

Chordiality

Soprano

Liz Bateman
Roslyn Beeston
Nikki Beresford
Lyn Cox
Kris Fraser
Anne Gage
Rosie Gall
Alison Goode
Wendy Harper
Lynn Haug
Fiona Laing
Karen Laing*
Robin Lake
Ethel McFarlane
Rosemary Perry
Bev Sandaver
Megan Sandaver
Carol Watson
Guin Way

Alto

Mary Busteed
Glen Caitlin
Robyn Carl
Claire Cooper
Cathy Dean
Mary Denver
Jenny Downes
Rose Ellwood
Janelle Gatz
Sue Goode
Ruth Hamlyn-Harris
Anne Hoskings
Jenny Johnson
Alison Jones
Jenny Krassnig
Jill Laing
Kate Power
Irene Raymond
Jo Scott
Meredith Smith
Judy Somes
Mary Lou Yeo

Tenor

Harry Holland
Paul Kilpatrick
John Laird
Philip Smith
Jim Walls
Max Wheat

Bass

John Beeston
Doug Hawtin
Clark Ingram
Morris Lake
Malcolm MacKenzie
Neville Patterson
Colin Scobie
Barry Stark
Rick Valenta
Howard Wiseman
Richard Yeo

***Soloist**



Don't miss our next concert!

Chordiality presents **The Bards**

2pm, Sunday 10 November 2019

Chordiality is proudly supported by:



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chordialitychoir@gmail.com
www.chordiality.org



Chordiality

Presents

Singing with Spirit

Featuring Antonio Vivaldi's Magnificat



Conducted by Brett Sturdy

Accompanied by Simon Carl

and

The Chordiality Players

Sunday 23 June 2019, 2.00 pm

St Andrew's Uniting Church

Cnr Ann and Creek Streets, Brisbane

Chordiality is a community choir of about 70 members that started in February 2008. We are based in Indooroopilly and our membership is Brisbane-wide. We love to sing and enjoy each other's company. Chordiality's goals are to pursue choral excellence and have fun singing together.

We welcome back The Chordiality Players, who will accompany Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and give a very warm welcome to our guest artists D'Arne Sleeman, Louise Dorsman and Chris Cobcroft.

Our program today reflects a variety of musical genres - English madrigals, Baroque, Italian opera, spirituals and contemporary compositions. This selection of music, spanning over 400 years of choral works, was written to inspire and uplift the spirit.

Singing is always a joyful experience, one we are delighted to share with our audience. We welcome you to our concert *Singing with Spirit*.

Music Director - Brett Sturdy



Brett Sturdy completed a Bachelor of Music at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University. He studied Classical Piano with Natasha Vlassenko, Organ with Christopher Wrench, Orchestral Conducting with Dr Peter Morris and Choral Conducting with Emily Cox. He works as a Company Pianist at the Queensland Ballet. He also teaches and undertakes other freelance work.

Accompanist - Simon Carl



Simon is an accomplished pianist who has been the principal accompanist for Chordiality since its inception. At the University of Queensland, he gained a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours in Voice and was a founding member of the university's opera program. He has since worked with the Australian Voices, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and La Boite Theatre Company. At the piano, Simon is a frequent accompanist, repetiteur, collaborator and soloist. He is highly regarded for his musicality and versatility and his extensive choral experience is appreciated by the various community and school choirs with whom he regularly works.

PROGRAMME NOTES (continued)

Meet Me in the Middle of the Air: Paul Kelly

Australian contemporary composer and performer, Paul Kelly (1955-), was asked to write a closing piece for the movie *Tom White* a moving film about a middle-class, middle-aged man who loses his job, leaves his wife and family and falls further and further from respectability. The piece, *Meet Me in the Middle of the Air*, is based on the words of Psalm 23 and the title itself is the only line not found in the psalm. Even so, the title has been around for more than 100 years in genres such as blues, gospel and spirituals. "Meet me in the middle of the air," as a phrase, is a reference to the eschatological concept of the rapture (or catching away) of Christian believers who are living when Christ returns. Whilst the piece was not nominated for best music score, Paul Kelly was asked to sing it at the Australian Film Industry awards in 2004.

It's Oh to be a Wild Wind: Edward Elgar

It's Oh to be a Wild Wind is the fourth song from *Five Part-songs from The Greek Anthology, Op. 45*, a series of male-voice pieces composed by Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934). The words of the song are a translation of an ancient Greek text which Elgar set to music. Written in 1902, these five part-songs, as Elgar's biographer stated, "have all the air of having been written for one of these almost masonic occasions" and "they are written so that a group of singers... could sing them not only with comparative ease but with zest".

Wade in the Water: Traditional, arr. Mark Hayes

The words of most spirituals are generally adaptations of passages from the Bible. There are instances where, as a consequence of generations that have been unable to read or write, the meaning of certain lines can now only be guessed. As with most spirituals, slavery is barely mentioned and, instead, a spirit of gentle melancholy and longing is evident. *Wade in the Water* relates to both the Old and New Testaments and the verses reflect the Israelites' escape out of Egypt as found in Exodus 14 and the healing power of water in John 5:4.

Amazing Grace: Will Todd

Will Todd (1970-) is best known for his choral works and this arrangement of *Amazing Grace* was composed for the choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields. This song has become a standard in pop, folk and gospel genres since Englishman John Newton, a slave trader-turned-abolitionist, wrote the words in the 1700s. With the message that forgiveness and redemption are possible through the mercy of God, *Amazing Grace* is one of the most recognisable songs in the English-speaking world and has become an emblematic African American spiritual. Its universal message has been a significant factor in its crossover into secular music.

Dry Bones: James Weldon Johnson, arr. Mark Hayes

Also known as *Dem Bones* and *Dem Dry Bones*, *Dry Bones* is a spiritual song composed by author and songwriter James Weldon Johnson (1871- 1938). The lyrics of *Dry Bones* are inspired by the Book of Ezekiel 37:1-14 where the prophet Ezekiel visits the Valley of Dry Bones and prophesies that the dead will one day rise again at the command of the Lord. The piece starts with an introductory verse, then tells the sequence of bones from the toe upward and almost always finishing with the command "Now hear the word of the Lord!"



PROGRAMME NOTES (continued)

Sing We and Chant It: Thomas Morley

A composer, theorist and organist at St Paul's Cathedral, London, Thomas Morley (1557-1603) was most likely a friend of Shakespeare, for whose plays he composed many songs. He is well known for his madrigals and a form known as the *ballet* – a piece which is dance-like, strongly rhythmical with a 'fa la la' refrain. *Sing We and Chant It* displays all these characteristics and the piece urges all to "Seize the Day"!

I Will Sing with the Spirit: John Rutter

John Rutter (1945-) is an English composer, conductor, arranger and record producer of mainly choral music. *I Will Sing with the Spirit* is a choral sacred work composed in 1994. The piece is based on the text taken from 1 Corinthians 14:15 and is dedicated to the Royal School of Church Music who requested a simple anthem to serve as a theme song. John Rutter most recently was commissioned to write an anthem *This is the Day* for the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011.

Magnificat RV 610: Antonio Vivaldi

The *Magnificat* is a setting of the canticle sung at every Vespers service. As Vivaldi (1678-1741) was a priest and musical director of the Ospedale della Pietà, a Venetian orphanage for young girls, he was inspired to compose church music of great variety. Vivaldi was one of the most productive composers of the Baroque era. His vast output includes substantial quantities of chamber and vocal music, including some 46 operas and 500 concertos for almost every combination of instruments as well as sacred music. His music has figured prominently in the baroque revival of the 1950s and 1960s.

Witches' Chorus, Macbeth: Giuseppe Verdi

Macbeth is an opera in four acts composed by Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) based on William Shakespeare's play of the same name. It was his tenth opera but his first Shakespearean adaptation. The three witches are essential to Macbeth and Verdi capitalised on this by composing an entire witches chorus! Verdi was quite particular about the effect that he wanted from his witches – he insisted that the chorus be "vulgar, yet bizarre and original".

Shackleton: Paul Jarman

Shackleton was commissioned by the Sydney Children's Choir 2001 and is taken from the Song Cycle *Turn on the Open Sea* by Australian choral composer and conductor Paul Jarman (1971-). Through Jarman's words, listeners are taken on Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition (1914-1917) aboard the wooden ship 'Endurance' which became trapped in the pack ice of the Weddell Sea for 10 months. With little hope of rescue, Shackleton and five others survived an 800-mile journey to South Georgia Island. After landing and crossing a further 26 miles of mountains and glaciers, they reached a whaling station 21 months after their initial departure from the 'Endurance'. Shackleton himself returned to rescue the remaining crew, not one member of which was lost. On their return to England they were astonished to discover that the war that had just begun as they left, had not yet ended.

My Spirit Sang All Day: Gerald Finzi

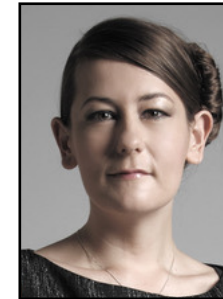
Gerald Finzi (1901-1956) devoted himself to composition and as such produced song cycles, a Cantata and an Ode for St Cecilia's Day amongst various concertos. *My Spirit Sang all Days* is the third song from his work *Seven Poems of Robert Bridges*. The refrain "O my joy!" is pertinent, as the piece was written around the time of Finzi's marriage to his wife Joyce. George Finzi stated "...as surely as birds must sing, so long as words exist and man is capable of feeling, there will be song."

D'Arne Sleeman - Soprano



Soprano D'Arne Sleeman, a graduate of Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University, is a Brisbane-based singer who has worked in all genres from opera and live theatre through to being a professional cantor. A regular artist with Opera Queensland, she has performed in over 40 productions since 1993. She recently appeared in Verdi's *Requiem* and John Adams' *A Flowering Tree*. She has performed internationally in Cortona, Italy and with Opera Box in Wales and London. D'Arne has taught at Clayfield College and St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School as a vocal teacher. As a freelance artist, she performs regularly throughout Brisbane and regional areas.

Louise Dorsman - Mezzo Soprano



As a graduate of The University of Melbourne's music program, Louise Dorsman was the recipient of the HA Owen Award and she later attended the Victorian College of the Arts as a member of the Opera Program. As a crossover artist, Louise frequently performs in a wide range of musical styles including opera, oratorio, musical theatre and art song. As well as being a member of the chorus for Opera Queensland and Victorian Opera, Louise was a featured soloist in the concert production *Strike up the Chorus!* She also understudied *Annina* in *La Traviata* and was recently part of the Matilda nominated production of *Ruddigore*.

Chris Cobcroft - Tenor



Chris Cobcroft is a Brisbane-based lyric tenor with a keen interest in a wide variety of music, from opera to sacred, to world music and alternative rock. He has been a long time regular member of the Opera Queensland Company, performing in productions of the *St. Matthew Passion*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *A Flowering Tree* and many others. He served for fifteen years in The St. Stephen's Schola, a professional sacred music octet. He has fronted a variety of bands including the legendary Romany and Klezmer outfit, Doch. When not engaged in performing, Chris works as a music journalist and was the long-time Music Director for Queensland's community radio 4ZZZ.

The Chordiality Players

Violin 1: Sally-Ann Djachenko, Emily Francis

Violin 2: Dan Lopez, TBC

Viola: Graeme McKean, Yuri Djachenko

Cello: Amy Allen

Double Bass: Bryn Keane

Oboe: Jenny Flottman, Nicholas Donnelly

The Chordiality Players are freelance musicians from around Brisbane who also play with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Pops Orchestra, and the Camerata of St. John's Chamber Orchestra. This is the fourth time they have come together to accompany Chordiality. The Chordiality Players are led by Sally-Anne Djachenko.

PROGRAMME

Sing We and Chant it

Thomas Morley

I Will Sing with the Spirit

John Rutter

Magnificat RV 610

Soprano - D'Arne Sleeman

Mezzo Soprano - Louise Dorsman

Tenor - Chris Cobcroft

Antonio Vivaldi

Interval

Witches' Chorus, Macbeth

Giuseppe Verdi

Shackleton

Soloist - Karen Laing

Paul Jarman

My Spirit Sang All Day

Gerald Finzi

Meet Me in the Middle of the Air

Soloist - Simon Carl

Paul Kelly

It's Oh to be a Wild Wind

Edward Elgar

Wade in the Water

Traditional
arr. Mark Hayes

Amazing Grace

Will Todd

Dry Bones

James Weldon Johnson
arr. Mark Hayes

PROGRAMME NOTES

MAGNIFICAT

I Magnificat ánima mea Dóminum.

I My soul doth magnify the Lord.

II Et exultávit spíritus meus: in Deo salutári meo.

II And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Quia respéxit humilitátem ancíllae suae: Ecce enim ex hoc beátam me dicent omnes generatiónes.

Because He hath regarded the humility of His slave: For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Quia fécit mihi mágna qui pótens est: et sánctum nómen eius.

Because He that is mighty hath done great things to me; and holy is His name.

III Et misericórdia eius in progénies et progénies timéntibus eum.

III And His mercy is from generation unto generations, to them that fear Him.

IV Fécit poténtiam in bráchio suo: dispérsit supérbos mente cordis sui.

IV He hath shewed might in His arm: He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

V Depósuit poténtes de sede: et exaltávit húmiles.

V He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble.

VI Esuriéntes implévit bonis: et dívites dimísit inánes.

VI He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.

VII Suscépit Ísrael púerum suum: recordátus misericórdiae suae.

VII He hath received Israel His servant, being mindful of His mercy:

VIII Sicut locútus est ad patres nostros: Ábraham, et sémini eius in saecula.

VIII As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever.

IX Glória Patri, et Filio, et Spirítui Sancto,

IX Glory be the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculórum. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forever and ever, Amen.