

Dear Friends,

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh will be the theme of the 2017 Australian Bahá'í Choral Festival and we are happy to announce that

Registration is now open!

Come join us to sing, to praise God, to raise capacity, and to touch the hearts of those who come to hear us. We'll be gathering in the precincts of the Bahá'í House of Worship in Sydney from 7-10 September 2017. This year's Festival will include two concerts (at 11:00 and at 1:30) in the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár on Sunday, 10 September. Whether or not you can be part of this experience, please "Like" our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/bahaichoralfestival>.

As in previous years, the Australian Bahá'í Choral Festival will unite people from all around Australia to create a devotional choral concert associated with the 2017 Sydney Sacred Music Festival. During the four days we are together, we will have lots of rehearsals, devotions, interesting and practical workshops, time to socialise, a steady flow of food, and heaps of hard work.

You don't need any particular experience or knowledge to be part of the Festival, just a love of singing. There will be no auditions and you'll be fine whether or not you read music. We will provide printed music, sound files, and videos to help you learn your parts and increase your musical knowledge and confidence. If you're willing to put in the work to prepare, we'll welcome your participation in the choir!

We are aware of all the costs involved with a trip like this (air fare, lodging, some meals, etc), so we have kept the registration fee as low as we possibly can. The Festival receives no outside funding, so it must be completely self-supporting. The registration fee will cover five meals, transportation as needed, rehearsal venues, morning and afternoon tea, choral risers, registration packets, and some administrative items. The organisers are volunteers and receive no payment for their services.

We are offering an early bird registration that is \$15 less than the full price. If you register before 21 May, registration will only be \$140 (plus \$0.30 for the registration website company); after that it will go up to the full price of \$155. Registration will close in July or when we reach our maximum capacity, so please register early.

Shortly after you register, you will receive additional information about the Festival by email. If you have any questions, please feel free to write at any time to info@bahaichoralfestival.org.au. If you are, for any reason, unable to register right away, but wish to start learning the music, please write us and we'll send you the information you need for that. If you would like to come, but believe you won't be able to for financial reasons, please contact us directly; some scholarships may be available.

Feel free to pass on the invitation to any Bahá'ís who do not use email and to singers from the wider community. The event is very Bahá'í-centred, but all are welcome!

There's no time like the present to visit abcf-participants.com to learn more about the Festival and to click where it says "Register here"! We'll hope to see your registration form coming through soon!

Love,

Lorraine and Alan Manifold, Melbourne

The Australian Bahá'í Choral Festival is an individual initiative approved by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia.