









## **ACT Primary and Senior Concert Choirs**

Conductor: Katharine Finlayson

Pianist: Kimberley Steele





The ACT Primary and Senior Concert Choirs are part of the ACT Instrumental Music Program. The choirs provide extension opportunities in choral singing for students in ACT Public schools. The Primary Concert Choir comprises students in years 4 to 6 and the Senior Concert Choir comprises students in Year 7 to 12. Both choirs rehearse for one hour each week after school. The choirs have been rehearsing in person since April 2022 after participating in 3 terms of remote learning through online google meets. The choirs have been invited to perform in high profile events such as the nationally televised Australia vs New Zealand Brumbies game, Parliament House 30th Anniversary as well as performing regularly at the National Eisteddfod, Step Into the Limelight, Wattle Day Citizenship Ceremonies and IMP Concerts.

**The Unicorn** Dan Walker

ACT Primary Concert Choir

**Adiemus** Karl Jenkins

ACT Senior Concert Choir

A New Stephen Leek

Gondwana Combined Concert Choirs

Katharine Finlayson has been a primary music specialist teacher for 37 years. In 2011 Katharine received a National Award for Excellence in School Music Education. In 2016 Katharine was awarded the AKC in Primary Music and she also achieved Certification as a Lead Teacher with AITSL, renewed in 2021. Katharine is the Executive Teacher, Professional Practice for Music and the Arts for the Education Directorate, ACT. Katharine works with a large number of classroom and specialist music teachers, increasing their capacity to deliver Kodály based music education programs to their classes. Katharine established the ACT Primary Concert Choir in 2014 and the ACT Senior Concert Choir in 2017. Katharine is also the Vocal Director of Step Into the Limelight, the ACT Education Directorate's Gala performing arts show.





#### Oriana Chorale

Conductor: Dan Walker



Founded in 1977 by Roger Wellman, the Oriana Chorale is an auditioned group of professional and amateur musicians who are dedicated to quality performance of diverse selection of choral music.

Oriana's mission is enriching the cultural life of Canberra with choral music projects of the highest standard, both a capella and with instrumental accompaniment, when it is called for. The Chorale repertoire ranges from Schütz, Tallis and Byrd, to Rachmaninov, Pärt, Whitacre, and contemporary Australian composers.

Directed by Dan Walker, the Chorale presents three major concerts each year, often with associate artists, and is a regular participant in the Canberra International Music Festival as well as a collaborator of prominent vocal ensembles such as The Song Company and The Tallis Scholars. In addition, Oriana takes part in a range of activities across the ACT and surrounding region, including a long-standing tradition of contributing to the festivities at the ANU University House dinners. Members of the community have the opportunity to join the Chorale for its annual choral workshops.

Great Southern Spirit: Composer: Stephen Leek

1. Wirindji

2. Kondalilla

3. Uluru

Composer, conductor and performer **Dan Walker** is one of Australia's most in-demand choral specialists. He has had works commissioned by the Sydney Symphony, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Gondwana Choirs and Halcyon. As a performer, Dan is a member of the professional vocal ensemble 'The Consort of Melbourne', Sydney-based Cantillation, and Pinchgut Opera. He has been a guest performer with



The Song Company and was a founding member of early music ensemble 'The Parson's Affayre'. He is a keenly sought-after conductor, appearing as chorus-master for the Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Choruses, and is Artistic Director of Choristry and Habeas Chorus, the choir for the Melbourne legal community.





#### Canberra Girls Grammar School Chorale

Conductor: Joel Copeland Accompanist: Kimberley Steele





#### Canberra Girls Grammar School Chorale

The Canberra Girls Grammar School Chorale are a non-auditioned choir for students in Years 7-12. The chorale welcomes students from all musical backgrounds and enjoy singing a wide range of repertoire. Chorale are involved in many performances throughout the year both within CGGS and out in the community. In 2019, the Chorale toured to Europe and won several awards at international competitions. Each year, the Chorale join together with other local community choirs to perform in the Together in Music Concert which has featured performances of: The Sunrise Mass, Requiem for the Living, The Armed Man, Jubilate Deo and our proudest achievement, Mozart's Requiem.

**Evening Song** Zoltán Kodály

Soloist - Charlotte Walker

**Weep No** David N. Childs

More

**Down in the** Traditional arr. Jace Wittig

**River to Pray** Soloist – Aliya Voyles

Joel Copeland currently holds the position of Director (Co-curricular) at Canberra Girls Grammar School, following on from the establishment of The Music Academy in the role of Dean of Music. Prior to this, he was employed at Radford College where he was Head of Music and Director of Choirs. Joel holds a Master of Education (Educational Leadership), a Bachelor of Education (Secondary Music), has been an exponent of the Kodály philosophy throughout his teaching career and in 2015, received the Australian Kodály Certificate in Secondary Music Education. He is a regular presenter at conferences and workshops around the country and is an accredited Australian Kodaly Certificate lecturer. In 2016, Joel obtained an Advanced Diploma in Leadership and Management through the Australian Institute of Management and in 2021 was certified by the Teacher Quality Institute as a Lead Teacher. Joel's experience in leadership and governance extended to his role as a Director of the Radford College Board in 2016. Joel also undertook a 4-year term as the National President of the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia (KMEIA Inc.) and is also a past President of the ACT Music Educators Network (ACTMEN).





### The Promise of Avondale

Artistic Director: Dr Aleta King



The Promise is Avondale University's premiere vocal ensemble dedicated to musical excellence. Formed in 2005, the ensemble represents the long and significant history of music at Avondale. Its repertoire ranges from the classics to contemporary gospel and jazz. The Promise performs and tours extensively and has recorded six albums. And as one of the finalists in ABC Classic FM's Vocal Romp competition, The Promise performed as support for German a cappella ensemble Amarcord. It has also performed with jazz multi-instrumentalist Adrian Cunningham, Jazz greats James and John Morrison, and collaborated with Australian vocal ensembles The Song Company and The Idea of North. Avondale Conservatorium Director Dr Aleta King is the ensemble's Artistic Director.

**Ok** K. Franklin

Aleta King – Piano

**How Great Thou Art** S. K. Hine arr. A. King

Aleta King - Piano

Irish Blessing Traditional arr. The Idea of North

(acapella)

Dr Aleta King is director of Avondale Conservatorium, lecturer in musicianship and conducting, and artistic director and conductor of choirs and orchestras at Avondale University. She is a former lecturer in musicianship at the universities of Queensland and Melbourne and accompanist for Queensland Conservatorium Chorus. Aleta receives regular invitations to guest present for ASME, KMEIA, ANCA, MTA and Oxford Conducting Institute. As recently appointed ANCA Research Chair she organised ANCA inaugural research Conference in April 2022. During her studies at the Liszt Academy of Music's Kodály Institute Aleta received the Sarolta Kodály Foundation Scholarship, International Kodály Society's Sarolta Kodály Scholarship, and Hungarian Government Scholarship. As musical director of the London Adventist Chorale, Aleta had the experience of performing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Golden Jubilee celebrations at Buckingham Palace. Aleta recently completed her Doctor of Musical Arts (Conducting) with Associate Professors Neil McEwan and Jennifer Rowley at Sydney Conservatorium in 2021.





## Luminescence Children's Choir

Artistic Director: AJ America Pianist: Veronica Milroy





The Luminescence Children's Choir is an auditioned treble choir for singers aged 10 - 17. The ensemble is dedicated to excellence in performance and offers young singers holistic and high-quality musical experiences and education. The choir offers young people a safe and creative space to express themselves through singing and fosters a life-long love of music and the arts, as well as enduring friendships. Luminescence Children's Choir have performed at national institutions and world-class concert venues, including Parliament House, the National Portrait Gallery, the High Court, the Sydney Opera House, Hobart Town Hall, and Federation Concert Hall. In addition to regular performances in Canberra, the choir has toured to Hobart, Melbourne, and Sydney, and appeared at a number of major Australian music festivals, including the Canberra International Music Festival (2019), the Festival of Voices (Hobart, 2018), and the Gondwana World Choral Festival (Sydney, 2019). In 2020/2021 Luminescence Children's Choir were featured in live performances and professional recordings of 'We Are the Skywhales', appearing in collaboration with Jess Green (aka Pheno) as part of the National Gallery of Australia's 'Every Heart Sings' Skywhale launch.

She Walks in Beauty Sally Whitwell

Stairway to Nowhere Ben van Tienen

AJ is a performer, conductor, and creative producer. She is the Artistic Director of Luminescence Chamber Singers and Children's Choir, and a guest conductor for Gondwana Choirs. AJ currently serves as the Chair of the Minister's Creative Council.

Luminescence.org.au

# Commissioned Work: "Our Place in Spring"

Returning to this work after it sat for two years on the shelf, has been an interesting time of reflection and remembrance. So much in the world has changed since the time when I worked with the young students in building the text, and yet so much is unchanged. The beauty and sacredness of the natural world and place in which we live is unchanged, yet we as a society have shifted in so many ways.

Our Place in Spring brings together the words and ideas of the young students who were involved in a series of workshops, and in a collage like musical setting, the music attempts to bring the elements together through use of natural sounds and shapes. Birdcalls have always been central shapes in my compositions and the idea of a sense of place has been a thread that has run over the course of that long musical journey. I hope you enjoy.

Stephen Leek

Licences for this piece and many other works by Stephen Leek can be purchased on-line at www.stephenleek.com

## Stephen Leek

Freelance Australian Composer/Conductor Stephen Leek has long associations with some of the finest and most innovative choirs around the world including Gondwana Voices (Australia), the Tapiola Children's Choir (Finland), Kamer...Choir (Latvia), The Formosa Singers (Taiwan), and his own choirs, vOiCeArT and The Australian Voices, that he co-founded and conducted for 16 years until 2009.

A Churchill Fellow, Leek has received numerous national and international awards including the highly prestigious "Robert Edler International Choral Prize" for his contribution to the development of global choral music presented to him in Darmstaat, Germany. He



has held many national and international positions including Vice President of the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) from 2011 – 2017, and 2012/13, Artistic Director of the Shanghai Youth Choir and in 2015, Conductor of the Asia Pacific Youth Choir.

Leek free-lances around Australia and around the world as conductor and composer, but now resides in Canberra. He is part-time Artistic Director / General Manager of the Young Music Society – an awarded, self-funded, non-profit, community-based organisation that celebrated 50 years in 2019 and works sessionally within the Canberra Girls Grammar Music Academy. He also lectures the Masters Choral Direction Course at the University of Melbourne Music Department.

## Thank you

The Kodály ACT Conference Committee wish to acknowledge the following individuals and groups for their contribution to this evenings Choral Concert:

- \* All performing choirs, conductors and accompanists
- \* Dr Ken Lampl for taking on the role of MC
- \* Canberra Girls Grammar School for the use of facilities
- \* Conference Administrator Glenys Gijsbers
- \* Emma McMaster for her technical support















