

A Cappella Exposure Workshop 2026



Save The Date!

Friday 20th March 2026

12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Methodist Ladies' College, Claremont

Dear Music Teacher

As we wrap up 2025, we thought we'd let you know that the date for the 2026 ACE Workshop has been proposed for Friday 20th March 2026. We are trying an earlier placement in the year, with the opportunity for participants to then take part in the BHA Western Region Schools Contest in May, with the inspiration generated by ACE. We really hope you can save the date in your school's music calendar so that as many students as possible get to experience this event.

ACE is proudly hosted by **Methodist Ladies' College, Claremont**. Our school contact is Pamela Grubb (pgrubb@mlc.wa.edu.au), and I am the overall Coordinator for the event.

What is the ACE Workshop?

A Cappella Exposure (ACE) is an annual event based on a workshop format with a concert for parents and teachers in the evening. The focus of the music is on introducing students to fun, barbershop and contemporary a cappella arrangements for mixed chorus in order to expose them to ensemble singing and to the rewards of singing in close harmony with others.

The workshop will run in the afternoon, followed by a Concert open to parents and friends. This will feature top community a cappella groups as well as school groups and will finish with the performance of our massed student chorus. It should run for approximately 90 minutes.

Faculty and Music:

The head faculty for the day will be myself, **Joanne Oosterhoff**. I am an International Faculty Associate for Sweet Adelines International and also serve as Master Director of A Cappella West Chorus. I have been teaching a cappella ensembles for more than 20 years in Australia and the UK and have extensive experience working with children at these events. I am the Youth Development Vice President of Barbershop Harmony Australia, promoting youth engagement across the nation and developing singing resources for students and teachers.

I am pleased to be joined once again by **Adam Brockway**, director of NAYA Chorale. Adam works so well with our students and has such a wealth of talent that I am delighted that he is able to be with us in 2026.

Learning media and links to the arrangements will be made available as soon as the songs are confirmed and materials sourced. To gain access, please confirm your participation with me via email (joanne@oosterhoff.info) and a link and password will be supplied to you as soon as it is available.

Please place students based on vocal range, remembering that in mixed voice barbershop arrangements the melody is in the Lead part (alto) and there should be more voices in this part than the Tenor (higher harmony). Your school may not have voices in every part, but all together, it will sound wonderful!

Teacher Participation:

We hope that you will all take advantage of the education on offer at this workshop. We believe it is an interesting opportunity to observe the group leaders working with the different songs and will give you some resources for your a cappella singing 'toolkit'. If you would like to count the day towards Professional Development hours, please let us know.

How Do You Get Involved?

Whether you can gather 4 students or 40, we would love you to be involved in this event! If you would like to know how to get started at your school, or how your group can best participate, call me on 0403 310 666 and I will provide you with more details and whatever support you need. I am also willing to come out to schools to run short incursions with the students and teachers to help you with your a cappella ensemble development.

We would expect the students to be reasonably familiar with the set music before the day so that the focus is not on learning notes and words, but on putting together the ensemble and learning about the a cappella style of singing. Learning media will be provided which you can use in rehearsal to practice against.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. If you are interested in including ACE on your music calendar, please let us know so that we can ensure you get all subsequent information via your direct email.

Hope to hear from you soon.

In Harmony,

Joanne Oosterhoff

ACE 2026 Coordinator
Vice President, Youth Development, Barbershop Harmony Australia
0403 310 666
joanne@oosterhoff.info