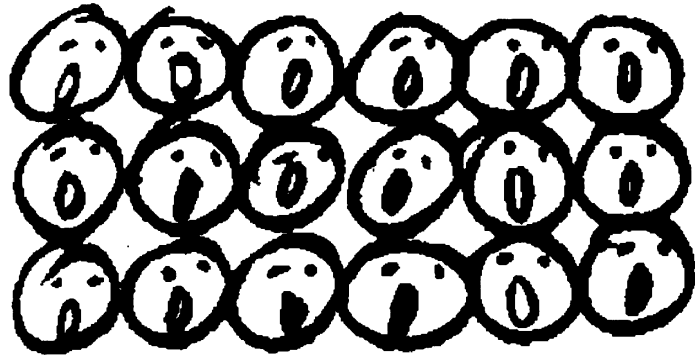


SYDNEY



**CHILDREN'S
CHOIR**

INFORMATION

2009

ABOUT US

The Sydney Children's Choir is operated by Gondwana Choirs. We are a not for profit organisation based at Pier 4 Hickson Road, Millers Point and founded by Artistic Director, Lyn Williams OAM, in 1989.

Our Mission

The mission of the Sydney Children's Choir is to develop a unique Australian choral voice whilst providing training and opportunity for talented young Australians to perform with innovation and excellence alongside artists of the highest calibre in Australia and throughout the world.

Excellence, accessibility, pride, professionalism and caring are the core values of the Sydney Children's Choir.

Excellence

To ensure that young people have the opportunities to fulfill their musical potential by offering them the highest level of training and a chance to collaborate with their talented peers from across Australia and the world.

Accessibility

Where possible, to ensure that any child with suitable potential has the opportunity to participate in our programs without financial, social, physical or distance barriers.

Pride

To continue to develop our unique Australian repertoire of works as diverse as the Australian population and to encourage choristers to participate in composition and the creation of new works.

Professionalism

To offer young people the skills and opportunities to succeed in a professional environment with the very finest artists in Australia across a broad range of art forms.

Caring

To provide a happy and a safe environment in which young people can develop independence, are proud to learn, perform, socialise and flourish.



SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Sydney Children's Choir offers its choristers the rare privilege of being able to perform at the very highest level of the music profession with many of Australia's finest musicians, orchestras and conductors.

Strong musical foundations are essential in order to be prepared for such performances. The Sydney Children's Choir places a strong emphasis on a comprehensive musical education for all its choristers. Strong choral skills are at the heart of our training however the acquisition of sight-singing and aural skills and the study of the theory of music (Music Craft) and instrumental music are encouraged and fostered in all choristers from a young age, so that Senior Choristers leave the Choir as well rounded and highly competent young musicians. The other essential and most important ingredient is, of course, enjoying music-making and having fun!

Based in Millers Point in Sydney, the Choir draws its members by audition from throughout the Sydney metropolitan area. It rehearses regularly, performs and records throughout the year. The Sydney Children's Choir comprises around 320 children singing in thirteen choir groups at various levels, all of which rehearse weekly.

Under the direction of Lyn Williams, Sydney Children's Choir has built a worldwide reputation as one of the world's most innovative treble voiced choirs. The Sydney Children's Choir has commissioned over 60 works from leading Australian composers and performs a significant number of Australian compositions each year. In this way, the Choir seeks to introduce worldwide audiences to a distinctive Australian choral sound and to increase audience appreciation of children's choirs as a compelling medium for making music.

The Choir travels frequently throughout the world performing its Australian choral repertoire to great acclaim from international audiences. In April of 2005 it was the featured artist for Australian National Day at the World Expo in Aichi Japan and has toured extensively throughout Australia and to Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, France and the United Kingdom.

In 2008 the Sydney Children's Choir presented joint performances with the Young Voices of Melbourne and the St Louis Children's Choir and performed with the Sydney Chamber Choir conducted by Richard Gill. In July, the Choir gave world premiere of a new work by Dan Walker at the World Shakuhachi Festival, performed at the arrival of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as part of World Youth Day and gave a performance of Mahler's Symphony No.3 with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta. In September the Choir travelled to Thursday Island for workshops and performances as part of their two year collaboration with Torres Strait Island communities. In 2007 the Sydney Children's Choir collaborated with the Nagoya Children's Chorus, presented the world premiere of *Heritage in Song*, a contemporary theatrical performance piece based around the stories and events in the lives of the current members of the Choir, their families and forebears to critical acclaim at the City Recital Hall. The Choir also toured to Finland, Estonia and Denmark and performed for the APEC Leaders Week Cultural Performance at the Sydney Opera House.

Each December the Choir gives two performances with Gondwana Voices of *Voices of Angels* at the City Recital Hall Angel Place. A CD of Christmas music from the 2008 *Voices of Angels* concerts with Gondwana Voices which was released on the ABC Classics label in November 2008.

Other recent performances by the Sydney Children's Choir include the Closing Ceremony of the 2003 Rugby World Cup, *Symphony of Angels* with the Sydney Symphony, *Carmina Burana* with the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, a concert in honour of his Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Sydney Opera House, the *Dawn Ceremony* performance on the sails of the Opera House as part of an international telecast, Mahler's *Eighth Symphony* at the Sydney SuperDome to open the Sydney Olympic Arts Festival and the Opening Ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games.

GONDWANA NATIONAL CHORAL PROGRAM

National Choral School

Each January, approximately 250 young choristers from across Australia meet for a two week intensive training, workshop and rehearsal period culminating in a final concert often recorded for broadcast. During this season choristers are involved in choral rehearsals, sectional rehearsals, composition workshops, writing workshops, chamber orchestra sessions and other art form sessions.

National Choral School includes three choral groups:

- 1. Gondwana Chorale** is a soprano, alto, tenor, bass choir for approximately 50 choristers aged 14 – 21, including boys with changing or changed voices.
- 2. Gondwana Voices** is made up of approximately 80 choristers aged 10 to 16 from every state and territory in Australia and is internationally acclaimed as one of the world's finest children's choirs.
- 3. Gondwana Singers** is made up of approximately 60 choristers up to 15 years of age, showing exceptional musical potential and who are on the verge of gaining entry into Gondwana Voices and / or Gondwana Chorale.
- 4. Junior Gondwana** is a 10 day program for approximately 70 choristers aged 10 to 14 who love singing and show strong musical potential but have not previously had the opportunity to develop their musical ability to the degree required for Gondwana Voices. Many Junior Gondwana members have gone on to sing in Gondwana Voices in subsequent years.

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

Following very successful pilot seasons in July & December 2008, Gondwana Choirs has recently established a national children's choir for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

It is our goal that the Choir is a choir of excellence performing independently, and with Gondwana Voices & Sydney Children's Choir, at major national and international events. We aim to develop a significant repertoire based on indigenous song and language and involve the children in creating new works with local artists and composers, as well as develop a choral education curriculum with an emphasis on indigenous song and language using the expertise of local musicians and artists

Gondwana Voices Performance Seasons

In addition to coming together for National Choral School, shorter rehearsal and training periods are held before individual Gondwana Voices choir performance seasons (e.g. performances with orchestras, recordings, international tours etc).

Gondwana Voices performs both as a separate entity and occasionally collaborates with the Sydney Children's Choir's Senior Choir.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – LYN WILLIAMS OAM

Lyn Williams is Australia's leading director of children's choirs, having founded two internationally renowned choirs: Sydney Children's Choir in 1989, the national children's choirs Gondwana Voices in 1997, Junior Gondwana in 2002, Gondwana Chorale in 2006, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir in 2008 and Gondwana Singers in 2009. Her exceptional skill in working with young people is recognised internationally for its high artistic quality and ground-breaking innovation.



In addition to her work with young people, Lyn Williams has become one of Australia's foremost Music Directors and Conductors for major events. She was Music Director of the Opening Ceremony of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and for the Rugby World Cup in 2003 with the Sydney Symphony as well as the NSW Centennial Ceremony in 2001 with the Australian Youth Orchestra.

Under Lyn's direction, major new symphonic scores were commissioned from leading Australian composers for each of these events.

Lyn has conducted many major professional choirs and orchestras in Australia, including the Sydney Symphony, the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. In 2001 she co-directed Leunig's *Parables, Lullabies and Secrets* with her national choir Gondwana Voices, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Neil Finn and Michael Leunig.

Lyn has also toured extensively with her choirs including visits to Europe, Asia and North America. In 2004 she performed with Gondwana Voices at America Cantat in Mexico City and at Polyfollia in Normandy, France. In April 2005 she travelled with the Sydney Children's Choir to the World Expo in Nagoya, Japan for the official Australia Day Expo Ceremony.

In January 2004 Lyn Williams was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in recognition of her services to the Arts as Founder & Director of Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana Voices. She recently received NSW State Award at the 2006 Classical Music Awards for her long term contribution to the advancement of Australian music. Lyn is a Churchill Fellow and also a composer.

OUR TEAM

The Sydney Children's Choir is operated by Gondwana Voices Limited. We have a highly qualified and dedicated team of artistic and administrative staff.

Artistic Director:	Lyn Williams OAM
Music Staff (SCC Choral Training Program):	Allison Harrigan, Elizabeth Choo, Dan Walker, Jason Noble, Amandine Petit, Elizabeth Vierboom, Sally Whitwell, Sally Collett
General Manager:	Alexandra Cameron
Artistic Administrator:	John Nolan
Sydney Children's Choir Manager:	Michael Stapleton
Philanthropy Manager:	Clare Ainsworth
Finance Manager:	Christine Mackay
Accounts Administrator:	Cassandra Bayley
Gondwana National Programs Manger:	Rachel Whealy
Indigenous Children's Choir Manager:	Susan Parker
Indigenous Children's Choir Operations:	Erica Willmott

SCC CHORAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The Sydney Children's Choir has thirteen separate choirs rehearsing weekly. Children are placed into the choir which we feel is most appropriate for their level of musical and personal maturity. It is our aim to make each child feel challenged but happy within their choral environment.

Educational Objectives

The Sydney Children's Choir's Choral Training Program aims to develop skills in the following areas

choral singing	artistic creativity
music theory	artistic expression and style
aural and sight-singing	professionalism on and off stage touring
musical appreciation	leadership
ensemble work	dedication and commitment
performance	self-discipline & maturity
movement	personal awareness
drama	
self-confidence	

The Sydney Children's Choir regularly holds workshops with leading Australian performers, composers and artists. These have included:

- David Page & Sani Townson (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander music/movement)
- Mara & Llew Kiek (Bulgarian choral singing)
- Matthew Doyle (Wunuwiri Music and didgeridu playing)
- Paul Jarman (world music)
- Tony Backhouse (Gospel and a capella music)
- Winsome Evans (Renaissance music)
- Luke Robinson (Percussion)
- Dan Walker & Paul Stanhope (Composition)
- Louise Bonser (visual art)
- Rouna Daley (drama)



Through direct contact with these musicians and composers, we hope to increase our choristers' understanding of what music is and how can be made, and to enthuse and inspire them through a wide variety of musical role models.

The Sydney Children's Choir's is dedicated to commissioning and performing works by contemporary Australian composers. In this way, SCC has greatly increased the previously limited canon of works available for children's choirs.

The Sydney Children's Choir performs songs from around the world, singing in languages as diverse as Finnish, Chinese, French, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Ancient Greek, Swedish, and of course English.

SATURDAY CHORAL SCHOOL

Saturday School is a busy day of rehearsals and classes held at The Wharf Rehearsal Room, Pier 4 Hickson Road Millers Point. Nine choir groups of the Sydney Children's Choir's rehearse, and there is also a full timetable of Music Craft classes and vocal coaching, as well as sight-singing classes for Senior Choristers.

Whilst choristers in the Saturday choirs can expect to take part in one major performance during the year, in general these choirs are training choirs. Learning to sing in a choir, without the pressure of an upcoming performance, is the first vital part of training with the Sydney Children's Choir.

Choristers in school Year 1 and Year 2 each have their own special choirs (Minisingers Yellow and Orange for Year 1 and Minisingers Blue, Green and Mauve for Year 2). The size of these groups is kept deliberately small to encourage individuality within the group and so as not to be intimidating. Singers are taught songs and musical games to develop skills in pitch, rhythm, concentration and co-ordination, as well as learning how to use their voices properly.

Choristers in Year 3 at school or above, take a simple, non-intimidating placement test to determine which of our choirs is appropriate for them. If successful, choristers are placed in one of four Saturday training choirs: the Paul Jarman Choir, the Dan Walker Choir, the Michael Atherton Choir or the Paul Stanhope Choir.

In addition, internal placement tests are held every year to assess each chorister's progress and to determine whether they are still in the choir most appropriate to their skills and needs.

WEEKDAY CHOIRS

Elena Kats-Chernin Choir & Stephen Leek Choir

Choristers in the Kats-Chernin and Leek Choirs are developing the advanced choral and performance skills required for the performance of choral music at a high level. A strong emphasis is placed on the development of part-singing and sight-singing skills, and on assisting choristers in learning to work independently within the group. Choristers are expected to take a professional attitude towards their choral singing; therefore good behaviour and attendance at all rehearsals are required. These Choirs increasingly represent the Sydney Children's Choir in public performances and in television broadcasts.



Senior Choir

The Senior Choir is the Sydney Children's Choir's main performing choir, and as such has a very strong reputation, both in Australia and overseas, for being a choir of exceptional standards, which performs interesting and demanding repertoire. Such a reputation is gained and maintained through the work and dedication of the choristers. As well as attending weekly rehearsals, choristers must attend a three-year sight-singing course held on Saturday afternoons. It is exceptionally rare for new auditioning choristers to be directly offered a place in the Senior Choir.



Sydney Children's Choir performing at the Australian Music Centre – APRA 2006 Classical Music Awards
Photography by David Otott

MUSIC CRAFT

Developing knowledge of music theory is a vital part of becoming a good musician. This knowledge, along with an ability to sing music at sight will greatly enhance the skill and depth of musical appreciation of young musicians. Music theory knowledge and sight-singing enable our choristers to participate in performances at a professional level.

The AMEB Music Craft course has aural skills, theory and sight singing components which combined, we believe, has more of an immediate practical application for our choristers than just music theory alone.

The Sydney Children's Choir offers AMEB Music Craft classes on Saturdays.

Grade 1 Music Craft or Grade 2 Theory are prerequisites for entry to the Senior Choir. A mark of 75% or greater is required for each of these courses. **Preliminary Music Craft is a prerequisite for entry to Stephen Leek Choir.** Similarly a mark of 75% or greater is required for Preliminary Music Craft. Choristers may study Music Craft, Theory and Musicianship outside of the Sydney Children's Choir and choristers are not required to do AMEB exams but may sit our in-house test instead.

We recommend that choristers begin their Music Craft training when they are in Year 4 at school.

JOINING THE SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Interested choristers in Years 1 and 2 are not required to take a placement test, but are instead placed in the Choir on a first come, first served basis.

Placement tests, for interested choristers in school Year 3 and above are held several times throughout the year depending on the availability of places in the Choir. A fee of \$15 is charged for sitting the test.

At the placement test interested choristers simply need to sing their favourite song to just one person listening. After the song they will be asked to sing a few simple patterns that they hear on the piano. High school children may be required to demonstrate their knowledge of music theory.

The placement test is all over in about five minutes and everyone leaves with a smile on their face!

If you are interested, please contact our office on 9251 4226 for the next placement test date.

MEMBERSHIP

Gondwana Choirs is a company limited by guarantee. One parent in each family is required to become a member of the company. The parent member is then entitled to vote at the AGM and also to stand for election to the Board. Membership costs \$40 per year (included in the term fees) and members' liability is limited to \$20. The memorandum and articles of the company are available for viewing at the office.

TERM DATES 2009

First Semester	First Term	3 Feb – 9 Apr
	Second Term	28 Apr – 9 July
Second Semester	Third Term	28 July – 1 Oct
	Fourth Term	20 Oct – 12 Dec



CHOIR TIMETABLE*

Senior Choir (with Lyn Williams)

Rehearsal Wednesday 4.30pm - 6.45pm

Sight Singing (with Jason Noble)

Sight-Singing Level 1 Saturday 12.30pm - 1.10pm
(obligatory for new Senior Choir choristers)

Sight-Singing Level 2 Saturday 1.10pm - 1.50pm
(obligatory for second year Senior Choir choristers)

Sight-Singing Level 3 Saturday 1.50pm – 2.30pm
(obligatory for third year Senior Choir choristers)

Stephen Leek Choir (with Allison Harrigan)

Rehearsal Thursday 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Elena Kats-Chernin Choir (with Dan Walker & Elizabeth Vierboom)

Rehearsal Tuesday 4.15pm – 6.30pm

Saturday Choral School

Minisingers Blue (Yr 2) 9am – 9.40am (with Dan Walker)

Minisingers Orange (Yr 1) 9.50am – 10.30am (with Amandine Petit)

Minisingers Green (Yr 2) 9.50am – 10.30am (with Dan Walker)

Minisingers Yellow (Yr 1) 10.40am – 11.20am (with Amandine Petit)

Minisingers Mauve (Yr 2) 10.40am – 11.20am (with Dan Walker)

Paul Jarman Choir 11.30am – 12.30pm (with Amandine Petit)

Dan Walker Choir 1.30pm – 2.30pm (with Sally Whitwell)

Michael Atherton Choir 2.30pm – 4.00pm (with Allison Harrigan & Sally Whitwell)

Paul Stanhope Choir 2.30pm – 4.00pm (with Allison Harrigan & Sally Whitwell)

Music Craft

Preliminary Music Craft Saturday 1.20pm – 2.30pm (with Sally Collett & Libby Choo)

Grade 1 Music Craft Saturday 12.20pm – 1.20pm (with Sally Collett)

Grade 2 Music Craft Saturday 2.30pm – 3.50pm (with Sally Collett)

Vocal Coaching (with Libby Choo)

By arrangement Saturday between 10.30am – 4pm

***NB: All rehearsals and classes are held at the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs Rehearsal Space, Pier 4, Hickson Road, Millers Point.**

FUNDING AND FEES 2009

Gondwana Choirs is a not-for-profit organisation and relies on government funding, including grants from the Australia Council and Arts NSW, sponsorship, performance fees, corporate event fees and chorister fees to fund our activities.

Important Information

- GST is included on fees where indicated
- Fees are payable in advance on a per semester basis (1 semester = 2 school terms)
- Fees must be paid before a chorister is eligible to attend rehearsals
- Fees are payable by personal cheques, internet funds transfer and credit card (MasterCard and Visa only) and cash (at rehearsals)
- There will be an additional charge of 1.5% of total fees, plus a processing charge of \$2.20 (inc. GST) for all credit card payments
- There is a 20% discount on the fees of a second, younger child from the same family and a 40% discount on the third and subsequent choristers from the same family
- A full semester's notice in writing is required before the withdrawal of a chorister, or the payment of one semester's fees in lieu is required

2009 Choral Training Program Fees Per Semester (i.e. 2 school terms)*

Minisingers Choirs: \$367

Paul Jarman Choir: \$410

Dan Walker Choir: \$410

Michael Atherton Choir: \$507

Paul Stanhope Choir: \$507

Elena Kats-Chernin Choir: \$525

Stephen Leek Choir: \$525

Senior Choir: \$525

*Company membership, Music Levy and Uniform Hire are included in the above fees. GST is not applicable to these fees

Music Craft Fees 2009

In 2009, AMEB Music Craft and Musicianship exams take place in on 24 August (Music Craft) and therefore our classes to prepare students for these exams run from Music Craft and Musicianship classes run during NSW state school terms from Saturday 7 February – Saturday 22 August.

To make the classes as accessible as possible, fees for Music Craft are payable in two equal instalments, the first at the start of Semester 1 and the second at the start of Semester 2. The fees include AMEB exam fees and text book costs (NB Music Craft text books come with accompanying CD).

Fees Per Semester

Preliminary Music Craft: \$337 (inc GST)

Grade 1 Music Craft: \$340 (inc GST)

Grade 2 Music Craft: \$361 (inc GST)

Bursaries

Through the support of generous individuals and organisations we are delighted to be able to offer a number of bursaries to the Sydney Children's Choir in 2009. Bursaries will be offered to families of choristers who successfully audition for the Sydney Children's Choir and who can demonstrate the need for financial assistance in order for their child to attend the Choir. The bursaries will enable the choristers to participate in the Sydney Children's Choir for a year (attend their choir camp, purchase a uniform and music satchel and receive a travel subsidy for rehearsals and performances). For more information on the bursaries, including how to apply, please contact our General Manager Alexandra Cameron on 9251 4226 or at alexandra@gondwanavoices.com.au.

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR PERFORMANCE HISTORY

- 1989** The Sydney Children's Choir (SCC) is launched in the Great Hall of The University of Sydney. The performance features a new work and several arrangements by prominent Australian composer Stephen Leek
- 1990** Sings for Australia Day Celebrations in Darling Harbour
- 1991** First interstate tour
- 1992** First international tour for the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade to Indonesia and Singapore
- 1993** First performance with the Sydney Symphony in Mahler's Symphony No.8
- 1994** Japan tour with performances in Tokyo, Yokohama, Hamamatsu, Marugame, Nagasaki and Fukushima
- 1996** Presents Michael Atherton's *The Mahogany Ship* at the National Maritime Museum. Performance at the World Symposium on Choral Music, Sydney
- 1997** Tours to Europe and Singapore
- 1998** Performs Mahler's Symphony No.3 with the Sydney Symphony under conductor Mark Elder and Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* with the Sydney Symphony under their Chief Conductor Edo de Waart
- 1999** Gives 10th Anniversary Concert with The Australian Voices, Sirocco and The Millennium Choir
- 2000** January 1, the world awakes to the sound of SCC performing from the top of the Sydney Opera House at dawn. SCC also performs at the Sydney Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, Olympic Arts Festival and *Symphony of Angels* with the Sydney Symphony
- 2001** Presents *The Mahogany Ship*, a staged production with music by Michael Atherton and Turn on the Open Sea, the premiere performance of a song-cycle by Paul Jarman. Performs in *Christmas with the Symphony* with the Sydney Symphony
- 2002** Tours to Europe and performs at the Lichfield Festival, UK and at World Civil Society forum in Geneva as well as concerts in France, Italy and Singapore. SCC concert in the Sydney Opera House in Honour of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and performances at Choralfest in Brisbane as well as with the Sydney Symphony
- 2003** Participates in the Rugby World Cup Opening and Closing Ceremonies and performs with the Sydney Symphony and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs in Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*
- 2004** Holds its 15th Anniversary Concert with 7 newly commissioned works. Performs with the Sydney Symphony and John Bell in performances of William Walton's score to *Henry V* and with the Sydney Symphony and soprano Amelia Farrugia in *Symphony of Angels*
- 2005** Represents Australia at Australian National Day at Expo 2005 in Nagoya Japan, performs in Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* with the Sydney Symphony under acclaimed conductor Charles Dutoit and performs in *Symphony of Angels* with the Sydney Symphony
- 2006** Performs with the Danish National Girls Choir at Verbrugghen Hall, gives the world premiere performances of Ross Edwards' *The Promised Land* with the Sydney Symphony at the Sydney Opera House, presents critically acclaimed festive performances *Voices of Angels* in conjunction with the City Recital Hall Angel Place
- 2007** Performs with Company B in *Snuggle Pot and Cuddle Pie* for the Sydney Festival, collaborates with Nagoya Children's Choir, performs *Heritage in Song*, goes on tour to Finland, Estonia, & Denmark, collaborates with the Boston City Singers, runs a workshop for schools at Riverside Theatres Parramatta, performs for the Fred Hollows Foundation Fundraising Event and the APEC Leader's Week Cultural Performance. Performs with Gondwana Voices in *Voices of Angels* concerts and records the program for a CD to be released on ABC Classics.
- 2008** Sings at the papal arrival as part of World Youth Day festivities and co-present *Voices of Angels* with the City Recital Hall Angel Place and performs Mahler's Symphony No. 3 with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under conductor Zubin Mehta. Records for the soundtrack of Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

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