

Concerts:



Kate Albury – Brisbane Grammar School Chamber Choir

Kate has completed a Bachelor of Arts Music and a Bachelor of Music Education at the Qld Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University, as well as a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Queensland. For eight years she held the position of Music Co-ordinator at Trinity Lutheran College on the Gold Coast. Kate was a member of the Senior Music Panel, and Chair of the Music Extension Panel for the Gold Coast area. Since 2003 Kate has held the positions of Choral Director and Middle School Music Co-ordinator at Brisbane Grammar School. In addition to her four choirs at Brisbane Grammar School, Kate also conducts the 'Con Chorus' at the Qld Conservatorium of Music and is director of the new Birrallee Southside Singers. Kate is Vice-President of the Queensland committee of the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA Qld) and is committed to encouraging young people to become involved in choral music.

Exaudi Youth Choir – Claire Preston and Robert Stewart

Exaudi Youth Choir are winners of the Australian National Eisteddfod Choirs Championship! The choir also gained first place wins in the Sacred, Contemporary and Australian-British sections. Adjudicators Anne Williams and George Torbay praised Exaudi's "excellent attention to detail" saying the ensemble "is blessed with an immediately warm and full sound. Exaudi has worked with Mike Brewer OBE, Conductor of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain who said "Exaudi combines artistic awareness and integrity with boundless vitality and a real understanding of blend and ensemble in a wide range of styles.... they are ambassadors for all that is best in Australian choral singing." Tim Lautzenheiser from Ball State University Indiana, U.S. and author of *The Joy of Inspired Teaching* enjoyed the choir's performance at the Australian Music Educators Conference and said, "Listening to Exaudi was the musical highlight of my time in Melbourne. It is simply, FIRST CLASS all the way, BRAVO!!" Exaudi Youth Choir has twice been guest choir at the Festival of Voices in Hobart and enjoyed performances with So-la Voce, Resonance of Birrallee and University of Newcastle Chamber Choir while on tour in 2009. Exaudi Youth Choir has performed at the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Australia Day Ambassadors Launch, the Choral Festival at Monsalvat, New Year's Eve concerts with the Australian Pops Orchestra, recorded with ABC FM and been broadcast on "Rising Stars". Exaudi has been selected to participate in Festival 500 in Canada July 2011 and continues to give numerous concerts throughout the local community. The choir takes its name from the Latin word meaning "listen to us" or "understand us". Founded by Claire Preston and Robert Stewart in 2007 the choir seeks to "fill the gap" between choristers' experiences in their community children's choir or school groups and adult community choirs. Singers are aged between 18 and 28. www.exaudi.com.au exaudiyouthchoir@gmail.com

Northern Spirit – Anneke Petersen

The vocal ensemble Northern Spirit is a group of 20 motivated singers (aged 16-26), committed to contemporary and world choral music. In just four years, under the direction of conductor Ole Schmitt, Northern Spirit has given more than seventy concerts, premiered twenty new works, and taken part in five international Choir festivals, including the international competition Chorfest Bremen, where the choir received a 2nd prize (Folklore) and a 3rd prize (Modern). Northern Spirit sings a repertoire of mostly contemporary choral music. This includes compositions by the conductor and members of the choir, sacred and secular works from the standard modern repertoire, and world folk music, especially that of northern Germany, where the choir is based. Founded in 2006 by Australian composer and conductor Gordon Hamilton, the choir is now under the direction of young German conductor Ole Schmitt, who took over in 2009 when Hamilton returned to Australia. Northern Spirit has given concerts in Germany, Spain, France and Iceland.

The Australian Voices – Gordon Hamilton

The mission of The Australian Voices is to commission, perform, record and promote the music of Australian composers to the highest international artistic standards. Over its 17-year history, The Australian Voices have championed an astonishing flourish of new Australian vocal music, having commissioned hundreds of new works. Much of this new music captures vividly the vibrant sound, colour, and energy of the Australian continent and its people. The singers, aged between 17 and 28 come from different Australian cities and commit to a rigorous professional schedule of concerts and workshops, both in Australia and throughout the world. This vocal ensemble has been recognised by many international awards and honours as one of the finest of its type in the world. The Australian Voices have toured internationally many times, participating in major events in the U.K, the U.S.A., Canada, Guatemala, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Croatia, New Zealand, Malaysia, China, Taiwan and Korea. The Australian Voices have shared stages with some of the great musicians of the world including Jose Carreras, Bobby McFerrin and Evelyn Glennie. Under the direction of Graeme Morton (conductor 1993-1996, Stephen Leek (conductor 1996-2009), and now Gordon Hamilton (2009-), The Australian Voices have achieved outstanding levels of national and international success.

The Birralee Blokes – Paul Holley

The Birralee Blokes is a dynamic ensemble of young men whose love for singing and communicating good music has fascinated and captivated audiences around Australia. Since its inception in 2003 the ensemble has performed for various organisations and toured nationally and internationally. The Birralee Blokes are the current ABC Classic FM Choir of the Year. In addition to this they were judged Youth Choir of the Year and also received the Listeners' Choice Award. Their appearance on Channel 7's Battle of the Choirs took their appeal to a new TV audience in 2008. Membership is drawn from state and independent secondary schools and universities and there is a strong emphasis placed on inclusion for any young man who enjoys singing and expresses a desire to develop as a musician. 'The Blokes' provides a secure environment for young men to explore their changing voices, but they are also proving that the art form is as inspiring as it is unique.

"The Birralee Blokes have done for male singing what 'Billy Elliot' did for male dancing." – Dr Jonathon Welch, Choir of Hard Knocks.

www.birralee.org

Young Voices of Melbourne – Mark O'Leary

Young Voices of Melbourne was founded by Mark O'Leary in 1990, and is now regarded as one of Australia's finest young choirs. Choir members aged 6 to 18 years rehearse weekly in one of four groups. The choir performs regularly in and around Melbourne, and has toured all states and territories of Australia, as well as Europe (1996, 2004 and 2010), South Africa (1998), Canada/USA (2001), Singapore and Thailand (2007). Young Voices of Melbourne has released eight CD recordings and is regularly heard on Australian radio and television. Over the past couple of years the choir has also performed at several festivals and major events including the Port Fairy Folk Festival, National Folk Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival, the Commonwealth Games Arts Festival and the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. In 2010 the choir celebrated its 20th anniversary with its sixth international tour, to Italy, Slovenia, Hungary and the UK.