



30 January 2026

To Whom It May Concern

Festival of Voices is pleased to invite **Thank God It's Friday (TGIF)** to attend and perform at Festival of Voices, and offer strong support for their funding application.

Festival of Voices occupies a unique and vital position within the Australian choral music landscape. As Australia's largest singing festival and the longest-running winter festival in Tasmania, it is nationally recognised as a leader in vocal excellence, participation and inclusion. Each year, the festival brings together thousands of singers, artists and audience members from across Australia, positioning lutruwita/Tasmania as a major national destination for choral and vocal practice.

The festival operates across the full spectrum of singing and voice: classical and contemporary, professional and community-based, participatory and presentational. It provides rare opportunities for emerging artists to share platforms with established national and international acts, and for audiences to experience outstanding vocal performance alongside massed singing and community engagement. Festival of Voices is widely regarded by choirs, musicians and presenters as a linchpin event for the sector. It is a place where ideas are exchanged, skills are developed, collaborations are formed, and the future of Australian singing culture is actively shaped.

Central to the festival's national importance is its commitment to accessibility, diversity and proactive inclusion. Festival of Voices champions the belief that singing is for everyone and works year-round to remove barriers to participation - cultural, financial, educational, geographic and disability-related. This approach has positioned the festival as a sector leader in inclusive practice, and as a model for how artistic excellence and broad access can coexist and strengthen one another.

TGIF's work sits powerfully within this context. As a passionate ensemble of disabled and neurodivergent singers, TGIF exemplifies the authenticity, excellence and artistic courage that Festival of Voices seeks to platform. Their participation would meaningfully enrich the festival program, offering audiences the opportunity to experience high-quality vocal performance that expands understandings of who performs, whose voices are heard, and how inclusive practice can be embedded at the highest artistic level.

Beyond performance, TGIF's presence at Festival of Voices would deliver significant community and sector benefits. The festival's highly participatory environment creates opportunities for connection, learning and visibility, particularly for singers and audiences who may not often see themselves reflected within professional performance spaces. TGIF's involvement would contribute to important national conversations around representation, access and the value of diverse voices within Australian choral music.



For the members of TGIF, participation in Festival of Voices would provide substantial professional and personal benefits. The festival offers a nationally visible platform, meaningful peer exchange with artists from across Australia, and engagement with large and diverse audiences in a supportive and inclusive environment. These experiences are critical to sustaining artistic practice, building confidence, and supporting the ongoing development and recognition of disabled and neurodivergent artists within Australia's vocal sector.

We strongly believe that TGIF's involvement would be mutually beneficial: enhancing the artistic, social and cultural impact of Festival of Voices, while supporting the growth, visibility and sustainability of an exceptional ensemble whose work contributes meaningfully to a more inclusive Australian arts landscape.

We wholeheartedly support Thank God It's Friday's application and recommend their project for funding. We would be delighted to welcome TGIF to Festival of Voices in 2026.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Bennett".

Kerry Bennett
Choral Producer | FESTIVAL OF VOICES