

Chordiality

17 November 2024 at Christ Church, St Lucia

Soprano

Alison Goode
Bern Rutyna
Bev Sandaver
Cathy Staines
Fiona Laing
Frances Nicholls
Gabriella Veidt
Helen Creese
Janet McKeon
Karen Laing
Liz Bateman
Lyn Cox
Lynn Haug
Megan Sandaver
Nancie Holley
Robin Lake
Ros Beeston

Alto

Anne Hoskings
Claire Cooper
Elaine Pitt
Freddie Lester
Irene Raymond
Janelle Gatz
Jenny Krassnig
Jill Laing
Jo Scott
Judy Somes
Kate Power
Linda Cartmill
Lynn Kelly
Margaret Tiller
Mary Busteed
Mary Lou Yeo
Meredith Smith
Robyn Carl
Ruth Aaskov
Ruth Hamlyn-Harris
Sue Goode

Tenor

Alison Jones
Bernard Bok
Jill Buckle
Jim Walls
John Kelly
Mark Bell
Max Wheat
Philip Smith
Stuart Gough

Bass

Barry Stark
Denis Cook
Jack Wade
John Beeston
Mark McKeon
Morris Lake
Neville Patterson
Richard Yeo
Ross Pitt

We hope you have been entertained by today's concert which was inspired, in part, by the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RSPCA in the UK.

We invite you to be part of our audience again on 15 June 2025, when we will have great pleasure in presenting Dvorak's *Mass in D*, Kodaly's *Laudes Organi* and the opening chorus of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*.

Contact us: Chordialitychoir@gmail.com

Visit our website: www.chordiality.org



Chordiality

Presents

*Bright
and
Beautiful*

~celebrating the natural world~



WELCOME

Chordiality is a community choir of about 60 members that started in February 2008. We are based in Indooroopilly and our membership is Brisbane-wide. Chordiality's goals are to pursue choral excellence and have fun singing together.

Every culture has poems and songs that reflect the glory of the natural world and regardless of race and creed we are reminded that there is more that unites than divides us. Many of the works in today's programme paint word and sound pictures celebrating beauty in all its forms, from Psalm 19, *The Heaven's are Telling* to Shakespeare's *Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day*, the African flavour of *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* and the Australian *Three Bush Songs*. Come with us this afternoon as we travel across the world and visit diverse cultures to find a unity of feeling for all things bright and beautiful.



Our music director, **Brett Sturdy**, is a pianist, conductor, organist, occasional composer, and arranger, currently serving as Organist and Director of Music at St Mary's, Kangaroo Point and Company Pianist at the Queensland Ballet.

Our accompanist, **Simon Carl**, is a consummate pianist who has been the principal accompanist for Chordiality since its inception. At the piano, Simon is a frequent accompanist, repetiteur, collaborator and soloist. He is highly regarded for his musicality and versatility.

Our guest artist, **Gwyn Roberts**, is an accomplished cellist and was the recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 1974 whilst Musical Director of the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra. He subsequently became the Musical Director of the Queensland University Symphony Orchestra. More recently Gwyn has been the principal cellist of the Canberra Symphony, and guest Associate Principal cello with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

We acknowledge the Turrbal and Yuggera Peoples, the traditional custodians of the lands we are gathering on today. We acknowledge and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, and to any members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community who may be attending today.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Seal Lullaby – Eric Whitacre

Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor, Eric Whitacre, is among today's most popular musicians. A graduate of The Juilliard School (New York), his works are programmed worldwide, and his ground-breaking Virtual Choirs have united well over 100,000 singers from more than 145 countries.

The Seal Lullaby is a beautiful poem written by Rudyard Kipling with a mother seal singing softly to her young pup. It was set to music by Eric Whitacre when he was approached by Disney to compose a piece for a classic animated film based on Kipling's poem. The film never came to fruition but the song survived.

<https://ericwhitacre.com>

Sheep May Safely Graze – Johann Sebastian Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685—1750) was a composer of the Baroque era. Although he was admired by his contemporaries primarily as an outstanding harpsichordist, organist, and expert on organ building, Bach is now generally regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time. Encyclopaedia Britannica

Sheep May Safely Graze was originally a soprano aria from Bach's secular cantata *Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntre Jagd!* The words say that sheep may safely graze where a caring shepherd guards them but actually refers to his patron the Duke of Saxony. Where a regent reigns well, we may have security and peace and things that let a country prosper.

www.classical-music.com

All Things Bright And Beautiful – John Rutter

John Rutter is an English composer and conductor, associated mainly with choral music. Many of his shorter pieces have become 'standards'. He established the Collegium record label in 1983 as a vehicle for recordings with his professional chamber choir the Cambridge Singers, and they have made over fifty recordings. He has enjoyed a long association with Clare College, Cambridge.

<https://johnrutter.com>

Cecil Frances Alexander (born in Dublin in 1818) wrote many Christian poems but today is chiefly remembered for three enduring hymn texts *There is a Green Hill Far Away*, *Once in Royal David's City* and *All things Bright and Beautiful*. This poem, inspired by Genesis 1:31 and Ecclesiastes 3:11, is childlike without being childish, filled with the wonder of creation expressed in plain but poetic language. By John Rutter © Oxford University Press 2015. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Sure On This Shining Night – Samuel Barber

Samuel Barber was an American composer, pianist, conductor, baritone, and music educator. He is considered one of the most expressive representatives of the lyric and Romantic trends in 20th-century classical music. [Samuel Barber - Wikipedia](#)

This is an art song from Barber's 1938 song cycle *Four Songs*. The work's text is taken from James Agee's poem *Descriptions of Elysium* which was published in his 1934 poetry collection *Permit Me Voyage* by the Yale Series of Younger Poets. It displays Barber's Neo-Romantic lyricism with its classically oriented formal structure and interplay between voice and piano. [Sure on this shining night - Wikipedia](#)

The Lion Sleeps Tonight – George David Weiss, Hugo Peretti, Luigi Createore

The original song title was *Mbube* (the Zulu word for "lion") and was written and first recorded in 1939 by Solomon Linda, a South African Zulu singer. In 1961, two RCA Records producers, Hugo Peretti and Luigi Createore, hired Weiss to arrange a Doo-wop and Rhythm and Blues cover of *Wimoweh*. Weiss wrote the English lines "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, The lion sleeps tonight..." and "Hush, my darling, don't fear, my darling..." [The Lion Sleeps Tonight - Wikipedia](#)

The Turtle Dove - arr Victor C Johnson

A solemn reflection on parting with the promise to return - these feelings are beautifully expressed in this sensitive arrangement of the 18th-century English folk ballad. Lush choral writing surrounds this gorgeous melody, and the cello obbligato and flowing piano accompaniment add to the plaintive feel. [www.jwpepper.com](#)

The Song of the Black Swan – Heitor Villa-Lobos

This piece is extracted from Villa-Lobos' symphonic poem *Naufragio de Kleônicos*. The piano arpeggiates an endless series of chords - some sweet, some spicy, always favouring the upper registers - while the cello sings plaintively, also without interruption. The resulting texture is reminiscent of Ravel and Debussy, especially in harmonic vocabulary, but is clearly the work of Villa-Lobos, especially in its fusion of lyricism and sensuality. [Allen Schrott www.allmusic.com](#)

The Swan – Camille Saint-Saëns

The Carnival of the Animals, composed in 1886, was originally written as a joke and Saint-Saëns worried that it might damage his reputation. He banned complete performances and only allowed one movement, The Swan, to be published while he was alive. The piece became famous as *The Dying Swan* after 1905 when it was choreographed for legendary ballerina Anna Pavlova. [www.classicfm.com](#)

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| ♦ The Heavens Are Telling | Joseph Haydn |
| ♦ Three Australian Bush Songs: | Iain Grandage |
| 1. Dawn | |
| 2. Birds | |
| 3. Sunset | |
| ♦ The Pasture | Z Randall Stroope |
| ♦ Les Fleurs et les Arbres | Camille Saint-Saëns |
| ♦ Morning | Steven Winteregg |
| ♦ Shall I Compare Thee To A Summer's Day | Z Randall Stroope |
| ♦ And In The Evening | Audrey Snyder |
| ♦ Sure On This Shining Night | Samuel Barber |

INTERMISSION

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ♦ The Lion Sleeps Tonight | Weiss, Peretti, Createore |
| ♦ The Turtle Dove | Victor C Johnson |
| <i>Cello: Gwyn Roberts</i> | |
| ♦ The Song of the Black Swan | Heitor Villa-Lobos |
| <i>Cello: Gwyn Roberts</i> | |
| ♦ The Swan | Camille Saint-Saëns |
| <i>Cello: Gwyn Roberts</i> | |
| ♦ The Seal Lullaby | Eric Whitacre |
| ♦ Sheep May Safely Graze | Johann Sebastian Bach |
| ♦ All Things Bright And Beautiful | John Rutter |

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Heavens are Telling – Joseph Haydn

Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809) was an Austrian composer of the classical period. He began his career as a private composer for a wealthy family, and eventually was able to compose and publish outside of this establishment. He enjoyed considerable success during his lifetime, and is today revered as one of the greats in classical music history.

The Heavens are Telling comes from his oratorio *The Creation* (Hob. XXI:2), written in 1797 and 1798. The libretto was written by Gottfried van Swieten who sourced the text from Genesis, the Biblical book of Psalms, and John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. *The Heavens Are Telling* is from Psalm 19:1.

The Creation (Haydn) - Wikipedia

Three Australian Bush Songs – Iain Grandage

Iain Grandage is a composer, conductor and Festival Director of the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival. He has received the prestigious Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award, the Ian Potter Emerging Composer Fellowship, and been Composer-in-Residence with the WA Symphony Orchestra, and Musician-in-Residence at the UWA School of Music, where he is currently an Honorary Research Fellow, and by whom he was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate.

At just over eight minutes long this trio of songs (Dawn, Birds, and Sunset) is heavily influenced by, and evocative of, the Australian landscape. Complete with bird calls, extra musical noises and snake hisses, Iain Grandage has sought to "keep the spartan, dry nature of the bush intact in the texture of the work."

www.musicbookshelf.com

The Pasture – Z Randall Stroope

Zane Randall Stroope is an American composer and conductor. In addition to composing music and guest conducting, Stroope has held Professor of Music positions at Oklahoma State University, Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey and at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. As a conductor, he regularly appears nationally and internationally.

Z. Randall Stroope - Wikipedia

The Pasture was written by American poet, Robert Frost. It is one of three pieces in *Where the Earth Meets the Sky* a translation of the Mohawk word *Karoniakatatie*, that highlights the contribution of three American poets from different cultures and their mutual respect for the splendour of nature and earth's gifts.

Colla Voce Music Inc.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Les Fleurs et Les Arbres – Camille Saint-Saëns

Camille Saint-Saëns was a composer chiefly remembered for his symphonic poems and notable for his pioneering efforts on behalf of French music. He was a gifted pianist and organist as well as a writer of criticism, poetry, essays, and plays.

Camille Saint-Saëns | French Composer & Pianist | Britannica

The flowers and the trees,
Bronzes and marbles,
Objects in enamel and gold,
The sea, the springs,
Plains and mountains
All these console our griefs untold.

Eternal nature,
So sweet, so bright
Amidst the sorrow of the years,
Art rules and guides us
Its flame casting light
Upon our laughter and tears.

Morning – Steven Winteregg

Steven Winteregg holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Wright State University, and The Ohio State University. He studied composition with William Steinohrt, Gregory Proctor, and Thomas Wells. The text for *Morning* (1998) was written by Paul Laurence Dunbar. This composition was a finalist in the Chautauqua Chamber Singers Choral Composition Competition.

www.stevenwinteregg.com

Shall I Compare Thee To a Summer's Day - Z Randall Stroope

This piece is the fourth movement of a solo vocal set titled *Love's Waning Seasons*. The text is from William Shakespeare's Sonnet XVIII, one of 25 sonnets written between 1591 and 1594. Few verses express so profoundly and eloquently the intense love between two people.

www.alliancemusic.com

And In The Evening – Audrey Snyder

Audrey Snyder is a professional composer and arranger. In addition to her original compositions, she has published choral arrangements of hundreds of pop songs, show tunes, movie songs, and holiday songs.

The text for this song was adapted by Snyder from the poetry of William Blake, a 19th century artist, poet and visionary mystic. His poetry, paintings and engravings reflect his visionary spirit and celebrate the power of the imagination. Using some of Blake's phrases, this piece musically invokes the mystical nature of dreams and the vastness of the star-filled night sky.

www.audreysnyder.com