

ABOUT OUR PERFORMERS

ASCHAM / GRAMMAR KODALY CONFERENCE CHOIR

CONDUCTORS & ACCOMPANISTS: Robin Carter & Catriona Turnbull

This choir has been formed especially for this conference, selected from girls and boys from Years 3-6 who are in their choirs at each school.

Ascham School is an independent, non-selective, day and boarding girls' school that provides a strong academic programme within a friendly, inclusive culture. Ascham follows a liberal arts curriculum, using the Dalton Plan. The music programme is extensive throughout K-12. Every girl in Year 3 to 6 in the primary school sings in their Year Choir rehearsing once a week. Girls can audition in Years 3 and 4 for Larks, and in Years 5 and 6 for Nightingales. These more select choirs meet twice a week, and perform regularly at school events.

Sydney Grammar School is an independent secular school for boys located in Sydney, with 2 preparatory schools, one in Paddington and one in St Ives, and a high school in College Street in the centre of the city. Edgecliff caters especially for lively boys who are intellectually curious, creative and keen to learn. The music programme is extensive, with over 20 choral and instrumental ensembles. Boys all sing in their Year Choir that meets once a week for 30 minutes. There are 2 auditioned ensembles, the Year 5 Chorale and the Edgecliff Chorale (Year 6) who meet once a week for 50 minutes.

THE PROMISE OF AVONDALE



CONDUCTOR: Aleta King

The Promise of Avondale vocal ensemble was founded in 2005 and represents the proud musical tradition established at Avondale over 115 years ago. The ensemble tours nationally and internationally and is dedicated to musical excellence with a repertoire ranging from the classics to contemporary gospel and jazz. Aleta King was appointed artistic director early 2012 and within six months The Promise was selected as a national finalist for the ABC Vocal Romp Competition and subsequently invited to sing as support act for internationally acclaimed German

acapella vocal group Amarcord. The Promise performed by invitation at Easterfest 2013, Australia's largest Christian music festival, and completed the recording of their third album, Give Thanks, released mid 2013. Recent collaboration with Avondale Jazz Ensemble Director David Pudney, who composed a collection of Jazz originals specifically arranged for The Promise, resulted in the eagerly anticipated fourth album Jesus: HIStory released early 2014.

TOOWOOMBA CAMERATA



CONDUCTOR: Celia Egerton

Toowoomba Camerata was formed in 2003 to provide a training ground for secondary school string players and to give them the opportunity to play a wide variety of repertoire from around the world. They perform regularly in concerts in South East Queensland and have been successful in many competitions. The Toowoomba Camerata performed in the Prima Nota Festival in Kuhmo, Finland in February of 2006, as part of a concert tour of Hungary and Finland. The group also won the Valley

FM Award for Best Instrumental Ensemble, receiving radio airplay in the region. Toowoomba Camerata are delighted to perform as part of the KMEIA Conference in 2014.

WAITARA VOICES



DIRECTOR: Jenny Bell

“Waitara Voices” was established in 2013 as a choir of excellence. Waitara Public School has always regarded music highly and with the introduction of a new music teacher specialist position awarded to Jenny, in 2012, the profile and standard of music across the entire school has increased.

“Waitara Voices” consists of auditioned boys and girls from Years 5 and 6. They meet twice per week and all students are diligent and enthusiastic about the role they play in the choir’s success.

The choir is directed by Mrs Jenny Bell who uses a Kodaly based, developmental music program in both her class teaching and choral programs. Jenny Bell was also the founding director of the Central Coast Children’s Choirs. Her choirs have been successful in many eisteddfods.

WARATAH GIRLS CHOIR



CONDUCTOR: Lindy Connett
ACCOMPANIST: Jenny Scott

Founded in 1982 by Musical Director, Wynette Horne, the Australian Waratah Girls Choir boasts an enviable reputation in Australia and around the world for the quality and diversity of its performances and recordings and has become one of Newcastle's greatest cultural assets. From humble beginnings the choir has developed into a well-established and esteemed choir of international acclaim. Noted for its extraordinarily, beautiful tone, the choir enjoys a vast and varied repertoire, bringing delight to all who hear. The Senior Choir has travelled extensively to UK, Denmark, Japan, Canada, Finland excelling in national and international competitions as well as participating in a number of invitation only festivals and friendship tours with other outstanding choirs in all corners of the globe. In 2007, Waratah Girls Choir enjoyed the privilege of being the first Australian choir to be invited to perform in Carnegie Hall, New York and in 2010 toured throughout China on cultural exchange and performing at the Shanghai World Expo.

Since the appointment in 2007 of Artistic Director, Lindy Connett, the choir has continued to represent Australia with excellence, presenting annual concerts, invitational and charitable performances, CD recordings and official ceremonies. The girls have most recently returned from a highly successful tour of Europe where they participated in the Festival Internazionale di Arte per Giovanni Musicisti including performances at a Papal Mass in St Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi, St Salvatore in Prague and the WWII ghetto town of Terezin.

2013 saw further performance opportunities and cultural exchange with a number of national and international music groups including The Birallee Voices, Australian Girls Choir, The Idea of North, The Three Waratahs and the Huangyan Chamber Orchestra (China). A particular highlight for 2013 included singing at the opening ceremony of the 2013 Special Olympics at Hunter Stadium.

CONFERENCE DINNER



the idea of north

i n s h o r t

" A c a p p e l l a i s
s o m e t i m e s t h o u g h t o f
a s b e i n g m i n i m a l i s t ,
b u t w h e n y o u c a n s i n g
t h e d e n t e r t a i n l i k e
b a n d w o u l d j u s t g e t
i n t h e w a y ... "
- J a m e s M o r r i s o n

The Idea of North is Australia's foremost contemporary vocal ensemble and ranks very highly on the world stage. The group studied at two of Australia's best music schools – two of the group at The Canberra School of Music and two at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide. They have also studied and worked with some of the truly great singers, arrangers and vocal groups including The Manhattan Transfer, Tuck and Patti, Gene Puerling (The Hi-Lo's, Singers Unlimited) and Mark Murphy. They have also worked with some of the finest a cappella ensembles in the world today including: The Real Group (Sweden), Rajaton (Finland), M-Pact (USA), and Michael Bubles' vocal group, Naturally 7.

Recognised by many major awards and recording successes, including the 2013 and 2010 ARIA award for 'Best Jazz Album' and winners of The Harmony Sweepstakes, the largest international a cappella competition in the world. They have performed at major events in such arenas as The Lincoln Centre in New York, The Kennedy Centre in Washington DC and similar venues in many other countries. To hear and see this group in live performance is an unforgettable experience.

The group has appeared on stage with some of Australia's greatest jazz musicians, including James Morrison and Don Burrows, and in concert series and festivals alongside a number of international artists such as The New York Voices (USA), The Flying Pickets (UK), and Take 6 (USA). The Idea of North frequently performs to their own sell-out audiences around the world and also at corporate functions, festivals and large multi-bill concerts, on their own and in collaboration with other musicians, both at home in Australia and overseas in the US, Europe and Asia.

Now in the 21st year since the group's inception, The Idea of North is now Australia's longest-standing and most awarded contemporary a cappella group in history.

The Idea of North is Sally Cameron (soprano), Naomi Crellin (alto), (Joy Hague - deputy alto), Nick Begbie (tenor) and Andrew Piper (bass)

s o m e h i g h l i g h t s

August 2014	ASIA TOUR The Idea of North headlines the 2014 'Vocal Asia' Festival in August 2014, as well as appearing at the Taipei Jazz Festival
April 2014	HONG KONG A CAPPELLA FESTIVAL The Idea of North headlines the 2014 HKAF in April 2014
October 2013	ARIA AWARDS The Idea of North wins its 2 nd ARIA (Australian Recording Industry Association) Award for 'Best Jazz Album' for their 2013 release 'Smile'
August 2013	ALBUM RELEASE The Idea of North releases its 10 th album in its 20 th year as a musical ensemble
July 2013	HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE The Idea of North perform alongside Australian legendary performers such as Tina Arena, Katie Noonan, Doug Parkinson and many others in a tribute to the music of the Gibb Brothers at the Queensland Music Festival
June 2013	MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS' FESTIVAL A headlining act, The Idea of North gave workshops and a concert for an event run by Jonathon Welch, founder of 'The School of Hard Knocks'
May 2013	GENERATIONS IN JAZZ As newly appointed 'patrons' of the inaugural 'vocal group competition at the country's largest high-school music competition, held in Mt Gambier each year
February 2013	ADELAIDE FRINGE FESTIVAL From a field of over 350 musical performances, The Idea of North win Bank SA's 'BEST MUSIC' award at the 2013 Adelaide Fringe Festival
Oct 2012	SWEDEN & DENMARK Two week festival tour in Scandinavia for the 'Lünd Choral Festival'
Jan 2012	LAOS & THAILAND Australia Day performances in Vientienne & Bangkok.
Nov 2011	LIMELIGHT AWARDS Awarded 'Best Jazz Album' in the Annual Limelight Magazine Music Awards, for 'Extraordinary Tale'
July 2011	ARIA AWARDS Garnered their second 'Best Jazz Album' nomination in the ARIA Awards in as many years.
October 2010	FRANCE One of 12 international acts invited to 'Polyfolia' choral festival
August 2010	CANADA Headlining the 'Australia' themed year at MusicFest Vancouver
Oct 2010	ARIA AWARDS Won 'Best Jazz Album' award at the 2010 ARIAs, for their collaborative release with James Morrison 'Feels Like Spring'.
May 2009	GERMANY Four cities – four festivals
Aug 2008	KOREA International 'Amazing Voice' Festival
Nov/Dec 2007	HONG KONG Concert in HK City Hall for the HK Government
August 2007	KOREA Returned to perform in series of concerts (The Amazing Voice Festival) featuring four of the world's leading a cappella groups – The Real Group from Sweden, M-Pact from the USA, Rajaton from Finland and The Idea of North from Australia.
June 2007	FINLAND First tour of Finland. Performed with Finland's 'Rajaton' in Helsinki, then at the Tampere Vocal Festival. Other various concerts in Germany and Sweden.
September 2006	KOREA A return invitation on the heels of their July trip to perform at a large function in Seoul, and to make a number of TV appearances. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvrCuYBOba0 (a fan-uploaded file of a performance of the Korean song 'Under the Name of Love')

- July 2006** **MALAYSIA** The group's lively stage presence and unique music was a feature at this year's KL Music Festival in Malaysia.
- June 2006** **JAPAN** Their 3rd trip to Japan, this one sees The Idea of North performing a six concert tour of Nagasaki, Osaka, Toyama & Tokyo.

r e v i e w e r ' s c o m m e n t s

- "... a truly outstanding vocal quartet...a wonderful group to watch in performance...truly a sight and sound experience of the highest calibre."* Don Burrows
- "Strong polished voices with a blend to envy – a welcome addition to the tradition of great vocal jazz."* Peter Eldridge, New York Voices
- "In terms of quality of ensemble and elegance of arrangements, this group's work is in the same league as that of the Swingle Singers in their heyday."* Sydney Morning Herald
- "This a cappella outfit can't put a foot wrong..." Critic's rating: 10/10* Sun Herald, Sydney
- "Impeccable a cappella... they have class stamped over everything they do. Catch them and marvel."* The Adelaide Review
- "A vocal quartet of wit, charm and breathtaking musical virtuosity."* The Adelaide Advertiser
- "...an impeccable standard of musicianship..."* The Melbourne Age
- "...measured and absorbing. Like ABBA dipped in velvet."* Sydney Morning Herald
- "Smooth, sophisticated close-harmony arrangements... A pitch-perfect ensemble."* The Courier-Mail, Brisbane
- "...an impeccable standard of musicianship..."* The Melbourne Age
- "An hour and 15 minutes of nearly flawless, energetic and inventive performing that remakes and honours home-style sing-fests and begs superlatives."* Hobart Mercury
- "...If there is a finer a cappella group in Australia, I'm looking forward to hearing them."* The West Australian
- "...every performance brims with the sheer joy of singing and your spirit will find itself lifting and at least one toe will find itself tapping."* Carl Vine, Musica Viva Australia