



sydney
chamber
choir

2024 Season

Welcome!

Welcome to Sydney Chamber Choir's season for 2024. We are looking forward to sharing some beautiful music with you, from glories of the Baroque to music written only a few moments ago.

We begin the year with a cornerstone of the repertoire, Mozart's sublime Requiem. In 2020, we enjoyed the experience of discovering the intricacy and detail of Handel's *Messiah* with chamber forces – we hope to do the same with Mozart's last work this year. This concert will also include Bach's effervescent motet *Singet dem Herren ein neues Lied* and Iain Grandage's musical reflection *Why Do We Exist?*.

In June, I am delighted to welcome back Naomi Crellin to co-direct *Fireside*, an intimate program which will warm your heart and make you smile on a cold winter's evening. This program features a mixture of classical and jazz works in the relaxed setting of the ACO's The Neilson at Pier 2/3, this year with a Scandinavian twist.

In September, I have unashamedly created a program of some of my favourite music – works by English composers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The richness of this music springs from the heart of the English choral tradition and is perfectly suited to our forces. We will add to this tradition with the premiere of a new work we have commissioned from Harry Sdraulig – the first time this exciting young composer has written for a choir.

We finish the season by handing over the reins to you, our dedicated audience. Over the year, we will ask you what music you'd like to hear us sing, and then in November, we'll sing it for you. This People's Choice concert is a chance for choir and audience to get to know each other a little better and highlight the exchange that makes music worthwhile.

I look forward to seeing you at our concerts (and to finding out what you'd like to hear at the end of the year!).

Sam Allchurch
Artistic Director



Mozart's Requiem is music of pure gold – shining genius, radiant beauty, profound humanity. The composer's final act of creation, written in the face of death itself, the Requiem transcends fear and despair to affirm the power of life and hope. It's one of the greatest works ever written for choir and orchestra, bursting with passion, drama and immense tenderness: a transformative experience both to sing and to hear.

Alongside the Requiem is the simple yet sublime *Ave verum corpus*. And keeping company with Mozart in this concert are Bach and contemporary Australian composer Iain Grandage with two contrasting visions of our place in the universe: the irresistible joy of Bach's *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied*, and Grandage's gentle humanist prayer to nature and innocence, *Why Do We Exist?*.

Artists

Sydney Chamber Choir

Sam Allchurch
Conductor

The Muffat Collective

Celeste Lazarenko
Soprano

Helen Sherman
Mezzo-soprano

Richard Butler
Tenor

David Greco
Bass

Program

Bach
*Singet dem Herrn
ein neues Lied*

Iain Grandage
Why Do We Exist?

Mozart
Ave verum corpus

Mozart
Requiem

Mozart Requiem

Sunday, 28 April | 5.00pm

City Recital Hall
Angel Place, Sydney

Australian Digital Concert Hall



Join us in the intimate surrounds of the ACO's The Neilson at Pier 2/3 for an evening of lush choral delights to keep out the winter's chill!

Pull up a chair, grab yourself a glass, and sit back and enjoy the ravishing harmonies of unaccompanied choir: the deep contentment of René Clausen's *Tonight Eternity Alone*; the sensuous textures of Jan Sandström's double-choir setting of *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming*; and a glorious a cappella arrangement of Ruth Moody's beloved anthem *One Voice*.

Sydney Chamber Choir is also delighted to welcome back Naomi Crellin, co-directing with Sam Allchurch and leading a jazz trio, as we round out the program with a selection of jazz and popular favourites, from *La vie en rose* and *Norwegian Wood* to *The Windmills of Your Mind*, plus Naomi's arrangement of *It's Oh So Quiet*, covered so brilliantly by Icelandic pop iconoclast Björk.

Program

Waldemar Åhlén
Sommarpsalm
(Summer Hymn)

René Clausen
Tonight Eternity Alone

Hans Lang,
arr. Björk and Crellin
It's Oh So Quiet

Michel Legrand, arr. Crellin
The Windmills of Your Mind

John Lennon/Paul McCartney,
arr. Crellin
Norwegian Wood

Louiguy/Edith Piaf, arr. Crellin
La vie en rose

Mia Makaroff
Butterfly

Mia Makaroff
Mitä kaikatat, kivonen?
(Why are you complaining, grindstone?)

Ruth Moody, arr. Crossin
One Voice

Jan Sandström
Det är en ros utsprung
(Lo, how a rose
e'er blooming)

Artists

**Sydney
Chamber Choir**

Sam Allchurch
Conductor

Naomi Crellin
Conductor

Jazz trio

Fireside

Saturday, 29 June
5.00pm & 8.00pm

The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/5
Hickson Road, Walsh Bay



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

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.



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Heirs & Rebels

Sunday, 29 September | 3.00pm

Christ Church St Laurence

Australian Digital Concert Hall

Celebrate the beauty of the English choral tradition with this array of Romantic masterpieces. Drawing inspiration from the simplicity of the Renaissance while revelling in a rich new harmonic landscape, this is music that opens up whole worlds of emotion.

Treat yourself to the soaring grace of Stanford's *The Blue Bird* and Elgar's majestic *Lux aeterna*; taste the exquisite tenderness of Imogen Holst's *A Hymne to Christ*, the gentle ecstasy of Gustav Holst's *Nunc dimittis* and the wild rapture of Finzi's love song *My Spirit Sang All Day*; feel the yearning of Vaughan Williams' *Agnus Dei*, the warmth of Judith Weir's *Love Bade Me Welcome* and the poignant embrace of Parry's *Songs of Farewell*. Join with us in discovering a new work by Australian composer Harry Sdraulig. And let Tavener's transcendent *Song for Athene* fill you with joy.

Program

Edward Elgar
Lux aeterna

Gerald Finzi
My Spirit Sang All Day

Imogen Holst
A Hymne to Christ

Gustav Holst
Nunc dimittis

Hubert Parry
From *Songs of Farewell*:
My soul, there is a country
Never weather-beaten sail
At the round earth's imagined corners

Harry Sdraulig
New work (World premiere)

Charles Stanford
The Blue Bird

Thomas Tallis
Why Fum'th in Fight

John Tavener
The Lamb
Song for Athene

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Agnus Dei from *Mass in G Minor*

Judith Weir
Love Bade Me Welcome
a blue true dream of sky

Artists

Sydney Chamber Choir

Sam Allchurch
Conductor

People's Choice

It's your turn to
choose the music!

Saturday, 25 November
7.30pm

Verbruggen Hall
Sydney Conservatorium of Music



Over the course of 2024, we'll be asking you for your favourites, and then putting them all together into one glorious evening of choral delights. There'll be something for everyone – the sublime polyphony of the Renaissance, the glory of Bach, the warmth of the Romantics, and the Australian composers who have made a home in our hearts. And whether it's music from centuries past or music hot off the press, music on a grand scale or music for intimate occasions, music throbbing with passion or sparkling with humour, we can't wait to sing it for you!

Program

Music to be chosen,
by popular demand!

Artists

Sydney Chamber Choir

Sam Allchurch
Conductor

Sam Allchurch

Artistic Director

Sam Allchurch has been Artistic Director of the 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.

His repertoire spans the works of Bach and Handel to the music of contemporary Australian composers such as Paul Stanhope, Joseph Twist, Brenda Gifford and Brooke Shelley. Recent highlights with the Sydney Chamber Choir include the premiere of *Espoir* by Elizabeth Younan, *Winter Nights*, a collaborative program with jazz singer and director Naomi Crellin, and a studio recording of Twist's *An Australian Song Cycle*.

Sam Allchurch is also Director of Music of Christ Church St Laurence, where he conducts the choir which dates back to 1845. In addition to weekly choral services, he has conducted the choir in performances of Bach's *St John Passion* with The Muffat Collective and recently completed residencies at Westminster Abbey and the Thomaskirche, Leipzig.

Sam is 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. He was awarded a Gates Scholarship to complete a Master in Music (Choral Studies) at the University of Cambridge where he studied with Stephen Layton. In 2023, he participated in a week-long masterclass with the Berlin Radio Choir led by Simon Halsey, supported by the Sydney Symposium Choral Foundation Scholarship.

Our Choir

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. In both 2022 and 2023, the APRA-AMCOS Award for Choral Work of the Year went to works written for and premiered by us: Paul Stanhope's *Requiem*, and Heather Percy's *Three Night Songs*.

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 ensembles and instrumentalists, including the Australian Haydn Ensemble, the Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra, 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.

We appeared at the 2023 Adelaide Chamber Music Festival, the 2022 Canberra International Music Festival and the 2021 Sydney Festival, 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 recordings are available on the ABC Classic and Tall Poppies labels, and via download and streaming services.





“Magnificent singing
from a top-notch choir.”

Limelight

Tickets

	Premium		A Reserve		B Reserve			
	Full	Conc.	Full	Conc.	Full	Conc.	Student	Under 30
Mozart Requiem	95	85	70	60	50	45	30	30
Fireside	85	75	65	55	50	45	30	30
Heirs and Rebels	75	65	60	55	50	45	30	30
People's Choice	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 – \$30

Box Office

Book online at sydneychamberchoir.org

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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

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Artistic Director

Luke Byrne
Rehearsal Pianist

Christopher Matthies
President

**Amanda Durham, Megan Cronin,
Chris Othen, Matthew Flood and
Rose Trevelyan**
Committee Members

Alison Lockhart
Philanthropy Manager

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