



sydney
chamber
choir



2023
SEASON



Welcome!

Welcome to Sydney Chamber Choir's 2023 season. We are excited to offer you a year in sound that traverses the majestic and the intimate, the uplifting and the challenging, the energetic and the reflective.

We open with **Splendour & Mystery** which combines the works of Gabrieli and Schütz, written for the enormous acoustics of European cathedrals, with works by Clare Maclean and Brooke Shelley that reflect on this choral heritage. This program is also a rare chance to hear the Mass for Double Choir by Swiss composer Frank Martin. I have been entranced by the mystery and the yearning in this piece since I first heard it as a student and am looking forward to delving into its magic with the choir.

As the days grow shorter and colder in June, we return to The Neilson at Pier 2/3 at Walsh Bay to present an intimate experience – just twenty-four singers will treat you to an evening wrapped up in music for the night. I'm delighted to be joined by singer and arranger Naomi Crellin to co-direct this performance, **Winter Nights**, which has music by Debussy, Poulenc, Ravel and Whitacre as well as songs from the greats: Jacques Brel and Edith Piaf.

Commissioning and performing new music is Sydney Chamber Choir's bread and butter. In 2021 we premiered Joe Twist's *An Australian Song Cycle*, which charts a journey through our landscape with the help of some of our nation's greatest poets. Joe's piece received such a strong reception that it only seems right that we hear it again. Our third concert, **The Human Spirit**, pairs this cycle with music of profound beauty from the Baltic tradition and, continuing the spirit of new music, a premiere of a commissioned work by Elizabeth Younan.

Music offers us a way to give voice to our innermost thoughts and feelings. We enjoy sharing this experience with you and invite you to join us for a year of beauty in sound.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sam Allchurch
Artistic Director

Splendour & Mystery

Saturday, 25 March | 7.30pm

Verbruggen Hall
Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Australian Digital Concert Hall

The brilliance of brass and the warmth of the human voice, in a concert of resonances and reflections. From Renaissance masters Gabrieli and Schütz, the original 'surround sound', with multiple choirs calling to each other in glorious harmony. From British mystic John Tavener, a tantalising journey into eternity, with voices overlapping like waves on sand.

Australian composers Clare Maclean and Brooke Shelley draw on melodies of the past to create new worlds of transcendent beauty. And at the heart of this program, the exquisite Mass for Double Choir of the 20th-century Swiss composer Frank Martin: intensely private music created for the ears of God alone.

Artists

Sydney Chamber Choir

Sam Allchurch
Conductor

Camerata Antica
led by Matthew Manchester

Program

Giovanni Gabrieli
Jubilate Deo
Magnificat

Clare Maclean
Christ the King

Frank Martin
Mass for Double Choir

Heinrich Schütz
German Magnificat

Brooke Shelley
Heavenly Father

John Tavener
A Hymn to the Mother of God



Winter Nights

Saturday, 24 June | 5.00pm & 7.30pm

The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/3
Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

Australian Digital Concert Hall

The seductive beauty of French song: join us for an intimate evening featuring timeless ballads by cabaret legends Edith Piaf and Jacques Brel, irresistible flights of fantasy from Debussy and Ravel, while Poulenc reveals the dark secrets concealed by stillness in his winter cycle *A Snowy Evening*. Australian composer Heather Percy explores the mysterious beauties of day's end in the world premiere performance of her *Three Night Songs*, and choral icon Eric Whitacre carries us gently into the mysterious world of dreams with the lush harmonies of *Sleep*.

Artists

Sydney Chamber Choir

Sam Allchurch
Conductor

Naomi Crellin
Conductor & Vocalist

Jazz trio

Program

Jacques Brel
Ne me quitte pas

Louiguy/Edith Piaf
La vie en rose

Michel Legrand
Les moulins de mon cœur
(Windmills of Your Mind)

Sting/Dominic Miller
arr. The Idea of North
La belle dame sans regrets

Claude Debussy
Trois Chansons de
Charles d'Orléans

Heather Percy
Three Night Songs

Francis Poulenc
Un soir de neige

Maurice Ravel
Trois Chansons

Eric Whitacre
Sleep



Join Our Support Community

Commissioning new works, engaging great soloists and instrumentalists, performing masterpieces and presenting innovative concert experiences

... Help us make it happen!



Your philanthropic support is the foundation which enables us to pursue excellence now and into the future. Contributions of \$2 or more are tax deductible and make a huge difference to our ability to perform and record exciting and engaging repertoire, particularly newly commissioned music that reflects our time and place.

How to donate

Visit sydneychamberchoir.org/donate
Email alison@sydneychamberchoir.org
Phone 1300 661 738

The Human Spirit

Saturday, 23 September | 7.30pm

Verbruggen Hall
Sydney Conservatorium of Music
Australian Digital Concert Hall

Hope, joy, serenity, delight, curiosity, courage and tenderness: this concert celebrates the power of the human spirit – and the human voice! – to come together in community. Discover new worlds of musical wonder with Arvo Pärt's ecstatic *Nunc dimittis*, Antony Pitts' exhilarating Credo from his *Mass of Unity*, a spine-tinglingly radiant Gloria by Latvian composer Uģis Prauliņš and an exciting new work commissioned from Australian rising star Elizabeth Younan. And experience the full emotional power of choral music with Joe Twist's *An Australian Song Cycle*: an unforgettable journey through the landscape of this unique continent.

Artists

Sydney Chamber Choir

Sam Allchurch
Conductor

Jem Harding
Piano

Program

Arvo Pärt
Nunc Dimittis

Antony Pitts
Credo from *Missa Unitatis*

Uģis Prauliņš
Gloria from *Missa Rigensis*

Joe Twist
An Australian Song Cycle

Elizabeth Younan
New work (World premiere)



Sam Allchurch

Artistic Director

Sam Allchurch has been Artistic Director of Sydney Chamber Choir since 2019. Since then, he has established a strong relationship with the choir and its audiences, directing the choir in a wide range of concerts and collaborations.

Sam's programs champion the music of Australian composers such as Brenda Gifford, Clare Maclean, Paul Stanhope and Joe Twist. In 2022, he conducted the premiere of new works by Ella Macens and Brooke Shelley and made studio recordings of Stanhope's *Requiem* and

Heather Percy's *Three Night Songs*. Other recent highlights with the choir include Handel's *Messiah* in 2020, *Cycles* for the 2021 Sydney Festival and the premiere of Twist's *An Australian Song Cycle* in 2021.

Sam is also Director of Music at Christ Church St Laurence, where he conducts the choir which dates back to 1845. This choir sings music of the Anglican choral tradition within the services offered each week at this historic church. Sam is also Associate Artistic Director at Gondwana Choirs, where he has prepared choirs for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Opera Australia and played a key role in presenting the Gondwana World Choral Festival.

Sam holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Melbourne, where he was a choral scholar at Trinity College. Sam was awarded a Gates Scholarship to complete a Master in Music (Choral Studies) at the University of Cambridge where he studied with Stephen Layton.

Our Story

We are passionate about choral music and its unique ability to celebrate and reflect upon the stories of our past, present and future.

We love to travel deep inside the music to meet the composers and bring their vision alive in sound. We reach back to explore the masterpieces of the Baroque and the Renaissance, while also championing the music of our own time and place, regularly commissioning works by established and emerging Australian composers.

Formed in 1975, we have been honoured to work with guest conductors such as Carl Crossin, Roland Peelman, Elizabeth Scott and Brett Weymark, as well as our three previous directors, Nicholas Routley, Paul Stanhope and the late Richard Gill AO.

We collaborate with leading Australian instrumentalists, ensembles and singers, including the Australian Haydn Ensemble, the Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra, Andrew Goodwin, David Greco, Slava Grigoryan, Orchestra of the Antipodes, Synergy Percussion, Joseph Tawadros and The Muffat Collective. We also enjoy more unconventional partnerships, including concerts with the Hilltop Hoods, The Idea of North and the Sydney Mardi Gras Community Choir.

The choir appeared at the Sydney Festival in 2021 and the Canberra International Music Festival in 2022, and we tour regularly in regional NSW, most recently to Goulburn for the Hume Chamber Music Festival. We have sung in Hong Kong, Taiwan and the UK, and in 2009 the choir was a prizewinner in the Tolosa International Choral Competition in Spain.

Our performances have been broadcast across the country on ABC Classic and on 2MBS Fine Music Sydney, and our CD recordings are available on the ABC Classic and Tall Poppies labels.



Tickets

	Premium		A Reserve		B Reserve		Student	Under 30
	Full	Conc.	Full	Conc.	Full	Conc.		
Concert 1 Splendour & Mystery	75	65	60	55	50	45	30	30
Concert 2 Winter Nights	75	65	60	55	50	45	30	30
Concert 3 The Human Spirit	75	65	60	55	50	45	30	30

Booking fees apply.

Concession prices apply to holders of Commonwealth Health Care Cards, Pensioner Concession Cards and Seniors Health Cards as well as NSW Government Seniors Cards.

The Student price applies to full-time students.

Australian Digital Concert Hall

All tickets – \$24

Box Office

Phone 1300 661 738
Sydney Chamber Choir Inc,
PO Box 1151, Newtown NSW 2042

All details in this brochure are correct at the time of printing. Sydney Chamber Choir reserves the right to add, substitute, vary or withdraw artists, repertoire and other details of the performances.

Our People

Sam Allchurch
Artistic Director

Jem Harding
Rehearsal pianist

Christopher Matthies
President

**Alison Keene, Megan Cronin,
Chris Othen, Amanda Durham
and Rose Trevelyan**
Committee members

Alison Lockhart
Philanthropy Manager

Stephen Bydder
Administrator

Josh Murray
Design
joshmurray.com.au

Pedro Greig
Photographer



Contact Us

Email
info@sydneychamberchoir.org

Phone
1300 661 738

Facebook
facebook.com/sydneychamberchoir

Instagram
@sydneychamberchoir

Post
PO Box 1151, Newtown NSW 2042

Join our mailing list

To subscribe to our newsletter visit sydneychamberchoir.org and select 'Subscribe' in the footer section.



sydney
chamber
choir

**For more information,
performances and recordings
please visit our website @**

sydneychamberchoir.org