

**PAPK★R ESTRELLAS**

# GOALS OF BOARD XV

Academic year  
2025-2026

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## **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. 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. For the regular rehearsals, with both conductor and the choir, a rehearsal room must be rented.

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.

Our members are encouraged to perform voice group rehearsal at least once every three months. This can happen either during the rehearsals when the conductor is absent or outside of the regular rehearsal hours. These will be organized within the voice groups themselves through channels like the Whatsapp groupchats for the different voice groups.

### *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.

### *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. This is why we strongly stimulate social activities beyond the regular rehearsal moments.

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 and/or Christmas activity. The activity 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 to 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 and there is always one member of the board present. A budget has been made available for this in the budget plan.

Members are expected to have a serious and active attitude during rehearsals in order to make the best possible use of the rehearsal time. This means that they are expected to be present at the rehearsal on time. No phone use is allowed during the rehearsals. If a member misses more than 3 rehearsals in 2 months time, we'll plan a meeting with the member and a member of the board. During this meeting, we'll discuss the reason for absence and form a plan to avoid this from happening again.

The choir also works to maintain quality and improve the choir by encouraging self-study. We expect our members to practice the pieces individually on a regular basis in addition to the regular and voice group rehearsals.

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 has space to work on this with the members. For the interpretation of the songs of our repertoire, our members get the opportunity to write an interpretation of their chosen song. This will then be presented either by the board or the member themselves. With this, their point of view gets embodied in the expression of the song through the whole choir.

In addition, outside professionals are deployed to provide workshops that contribute to the expressiveness of the choir.

## **Our year-specific goals**

### *6. Actions to maintain financial sustainability*

We strive to maintain the financial sustainability of the choir. In the past years, there have been some financial difficulties that have now been resolved. Popkoor Estrellas uses income from subsidies, performances and other promotions. Actions to generate income are usually organized by the ACE. 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. This recent year, we lost out on a big financial opportunity by not participating at the Bevrijdingsdag Festival. We also expect that we won't be working there again in the upcoming year. This gap of income needs to be filled. Thus, we aim to find sustainable new ways of bringing income to the choir.

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

This year, the board is maintaining the work to 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 academic year during the preparations for the summer concerts.

### *8. Commitment to the committees*

Every member of the choir participates in a committee. The members can give their preferences at the beginning of the year and the committees will be formed during the first GMM. The members are expected to show commitment and be able to divide the tasks fairly within the committee. If any problems arise, the members are expected to be able to discuss this openly with each other. If it does not work out, the internal coördinator is there to keep an eye on the internal structure of the committee and is there to help resolve the underlying conflicts. It is every member's responsibility to execute their committee's tasks to the best of your abilities. If this isn't possible for any reason, we expect the member or the committee to discuss this with the board as soon as the opportunity arises.

### *9. Celebration of our 15-year existence*

Because this year marks our third lustrum, a celebration day will be hosted for which former members ('Ex-trellas') are invited to celebrate our anniversary together with our current members. This day will be full of music, nostalgia and the opportunity to reconnect with one another. During this celebration day, we aim to give a small performance for the former members, host a 'borrel' and sing one song in collaboration

with all the ex-trellas. To organize our celebration a committee, the Luscie, will be formed. Besides organizing this special day, they may also organize additional activities if they wish to do so. They also have the opportunity to design merchandise for our anniversary. It's important that the Luscie and PR maintain in close contact, because they have to work together for the promotion of this special year.