



Capital of Australia Mandolinata

INFORMATION for Prospective and New COZMO Ensemble Members

COZMO, the Capital of Australia Mandolinata Inc. is a community-based mandolin ensemble in Canberra, open to people of all ages who play mandolin, mandola, mandocello, guitar or bass at intermediate level or higher, with at least fair-to-good music reading skills.

The AIMS of COZMO are to foster an interest in and appreciation of mandolin ensemble playing in our region, to develop the instrumental and ensemble skills of ensemble players, and to bring the music of plucked-stringed instruments to our community for their enjoyment.

REHEARSALS are held weekly on Sundays during school Term time. NB: The first Sunday rehearsal is the Sunday immediately preceding the first week back of each school Term. With 4 Terms per year, each with 8 or 9 rehearsals, there are 32-36 rehearsals per year (with additional rehearsals scheduled if needed). Rehearsals are held at the Hellenic Club In The City, 13 Moore St Canberra (Atlas Room), 5.15 to 7.30pm (with a 15-minute break). Doors open at 5.05pm for players to tune up, be seated and start playing at 5.15pm sharp. Afterwards, if they wish, members can use the club's Bistro to socialise and have a coffee or alcoholic beverage and snack, and meals are also available.

PERFORMANCES are generally held within Canberra, although out-of-town gigs may be arranged from time to time. Performances may be ticketed and for public entry e.g. our Winter and Summer Concerts, or free for charity groups, e.g. National Multicultural Festival (Feb), Medical Association for Prevention of War fund-raising concert (May), Government House Open Days (Sept), Floriade (Oct), fetes, senior citizens' residential homes etc.

NEW PLAYERS are always welcome to join COZMO, a fun ensemble that nevertheless also wishes to strive for excellence in playing and performance – a tricky balance! To achieve both, each individual player needs to:

- have at least fair-to-good reading skills and a level of instrumental technique that enables them to express the rhythm and mood of the music, and be keen to further develop their playing skills;
- make sure that they can attend most/all of the rehearsals and are available for the performances;
- carefully consider the effect of any absence from rehearsals and/or gigs on the others in the ensemble before deciding not to attend – having just one player away can significantly reduce the effectiveness of their section's contribution to the whole sound and performance, and diminish others' enthusiasm;
- be able to communicate by email and check the Members & Participants Only page of COZMO's website (at <http://cozmo.org.au>) during the week to read/act on the weekly *Rehearsal Notes*, print PDFs of new music etc;
- bring all necessary equipment to each rehearsal: Rehearsal Folder (music in order), music stand, tuner, pencil.

PROSPECTIVE NEW PLAYERS are most welcome to visit for up to 3 Rehearsals, to listen (up to 2) and/or play (at least 1). Just contact COZMO (0421 043 082 or secretary@cozmo.org.au), to arrange to come along. Then before each rehearsal starts, introduce yourself to COZMO's Musical Director Col Bernau, to let him know you're there and what you'd like to do (listen or play). Col will need to hear you playing in the ensemble on at least one of those 3 visits, to determine if COZMO is the appropriate group for you, and you can use those 3 visits to decide whether you'd like to join. The MD may then invite you to join or you may indicate a wish to join – just complete an application form (available from COZMO's Secretary or <http://cozmo.org.au/joincozmo>) and give to the Secretary at a rehearsal.

A COMMITMENT to attend rehearsals, training/development workshops and performances, and in other ways foster the aims of the ensemble, is a vital and valued part of being a COZMO member.

COZMO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE: As with most organisations, we levy a fee to defray our costs.

Fee: \$120pa (1 March-end February, in line with COZMO's Financial Year dates). The fee includes membership of FAME (Federation of Australasian Mandolin Ensembles Inc., our umbrella organisation: \$10pa, 1 April-31 March).

- **New members:** If joining in the first or second 5 weeks of any Term, the amount for that portion of the membership year is calculated at \$30 or \$15 respectively, with any remaining Terms at \$30 each; membership is valid to the end of the next February. Examples: If joining during Wks 6-10 of Term 2 2014: \$15 + \$30 + \$30 = \$75 Fee; if joining during Wks 6-10 of Term 4, 2014 or up to the day prior to the start of Term 1, 2015 = \$15 Fee. The Fee is payable within 14 days of joining (your Membership Approval date = Membership Joining/Start date). If your application is approved; an email will be sent to you with the Fee amount, payment due date & method.
- **Continuing Members:** Fees are payable annually, between 1 and 14 March in COZMO's new FY. A reminder will be emailed in the first week of each February. A member may request a grace period up to 28 March to pay, but will be unfinancial in that period (ineligible to vote) and membership will lapse if not paid by cob 28 March.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: As a COZMO member, you'll enjoy the camaraderie of weekly ensemble rehearsals, the opportunity to improve your playing skills, and the fun of playing in gigs; receive COZMO's *Rehearsal Notes* and FAME's Quarterly *Plucked Strings* magazines; enjoy free attendance at great Workshops; and much more!