITH THE CHOIR TEACHER

- Placement of the choir and the relative position of the piano
- Organisation of piano tuning, maintenance, adjustment and cleaning
- Adequate lighting for the accompanist
- Behaviour management of students

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACCOMPANIST

It is the responsibility of the accompanist to:

- Bring to the attention of appropriate personnel any situation which threatens the safety of the students
- Be aware of responsibilities as a mandated notifier
- Liaise with Choir Teachers with regard to choir session planning and content
- Submit accurate pay claim documentation promptly with the Primary Schools Music Festival and keep accurate records of hours worked and claimed.
- Have music organised and in order
- Check accompaniments against vocal lines in the song book and mark with bar/system numbers
- Arrive and be ready to begin rehearsals at the allotted time
- Behave according to the PSMF Code of Conduct

Skills

Accompanists contribute to the delivery of the program by being able to:

- extract and play from the score a variety of melody/accompaniment configurations as determined by the choir teacher for the purposes of teaching and rehearsal including:
 - single melody lines for soprano and alto choral parts
 - a combination of both choral parts, accentuating one above the other
 - both choral parts with some kind of accompaniment in the left hand to maintain the beat
 - accompaniment plus some of the soprano and alto parts

- sing a part clearly with good pitch
- sing a part whilst playing the accompaniment
- clap rhythms for the choir to copy and count the choir in when beginning a song or section
- transpose warm up exercises by both a semitone and a tone
- play in a variety of styles
- detect musical/performance inaccuracies

Communication

For positive learning outcomes to be achieved, rapport needs to be developed between the Choir Teacher, school-based personnel and the HPI Accompanist. This will require an understanding and respect for each person's needs, roles, responsibilities and priorities.

HPI Accompanists will need to:

- Liaise with the school and Choir Teacher before the first choir session to establish the rehearsal schedule
- Confirm times, days and dates in advance, noting school closures, sporting event clashes etc. Schools should be advised in advance of any known HPI Accompanist absences
- Discuss the structure and format of choir sessions
- Bring errors in melody, rhythm and pronunciation to the attention of the Choir Teacher at an appropriate time and in a positive manner
- Establish times to evaluate choir performance and progress