**Riser Etiquette**

**In agreeing to and practising the following, we Cascade, commit to treating our rehearsals as if they were performances so that we practise what we most want to do on stage**

*(Where it says MD below, read this as referring to whoever is out front)*

* **Wait:** If you arrive late, or step down from the risers and are returning, simply stand on the side and wait until invited by the MD to take your place
* **No Crossing:** Under no circumstances should we ever cross in front of the MD while getting on the risers. If crossing to the far side of the risers, walk behind her instead, or circle behind the risers
* **Have Fun:** Allow yourself to enjoy what the chorus is working on. Save fun with your neighbour until after the rehearsal. (Exception – see Ten Second Rule)
* **Ten Second Rule:** If the MD has not addressed the chorus within ten seconds, then you can talk quietly with your riser neighbour until the MD resumes. Keep your eye on the MD, so you know when she has resumed, and then immediately give her your attention
* **Listen, Don’t Fix:** Often when there’s a pause, chorus members try to correct their own mistakes or those of their neighbours. Although this may seem important, RESIST. You will miss important comments from the MD that affect everyone in the chorus. Bear in mind that the MD fixes all the problems eventually
* **Listen, Don’t Sing:**  When the MD is demonstrating how to sing a particular passage, do not sing with her unless invited to do so. If you sing with her, you keep yourself and everyone else from hearing her, and instead, you become the example
* **Listen, Don’t Hum or Sing:**  When the pitch pipe is sounding, don’t hum the pitch unless asked to do so. It keeps you and everyone else from hearing the pitch accurately
* **Pay Attention:** When the MD is speaking to the chorus, don’t pass the time singing or reviewing your part. It makes it difficult for the rest of us to pay proper attention and to learn, because we’re instead paying at least some attention to you
* **Keep Paying Attention:** When the MD is working with another section or sections, don’t sneak-sing your part with them. You may think no-one will notice, but it’s guaranteed the MD will, and will be distracted by it.