

Founded in Melbourne's inner south-east in April 2021, Heavy Choir is a dedicated singing community for people who love heavy metal.

As a for-purpose performing arts group, our vision is to unite metalheads in harmony across generation, gender and ability. We do this by creating a communal singing experience around heavy metal, building on the camaraderie unique among heavy metal fans. *Community* is at the core of who we are and what we do. We strive to offer an authentic, fun and welcoming experience for grown-up misfits at any level to reap the benefits of choir singing - and to be themselves. By showcasing the creative scope of heavy metal's diverse styles and sounds in choral and theatrical form, Heavy Choir also promotes exploration and discovery of the genre to new and familiar audiences.

Key information - as of 1 October 2023:

- According to Google (and extensive searches we've done) there are only a handful of heavy metal choirs around the world! (Hellscore - professional acapella, Doom Birds - community acoustic, Choir Noir - professional, Growler Choir - professional). We're humbled and proud to be community based (therefore we welcome all abilities) and ambitiously creative when we perform.
- Since 2022, we have sold out four shows including St Kilda's Memo Music Hall and Tallboy & Moose Brewpub, with audiences from 150-300.
- We run two chapters: southside is located in Prahran at Death or Glory on Saturdays, and northside is at the Bendigo Hotel in Collingwood on Thursday nights. Both chapters are part of the one Heavy Choir - they just rehearse at different times.
- Our very first rehearsal took place in April 2021, in the community dining room of the Prahran Mission on Chapel Street, with just nine members.
- Heavy Choir now has 36 members:
 - aged as young as 21, and as experienced as late 60s.
 - 55/45 female/male split
 - Occupations include: product manager, programmer, barrister, science teacher, high school teacher, psychologist, artist, ecological consultant, engineer, tertiary lecturer,

psych nurse, quantitative investment manager, instructional designer, accountant, retired.

- We thoughtfully select our songs by ensuring they don't contain overtly offensive lyrics, and most of the songs feature "clean" vocals to showcase more choral harmonies, rather than screams or growls. We do however, add these in sometimes!
- We performed a flashmob heavy metal version of "O Fortuna" at the Goldfields Gothic Festival in Maldon, July 2023.

Our Team:

Emily Stekly is the Founder and Creative Director of Heavy Choir and leads the way. She is highly focused on the human and creative experience of the choir. She looks after community wellbeing, leadership development, partner and artist relationships, and event production. Her background includes performing arts, People & Culture, small business, and Marketing & Communications. (Emily doesn't sing in the choir.)

Dee Davidson is the Music Director of Heavy Choir, and Choir Master of the southside chapter. She is the chief arranger of heavy metal into choral music for the choir. She oversees vocal direction and assignment, and teaching. She brings a wicked sense of humour and a highly inclusive approach to guiding singers, ensuring everyone feels safe and supported to explore their vocal capability while having fun. While an experienced musical theatre performer and singer, Heavy Choir is Dee's first foray into choir teaching!

Theo Bird is Choir Master of the northside chapter. As an experienced musician, singer and composer, Theo brings a depth of technical knowledge to his teaching. With a genuine approach to making people feel welcome and safe, Theo's thoughtful and informed teaching helps members understand the why and how of their vocal development, particularly when learning new techniques and exercises. Heavy Choir is also Theo's first journey into choir teaching, and he also continues to participate as a singing member in the southside group.

And yes, all three leaders are metalheads and have day jobs, too.