



**PAPK★R ESTRELLAS**

# GOALS OF BOARD

## XIV

For the academic  
year 24-25

GMM::

**17/10/2024**

Board

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# Goals of board XIV for the academic year 24 - 25

## Our general goals

### *1. Giving students a place to sing in a choir*

Popkooor Estrellas offers students a place to sing with fellow students by rehearsing for at least two hours a week. A rehearsal room is rented for each rehearsal, 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 to the weekly rehearsals, rehearsal days are also scheduled. These are 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 hired 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 two performances by itself. These take 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 activity committee organizes activities several times a year that contribute to a good bond between the members. There are three standard activities that are organized every year. The choir weekend is one of these. During 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 activity committee and the board. It often happens 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 activity 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 activity committee, we give members the opportunity in several WhatsApp groups to invite each other and meet up for various occasions. The board and the activity 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 pass the audition. Auditions are held by the conductor. A budget has been made available for this in the budgetplan.

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 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, emotion and conveying the lyrics of the music are important to 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.

## **Our year-specific goals**

### *6. Internationalization*

Until the academic year 2022-2023, Popkoor Estrellas consisted mainly of Dutch members and rehearsals were held in Dutch. However, in September 2023 it was decided to change the choir's leading language to English in order to attract more international members. Rehearsals and communication have been done in English since. Additionally, all necessary structural changes have been made as well.

This year, our board strives to keep Popkoor Estrellas accessible to international members. Not only does it add diversity and cultural exchange into the group but internationalization has also proven to be a sustainable way to find new members and fill the choir each year. For this reason, we aim to make new promotion material such as a new banner or flyers that are also in English. In general, we aim to communicate in English at all times, also towards the public.

### *7. Improving financial sustainability*

Seeing the financial difficulties that the choir faced in the past years, this board aims to put in the work to hopefully change that situation. We hope to research other subsidies that the choir can be eligible for for certain action or in certain years or even every year. We also hope to find a new approach to fundraising as the internationalization of the choir changes the type of opportunities that we have. For example, RUG open day used to be a stable and predictable way to make money, but as they require people to speak both Dutch and English, the amount of members of the choir being able to participate decreased since the internationalization. Therefore we aim to find sustainable new ways of bringing income to the choir as well as making some changes in the Internal Regulations in order to prevent the current situation from occurring again.

### *8. Improve the internal structure and organization of the choir*

This year, the board is putting in a lot of work to hopefully make the internal organization clear and easy. By providing clear guidelines, deadlines, advice and offering our help, we hope to make the jobs of our committees easy and clearly structured. This goal aims to improve the overall quality of the choir by structuring the year well in advance and hopefully taking away stress in the important moments such as the end of the year during the preparations for the summer concerts.