



**CELEBRATING 20
YEARS OF SINGING**

27 JUNE - 6 JULY 2025

**THE
POWER OF
HARMONY**



THE POWER OF HARMONY

FRIDAY 27 JUNE
HOBART CITY HALL

Mark O'Leary OAM, MC

JENNY M. THOMAS

Tra Bo Dou - Traditional Welsh tune

ALLISON FARROW AND ANDREW SHORT

The Sound of Silence - Simon and Garfunkel, arr Ingrid Leibbrandt

SIMON BESWICK, JASON GEAVES, AND TIMOTHY BEGBIE

God Only Knows - Beach Boys, arr Simon Beswick, Jason Geaves and Timothy Begbie

COCKTAIL HOUR

They Can't Take That Away From Me - George and Ira Gershwin, arr Dale & Hale

All the Way - Cahn and van Heuson

THE AUSTRALIAN VOICES

John Rotar, Conductor

Painted in Dirt - John Rotar

HARAMBEE A CAPPELLA

Daniel Kim, Musical Director

Dance Monkey - Toni Watson, arr. Daniel J. Kim

Still Feel - Josh Taylor, J Tyler Johnson and Brett Kramer, arr Charlotte Roberts

FESTIVAL OF VOICES CHAMBER CHOIR

Dr Christopher Kiver, Conductor | **Michael Power**, Piano

Veni Sancte Spiritu - WA Mozart

No Mirrors in My Nana's House - Ysaye M Barnwell

Fire - Katerina Gimon

INTERVAL

20TH ANNIVERSARY CHOIR AND ENSEMBLE

Sing Gently - Eric Whitacre

Joan Wright, Conductor | **Amanda Lee**, Piano

Chantal Roddy, Violin | Callum Wherrett, Violin | Lara O'Brien, Viola | Kate Calwell, Cello

Non Nobis Domine - Patrick Doyle

Simon Reade, Conductor | Dr Robert Stewart, Soloist

Hobart Wind Symphony and Hillcrest Christian College John Williams Wind Orchestra

Keep This Flame Alive - Paul Jarman

Paul Jarman, Conductor

FESTIVALOFVOICES.COM



20 FESTIVAL OF VOICES CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SINGING

JENNY M. THOMAS (VIC)

Born into a family that played folk music around campfires, Jenny graduated from the Victorian College of The Arts/Melbourne University in 1992 with viola as her principal instrument. Working with the Australian Philharmonic Orchestra until her passion for alternative violin techniques took over, she then studied at the Indian Academy of Music Melbourne, Willy Clancy Summer School Ireland and private tuition in Finland with Aarto Jarvela (Sibelius Folk Academy Helsinki).

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Symphony have engaged her as a Norwegian Hardanger/Irish fiddle soloist whilst her exploration of Indian, Celtic & Scandinavian violin styles gained her invitations to perform at the Rudolstadt Tanz & Volk Festival Germany, Summer Viva Festival Italy and Sidmouth Folk Festival UK. With world music ensemble *AKIN* she produced and composed an album that earned them an *ARIA* award nomination. Establishing her own record company, *Fyde Records* in 2003, she released solo albums which were chosen for Melbourne Herald-Sun's top 10 CD picks of 2006, top five albums for airplay on community stations by AMRAP 2007, a Golden Fiddle Award and inclusion on ABC Classic Drive CD 2011. When Grammy award winning music producer and composer François Tétaz (Gotye, Wolf Creek) wanted an improvising violinist to play on his film score for the feature film *Rogue* (2007) it was Jenny he called. She has also worked with Lior, Tim Rogers, Bryony Marks, Andrew Ford, Husky, Mark Seymour and many more as a composer/violinist.

Jenny's theatre career began in 1998 as a composer/musician with Circus Oz and has included the Melbourne Workers Theatre and the Womens Circus. In 2019/20 she toured Melbourne Festival, Sydney Festival and Perth Festival in the cast of *Anthem*.

Establishing the music ensemble *Bush Gothic* in 2009, she challenged the traditional Australian folk canon by using folk songs as her source material, then re-arranging these old ballads to reflect Australia's shifting cultural identity. A post-modern bush band, *Bush Gothic* have performed at Rajasthan International Folk Festival, MonaFoma, Taurunga Arts Festival (NZ) Festival No. 6 (Wales) and Shambala Festival (UK). The addition of string quartet arrangements for *Bush Gothic's Victorian Heartbreak* project took the repertoire into the fine music realm with performances at the Port Fairy Fine Music Festival, Melbourne Recital Centre and Ukaria Cultural Centre.

Invited to represent Australia at the 2020 Welsh National Eisteddfod online, Jenny coordinated a team of ten artists across two hemispheres and four homes who collaboratively composed and recorded new arrangements of old Welsh songs and made accompanying film clips. As the Eisteddfod prohibited the



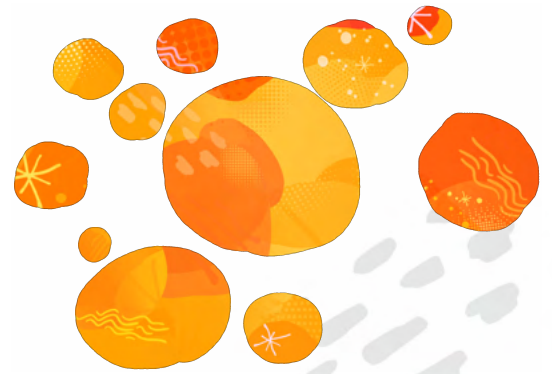
Image credit:
Pia Johnson

English language Jenny began to learn her ancestral tongue of Welsh. Now a Welsh speaker, in 2022 the Welsh National Eisteddfod presented Jenny performing live with *Bush Gothic* and Welsh artist Angharad Jenkins, forming part of *Bush Gothic's* fourth international tour.

Jenny has been invited to write for *The Irish Times*, *Yr Enfys* (Wales International Magazine) and her creative output during Melbourne's 2019 lockdown was analysed in a feature article in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. Rhythms Magazine, BBC Music Magazine, The Guardian, Roots World, fRoots and Songlines have also written features on her work and along with the members of *Bush Gothic* she has been interviewed and performed live on ABC Radio National's The Music Show, Triple J, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio Wales, RTÉ (National Broadcaster of Ireland) and Radio New Zealand. Her work has also received airplay on ABC Classic FM, SBS Radio, BBC World on 3, Regional BBC Radio and community stations across Australia, USA & the UK.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SINGING



ALLISON FARROW (TAS)

Equally at home in front of an orchestra or in a country music hall, Allison is a versatile performer with more than 30 years of performing experience across a number of genres. She has performed throughout Australia, Europe and Asia and has been involved in festivals worldwide, including Edinburgh Fringe, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Ten Days on the Island, Festival of Voices, MONAFOMA and TasPride.

A classically trained soprano, favourite roles have included Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Lily in *The Secret Garden*, Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, Cosette in *Les Miserables*, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Claudia in *Nine*, Judy/Ginger in *Ruthless! The Musical*, Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* and Sylvia in the world premiere of *For the Term of His Natural Life*, for which she also features on the original cast recording. Her one-woman cabarets *I'm a Stranger Here Myself: the Songs of Kurt Weill*, *In the Still of the Night: an evening with Cole Porter*, and *Dumb Blonde: the genius of Dolly Parton* have played to popular and critical acclaim. In 2013 she presented *Spring Fever: Allison Farrow with Kelly Ottaway and band* with the Theatre Royal, Hobart.



Allison loves to entertain children and their families. She provided the voice for 'Betty Bug' in Blue Rocket's animated television series *Buzz Bumble* and has featured regularly with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, narrating/singing for *Little Red Riding Hood* in 2014, *Maximus Musicus Visits the Orchestra* in 2015 and 2019 and *The Tale of Gibson* in 2016. Her children's shows have been a regular fixture in the Festival of Voices and include *Sing a Rainbow* (2016), *Rhymes My Nanna Taught Me* (2017 and 2024), *More Rhymes My Nanna Taught Me* (2018) and *Jazz Hands* (2019). Allison performs regularly with her jazz quintet *Ally Farrow & Friends* for corporate and festival events, and is a member of the glamorous harmony trio *Swoon*.

As a speaker, presenter and Master of Ceremonies, Allison has covered topics ranging from music to science, for various community groups and organisations including Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Festival of Voices, the Claude Bolling Classical Jazz Festival, RHH Research Foundation, Elizabeth College, Ogilvie Girls High School (now Hobart City High School), CSIRO and Earthwatch.

ANDREW SHORT (TAS)

With opera and music theatre credits across Australia, and from London to Cardiff and Edinburgh, Andrew Short is one of Tasmania's great exports who has now – thankfully – returned home to Australian shores. Born into a very musical family, Andrew has been performing from an early age, with such appearances as Theo in *Pippin* at the age of eight. After a decade spent in the UK, where he gained a Masters degree from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Edinburgh, just a few of his credits include UK productions of *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *Company*, *Passion*, *The Frog Prince* and *Once Upon a Time in New Jersey*. Andrew's Australian highlights include Marius in *Les Miserables*, Alex in *Aspects of Love*, Fakir in *Secret Garden* and Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* at Hobart's Theatre Royal in 2013. Other credits include *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Guys and Dolls* and the operas *Così fan tutte* and *La Cenerentola*.



20 FESTIVAL OF VOICES **CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SINGING**



SIMON BESWICK (TAS)

Simon began his musical journey with the Hobart Boys Choir sometime last century and has been involved in a wide variety of choral adventures ever since. He's sung with the Southern Gospel Choir and the TSO Chorus and currently performs with the 'Close Shave' Barbershop Quartet and the Allegri Ensemble Chamber Choir.

TIMOTHY BEGBIE (TAS)

Timothy describes himself as a singer who has been lucky to have opportunities for wide scope of singing and performing for that last 72 years. He recalls singing at age 6 in his father's church choir, clustered around the piano with his mother's beautiful playing, travelling in a folk group with siblings and recording with RCA (now Sony), in his 20s in a rock band with his wife and sister. He sang in the Southern Gospel Choir for nine years with Andrew Legg, and for the last 40+ years in a barbershop quartet. Timothy is also currently in the TSO Chorus and has just returned from a tour in UK with 40 others from the chorus, starting in Birmingham and finishing at Westminster Abbey.

JASON GEEVES (TAS)

Coming from a musical family and being raised in the Salvation Army, Jason has been singing and playing in groups and performing solo work since he was five years old.

From children's choirs, school choirs, and his first adult choir and solo work with the Launceston Philharmonic Society, Jason has sung in choirs all over Tasmania and Victoria. He continues by singing in barbershop quartet Close Shave, occasional stints with the TSO Chorus, some male voice arrangement and singing at church and the Melbourne Staff Songsters of the Salvation Army who travel nationally and internationally.

COCKTAIL HOUR (TAS)



Cocktail Hour are a women's a cappella quartet who specialise in singing four-part jazz and barbershop arrangements. The group formed in July 2020, and has gone on to consistently place in the top four in the Sweet Adelines Australia national quartet contests since that time.

They are also members of Barbershop Harmony Australia and won first place in the organisation's inaugural women's quartet competition in November 2022.

Image credit:
Kirsten Graham Photography





THE AUSTRALIAN VOICES (AUS)

John Rotar | Musical Director

From its inception in 1993, The Australian Voices (TAV) has relentlessly pursued its mission to commission, perform and promote Australian music, both locally and internationally.

The vision of Graeme Morton and Stephen Leek when founding the group was to tap into something unique about Australia, its land and its people.

Through the music of a new generation of Australian composers, including the original musical language of Stephen Leek, TAV created a sound unlike anything the world had heard before. In 2009 Gordon Hamilton took the reins, and with works like *Toy Story 3 = Awesome* and Robert Davidsons acclaimed *Not Now, Not Ever!* a musicalisation of Julia Gillard's 'misogyny' speech, brought the group firmly into the 21st century and again at the forefront of Australian, and international choral music.



Image credit: Kris Anderson

Recently, the choir has collaborated with numerous Australian musicians and ensembles: in 2019, the choir performed Britten's Cantata *Misericordium* and a 're-composition' of Mozart's *Requiem* by then-Artistic Director Gordon Hamilton in collaboration with Omega Ensemble; in 2022, collaborated with ARIA-nominated artist Raphael Karlen and Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra to premiere *Sinking Cities*, a work for string orchestra, choir, and saxophone; and at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the choir commissioned 22 (mostly) Australian composers to write a choral work on the theme "Far and Near", in response to the darkening of concert halls around the world.

Now under the artistic direction of John Rotar—one of Australia's leading young composers—and building on a legacy of excellence established by past artistic directors, the choir is poised to take the next step in its evolution. Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2023, the group marked this milestone by releasing two groundbreaking albums in 2024. *Far and Near* is a reflective collection drawn from the 22 commissions during the COVID years, while *Painted in Dirt* offers a stunning exploration of Australian music, featuring incredible new compositions and a crowd-favorite title track filled with evocative bush noises.

HARAMBEE A CAPPELLA (VIC)

Daniel Kim | Musical Director

Established in 2002, Harambee A Cappella is a vocal ensemble based in Melbourne, Australia, formed by a diverse group of young adults who all share a love of singing! The name Harambee means "in the spirit of togetherness" in Swahili, which embodies their culture of openness and inclusivity.



Harambee A Cappella perform a variety of contemporary a cappella music for community events and competitions and were recently crowned the Gold Medal winners of the Pop Ensemble Open Competition in the 2024 World Choir Games, a global choir competition with participants from over 40 countries.



FESTIVAL OF VOICES CHAMBER CHOIR

Lead by Christopher Kiver, the Festival of Voices Chamber Choir performs in its second year in 2025. Designed for the capable, experienced singers, participants of this workshop have explored ensemble singing in a blended and balanced choir, aiming for a professional outcome. Workshop participants were selected by audition only, with repertoire carefully chosen by Chris to include a broad range of musical genres, styles and eras.

Peter Abbott
James Arthur
Kathryn Burdon
Lisa Campbell
Bridget Cartwright
Aiden Cruise
Philippa Duflou
Andrew Evans

Regan Gardner
Mary Harwood
Lachlan Kennedy
Lauchlan McIntosh
Sue Murray
Kirsten O'Halloran
Janet Salisbury
Anna Sawyer

Rosie Stapleton
Margaret Tarrant
Callum Wherrett
Carola Wittekind
Olivia Wroth
Angelique Zaghloul

DR CHRISTOPHER KIVER (USA)

Conductor, Festival of Voices Chamber Choir

Dr Christopher Kiver is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Pennsylvania State University where he directs the Concert Choir and Glee Club, oversees the graduate choral conducting program, and teaches choral conducting and choral literature.

Choirs under Kiver's direction have performed at state and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and National Association for Music Education (NAfME). In 2006 he was a double Grammy Award winner ("Best Choral Performance" and "Best Classical Album") as a chorus master for a recording of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*.

Kiver serves ACDA as past President of the Eastern Region and is former national Repertoire and Standards Chair for TTBB Choirs. He has appeared as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator in the USA, Australia, China, and New Zealand. Kiver is a graduate of the University of London, Florida State University, and the University of Michigan.



Image credit: Chuck Fong

Christopher Kiver's appearance at Festival of Voices is a proud partnership with the Australian National Choral Association.





FESTIVAL OF VOICES 20TH ANNIVERSARY CHOIR: SINGERS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY CHOIRS

Cantiamo Ladies Choir
Choral Productions Tasmania
Cygnet Singers
Hobart Orpheus Choir

Lincoln Singers
Sing Australia Hobart
Sing Australia Kingston
Singers of Southern Tasmania

Southern Voices
Tasmanian Song Company

PAUL JARMAN (NSW)

Conductor, Festival of Voices 20th Anniversary Choir

Paul Jarman is a composer, lyricist, performer, musical director, and sought-after conductor, presenter, and adjudicator. He has been commissioned over two hundred times by ensembles in Australia and abroad. Many of Paul's works have become modern choral standards and his music has been published worldwide.

As a cultural ambassador he has worked extensively throughout Australia, Europe, Asia, North America, the Indian and Pacific Ocean in festivals and special events with theatre productions, Aboriginal-Anglo Celtic performance groups, choirs, and orchestras, and as a multi-instrumentalist in Australia's pioneering 'world music' ensemble Sirocco since 1996, representing Australia for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Musica Viva. He has also performed on various Australian movies and composed the music to Mike Dillon's award-winning adventure documentary films.

In 2010, Paul's piece for the 40th Anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jnr was performed for President Barack Obama in the White House, and in 2016, Paul was the only composer from the Southern Hemisphere among a group of some of today's most accomplished choral composers, commissioned by Oxford University Press to write a piece for the 400th Anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare.

Paul has composed and conducted the music for Australian special events including the Centenary of Federations, the Bicentenary of the Battle of Vinegar Hill, Year of the Outback, The Olympic Arts Festival, The Rugby World Cup Opening Ceremony, United Nations Year of the Mountain, The Queensland 150th and the Australia Day Spectacular. Paul has also composed over one hundred school anthems and is continually active in the development and promotion of choirs and music institutions across Australia and Asia. He has been the artist in residence at many of Australia's leading schools. Paul is also the patron of the Orange Male Voice Choir.





HOBART WIND SYMPHONY

The Hobart City Wind Symphony is a high-level ensemble performing the peak repertoire of the wind band. The ensemble aims to produce high quality music for contest and concert performance. The Wind Symphony competes in Tasmanian State and National Band Championships. The Wind Symphony was the Australian National Open A-Grade Concert Champion in 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2017 and has been the Tasmanian Open A-Grade Concert Champion since 2007.

The Wind Symphony performs concerts in Hobart in venues such as the Town Hall, Sir Stanley Burbury Theatre, St David's Cathedral, The Farrall Centre and the University of Tasmania Conservatorium Music Recital Hall. It has premiered a number of works by Tasmanian composers and participated in major choral events. In 2007, the ensemble completed its first recording, funded by Arts Tasmania. In 2009, Hobart City Band Inc. Released *Extreme Makeover*, a CD featuring both the Hobart City Wind Symphony and the Hobart City Brass Band.



Image credit: Courtney Brown

SIMON READE (TAS)

Conductor, Hobart Wind Symphony

Born in Launceston, Tasmania in 1977, Simon Reade is a conductor, composer, educator and trumpet player. Simon is passionate about the performance of new music and has given the world premiere of over 100 new works by Tasmanian composers, many of these with the Hobart Wind Symphony, which he has directed for over 25 years. Simon also directs both the large ensembles at the University of Tasmania, conducts Tasmania's only A grade Brass Band for Glenorchy City Brass, as well as working freelance with professional and community organisations, including the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. He is a fully represented composer at the Australian Music Centre and in 2022 was awarded the APRA/AMCOS State Luminary Award for Tasmania, for his sustained contribution as a conductor and the promotion of Australian Music.



OTHER EVENTS YOU MAY LIKE!

Cheers to 20 Years

Sun 6 Jul

2.00 pm

Hobart City Hall

A Choral Showcase

Sun 29 Jun

3.00 pm

Hobart City Hall

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

With DENNI: Songs of Country

Tue 1 July

7.30 pm

Ian Potter Recital Hall

Waiata, Cançons, Lieder

Tue 1 July

7.30 pm

Federation Concert Hall

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27 JUNE
to **6 JULY**