



PAPK★R ESTRELLAS

GOALS OF THE BOARD

2023-2024

Date GMM:
05/10/2023

Board:
**Rita Grimalt, Diete de
Regt and Eva Kruithof**

Goals of the board for 23-24

Our general objectives

1. Giving students a place to sing in a choir

Popkoor Estrellas offers students a place to sing with fellow students. This is done by rehearsing for at least two hours a week. There is almost always a conductor present and often a pianist as well. Sheet music is purchased and printed and arrangements are made for the choir by our conductor or purchased from other arrangers. In addition, a rehearsal room must be rented for each rehearsal.

In addition to the weekly rehearsals, rehearsal days are also scheduled: days on which the choir rehearses for a long time in a row. This often happens when the choir is working towards a performance or when a lot of rehearsing has to be done in a short time. A conductor and pianist must also be paid for this. A rehearsal room is usually also required, except when the rehearsal day falls on the choir weekend, in which case the location of the choir weekend will suffice.

2. Presenting musical performances

It is important for the choir to be able to regularly present the rehearsed repertoire in the form of a performance or competition. This way, members remain motivated and we can add something to society in the form of art. Every year the choir organizes at least one performance itself. This takes place at the end of the academic year, around June. In addition, the aim is to give at least one other performance and to participate in at least one choir festival or competition.

3. Forming and remaining a close-knit group

Because the choir consists of students, the group changes composition every year. Social safety is a prerequisite for singing and performing together. It is also an important condition for maintaining and improving the expression of the choir (objective 5). In the past it has been shown that the commitment and motivation of the members is strongly related to the group feeling that prevails at that moment. That is why forming and maintaining a close-knit group is an important recurring goal within the choir.

The activities committee organizes activities several times a year that contribute to a good bond between the members. There are three activities that are organized every year as standard. The choir weekend is one of these. On the choir weekend, as many members as possible come along to spend a weekend together. The choir weekend often has a theme or an overarching game. The weekend is partly financed by the members themselves.

The second activity that is organized every year is a Sinterklaas/Christmas activity. The activities committee coordinates this activity, which usually consists of an evening during which games are played and gifts are exchanged. The members pay for the gifts themselves, but the rent of the space, any snacks and drinks come from the choir's fund.

At the end of the academic year, a final activity is always organized in collaboration with the activities committee and the board. Often in the week after the summer concert. This activity is to close the year and say goodbye to the departing members and the board.

The activities committee also has the task of monitoring the atmosphere in the choir. If they consider it important, they can plan more activities to ensure a group feeling.

In addition to the activities committee, we give members the opportunity in several WhatsApp groups to invite each other and meet up for various occasions. The board and the activities committee will take the lead here if necessary.

4. Maintain and improve the musical quality of the choir

The aim of Popkoor Estrellas is to be and remain a high-quality choir. In order to become a member, it is therefore necessary to successfully pass the audition. Auditions are conducted by the conductor. A budget has been made available for this in the budget.

Members are expected to have a serious and active attitude during rehearsals in order to make the best possible use of the rehearsal time. The choir also works to maintain quality and improve the choir by encouraging self-study. In addition to the regular rehearsals, if members indicate a need for this, an optional practice moment takes place during which the members (digital) can come together to go through the repertoire together. There is also room to ask each other questions to be sure about what to sing.

The arrangements made by the conductor contribute to the high quality of the choir. These are usually of a higher degree of difficulty than the arrangements that can be purchased ready-made. It also happens that a ready-made arrangement is purchased, but adjustments are made to it by the conductor in order to improve the quality of the piece. If it contributes to the musical quality, vocal coaching can also be used from the budgeted cost item "workshops".

5. Maintain and improve the expressiveness of the choir

Popkoor Estrellas has grown strongly in expression in recent years. Empathy and conveying the lyrics of the music are important for the choir. To continue working on this, rehearsal time has been planned in which the Dance and Dress Code Committee and the Text and Light Committee have space to work on this with the members. In addition, outside professionals are deployed to provide workshops that contribute to the expressiveness of the choir.

6. Actions to generate more revenue and engagement

Pop choir Estrellas uses income from subsidies, performances and other promotions. These actions are usually organized by the fun action committee. For example, the members work at festivals or open days at the RUG. Activities can be organized such as a pub quiz or a cake sale or activities and promotions around the holidays. This income is an important addition to the choir's coffers. In addition, it provides more visibility and brand awareness for the choir.

7. Keep in touch with former members

Because the choir consists of students, the group changes composition every year. There are members who (have to) leave the choir after a certain time. In order not to lose sight of former members and to maintain our mutual interest, we want to give our former members the option to keep in touch with the choir. By means of a newsletter, which former members can register for, we can keep former members informed of everything the choir is doing and working towards. If necessary, the activities committee can organize an annual activity for old and new members.

Year-specific objectives

8. Making the choir more accessible to international members

Until recently, Popkoor Estrellas consisted mainly of Dutch members. However, this year we decided to change our leading language to English in order to attract international members. This year our rehearsal will be in English and the communication from the board to the choir will be done in English. Later in the year we will have a moment of reflection together with the choir. We will decide if this is a change we want to make permanent. We will reflect on what has worked so far and what might be improved in terms of internationalization.

We will also make a plan on what structural changes need to be made to the Choir in order to improve this transition. We will try to get an overview on what needs to be changed and the amount of costs that will bring with it. The treasurer will make a spending plan in correspondence with the KasCo. In addition, we will make a plan to cover these costs. We will figure out whether we are applicable for a subsidy aimed for helping associations be more accessible for international students. We will also console the LudakCie for any additional ways to cover these possible costs.