

SEMESTER 2

Term 3: July 18 - Sept 23

KEY DATES

Mon 22 Aug

AMEB Music Craft exams

Thurs 25 Aug

In-house Music Craft Exam
(Leek Choristers)

Sat 27 Aug

In-house Music Craft Exam
(Choristers in year 4 & above)

Tues 30 Aug

In-house Music Craft Exam
(Kats-Chernin Choristers)

30 Aug & 1 Sept

Compulsory combined Kats-Chernin & Leek Rehearsals
 (normal venues & times)

Sun 4 Sept

Compulsory Kats-Chernin & Leek Tour Rehearsal
 (venue & time TBC)

Mon 5 Sept

Sydney the Singing City & Leek & Kats-Chernin Tour
 Farewell Concert
 (Verbrugghen Hall, free)

8-12 Sept

Selected Leek & Kats-Chernin Choristers
 Bermagui Tour

Fri 9 Sept

Senior choir performance at
 GENIUS Dinner (details TBC)

Sat 10 Sept

ALL Saturday School and North Shore Choirs
 Combined rehearsals (times TBC)

Sat 17 Sept

SCC Studio Day (All Choirs)
 Trackdown Studios,
 Entertainment Qtr (time TBC)

Sun 18 Sept

Senior, Leek, Kats-Chernin
I Can't Believe It's Not Rutter
 Concert St James Church
 King St City, 4pm

From our Artistic Director

Dear SCC Choristers and Parents,

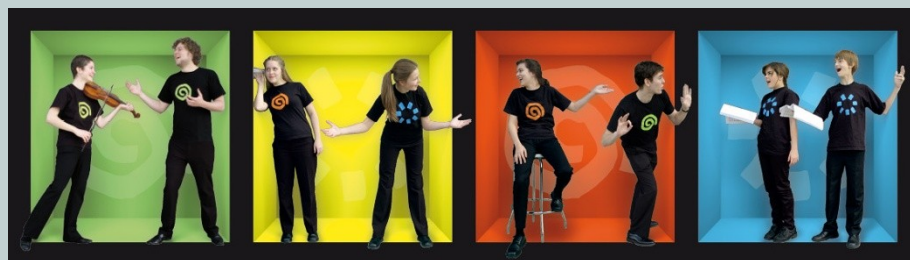
You might be interested to know that awareness of the Sydney Children's Choir stretches right across the land. Last term I had the strangely out-of-body experience of visiting the communities of Aurukun and Hopevale in Far North Queensland. Almost everyone I spoke to was aware that the Sydney Children's Choir and GNICC had performed the national anthem at the State of Origin. What a pleasure it then was to step off the plane from Cairns and walk straight into a beautiful end-of-term performance of our Sydney Children's Choir(s) at the Conservatorium of Music! Congratulations to all concerned and especially the conductors and administration staff who made it all appear so smooth.

One might look upon the school holidays as a time to relax, however at Gondwana Choirs it is a time for special projects and tours. Whilst *Junior Gondwana* and *Gondwana Singers* went on tour to Tasmania and the Festival of Voices, *Gondwana Chorale* embarked on a tour of New Zealand; meanwhile, back in Sydney, the *Gondwana National Indigenous Children's Choir* gathered for several performances, including the glamorous NAIDOC Gala Ball.

For *Sydney Children's (Senior) Choir*, the holidays provided an opportunity for a week-long tour to Cairns. It was a treat to be able to escape into the warmth of the Far North for an exciting week of song and exploration. Not a moment was wasted as we rehearsed each afternoon with either the *Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir* or the massed *Singfest* Choir, made up of selected students from over a dozen local schools and choirs. The days afforded us the chance to explore Cairns, the reef, and Kuranda. We also visited two schools of primarily indigenous students - Yarrabah and Djarragun - the Cairns children were overwhelmed by the SCC and we had cries of "we love you", and "please take us with you".

The final *Singfest* concert took place in St Monica's Cathedral, upon the marble floor and amongst the glorious contemporary stained glass windows. The concert was totally packed out, with many audience members left standing in the aisles. All the choirs performed exceptionally well and the grand finale of all choirs together brought a standing ovation from the large crowd. Thanks to John Nolan, Erica Byrne and Sani Townson and Kate Elliott - though we did stay on beautiful Trinity Beach, we were so busy that we did not have a chance to set foot on the sand!

Today is Daria's last day as Development Manager before she takes maternity leave. We wish her a very happy time with her new baby and hope to have a visit very soon. In the meanwhile we welcome Peach, who will be taking care of the Development portfolio, and Kate, our new Office Manager. *Lyn*



SCC choristers in Kats-Chernin, Leek & Senior Choirs* are invited to apply for Gondwana National Choirs' 2012 Season

Visit www.gondwanachoirs.com.au for information and to download an application form

**SCC choristers are not required to provide references*

Applications close Monday 22nd August 2011!

UNIFORMITY

The Uniform Shop

This term we will also be trialling a new system of selling uniforms at Saturday School. The 'Uniform Shop' will be open on the first Saturday of each month only, and both new and second hand uniforms will be available for sale on this day.

For Term 3 these dates are: August 6th and September 3rd (just in time for Studio Day).

If you need to purchase any uniform items, please plan to buy them at Saturday School on these dates.

Second-hand uniforms

We recognise that children grow fast and that keeping them in clothes that fit can be quite the challenge. In response to feedback from parents, I'm pleased to let you know that this term we will be trialling a second hand uniform 'shop'.

Parents can donate the following used SCC uniform items :

Blue SCC polo t-shirts

Blue SCC hoodies

White SCC performance shirts

Items must be in as-new condition.

Items will be offered for re-sale to SCC families at a reduced price and profits will be passed on to our SCC Bursary Fund.

Items for donation can be left with Jess at rehearsals. We hope this will be a help to parents.

If you need further information on our SCC uniform, please consult your Chorister Handbook or email Jocelyn or Jess at scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au

Gondwana Choirs and the Sydney Children's Choir are grateful for the support of the following agencies:



Australian Government



Communities
arts nsw



From our Director of Choral Education

Sydney the Singing City & Kats-Chernin/Leek farewell Concert

We are now getting to the exciting stage of the *Sydney the Singing City* project, which will culminate with a free concert on Monday September 5 at the Sydney Conservatorium's Verbrugghen Hall. On this night, our *Sydney the Singing City* schools: Glebe Public School, St James Forest Lodge and Our Lady of Mt Carmel, will share the stage with our Kats-Chernin and Leek Choirs, some of whom will pack their bags for a tour to Bermagui shortly afterwards. Friends and family of Leek and Kats-Chernin choristers are invited to make the most of this opportunity to hear their tour repertoire and celebrate all that has been achieved through our *Sydney the Singing City* project at this special concert.

End of term concerts

Congratulations to each and every chorister who performed in our end of Term 2 training choir concerts at Verbrugghen Hall on Saturday June 25. It is a wonderful problem to have when you can't fit all of your training choirs into one concert! For many of our younger choristers this was their first ever performance, so it was particularly exciting that they 'debuted' at such a prestigious venue as the Sydney Conservatorium. I was most impressed with our Mini Year One choristers under the direction of the effervescent Erica Byrne. At this young age, choristers can often be like a 'deer in the head lights' on such a big stage. They did themselves proud by singing with such conviction and enthusiasm all while staying focused on their conductor.

These concerts are a valuable opportunity for choir parents and choristers alike to get a sense of the bigger picture of the SCC choral training program - a chance to get excited about where you are going and to appreciate how far you have come. A highlight was the final combined items, featuring hot off the press music from 2011 composer in residence Ruth McCall. **Concerts are a very important part of our choristers' musical education, and we aim to provide a professional environment for our choristers and audiences, with high-quality venues.** This can be expensive, but we think it is worth it! We understand that there were some concerns raised about ticketing for the recent end of term concerts, and we are addressing these in our planning for future concerts.

In-house Music Craft exams

I wish every success to our 39 choristers who are sitting for their AMEB Preliminary, Grade 1 and Grade 2 exams on August 22.

Some parents and choristers have asked me questions like "Do I need to sit an exam?", "What if I can't make the exam date?", "I have done music theory before and play an instrument, so which grade is best for me?", "I am keen to move into Kats-Chernin or Leek Choir next year but haven't finished the required music craft, what do I need to do?". **Our solution (to some of these conundrums) is to hold in-house Music Craft exams for those choristers not sitting AMEB exams, who wish only to be graded for the SCC program.** In the past these exams were held on demand, but with the growth of the SCC, we have had to streamline our system. In-house music craft exams for Preliminary, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will be held in Term 3 on the following dates:

- **Leek:** Thurs 25 Aug from 4.25 - 4.45pm in the Board Room at the rehearsal space;
- **Interested choristers in years 4 and above:** Sat 27 Aug from 12.30 - 1.00pm in the Board Room at the rehearsal space;
- **Kats-Chernin:** Tues 30 Aug from 4.15 - 4.45pm at Ultimo Public School.

Please note that choristers are able to sit more than one exam on these dates if they are unsure of their level.

North Shore News

To cope with growing numbers in our North Shore Choirs, I am very pleased to welcome a new choir - Mini Navy - to our SCC stable. This choir will rehearse on Wednesdays at Pymble from 4 - 4.45pm. Welcome also to our new choristers joining the Mini Aqua and Twist/Walker choirs this Semester on Mondays at Pymble.



UPCOMING CONCERTS

I Can't Believe It's Not Rutter!

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 4pm

St James Church, King St, Sydney City

On Sunday 17 September 2011 at 4pm, the Sydney Children's Choir will present a concert featuring the music of popular English composer John Rutter. The concert will also include similarly lyrical and sentimental music by other English composers and some of our favourite Australian composers...

Please join us for this affectionately tongue-in cheek celebration of the music of the world's favourite composer of classical choral music, John Rutter, performed by our own Senior, Leek and Kats-Chernin Choirs.

All welcome - tickets available at City Recital Hall Box Office from 8 August, 02 8256 2222 / 1300 797 118 or www.cityrecitalhall.com

Sydney the Singing City & Kats-Chernin/Leek Tour Farewell

MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 7pm

Verbrugghen Hall, Conservatorium of Sydney

A chance to hear the results of our Sydney the Singing City project and cheer on our Kats-Chernin and Leek choristers as they depart on their NSW South Coast tour. Free - all welcome.

Vexations & Devotions

Gondwana Voices with the Australia World Orchestra & Sydney Philharmonia Choirs

SAT 27 AUGUST 8pm Sydney Opera House

The Australian World Orchestra Season is giving *Gondwana Voices* the opportunity to take part in a landmark event - bringing together many exceptional and talented musicians who have left Australia to hold prominent positions in the top orchestras all around the world. For the first time ever, these musicians will be brought back to Australia to form the Australian World Orchestra, and it is a great honour for *Gondwana Voices* to sing with them. The season will take place in Sydney from Sunday 21 August – Sunday 28 August.

The Australian World Orchestra is offering a special 10% discount for any seat purchased during July 2011 for the Inaugural Concert Series on the 26th, 27th and 28th August 2011 at the Sydney Opera House. **Gondwana Voices will be performing at the Sat 27 August performance only.**

Tickets from Sydney Opera House Box Office 02 9250 7777

NOTE: When booking please quote the promotional code AWO to obtain your discount

www.australianworldorchestra.com.au

Chorister Achievements

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Emma Renaud recorded "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in French for the Ensemble Theatre's new play, 'My Wonderful Day', receiving high praise for her professionalism, dedication and good singing; Elise Rawlinson received an Honours A for her AMEB Grade 1 viola exam; Marley Liyanagama received 83% for his AMEB Grade 3 Music Craft exam; Riley Thomson received 2nd place in the 10 and under brass section of the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod; Florence Poon received an A+ for her AMEB Grade 2 Piano exam; Lachlan Massey received Honours (85%) for his AMEB Music Craft Grade 2 exam; Kevin Zhu received Honours (92%) for his AMEB Music Craft Grade 1 exam.

Please let Allison know if your chorister has an artistic achievement to celebrate: allison@gondwanachoirs.com.au

Semester 2 fees now due!

Sydney Children's Choir invoices for Semester 2 2011 were recently emailed to parents. They are due for payment by Friday 22nd July.

If you have not received your invoice, please check your spam / junk mail folder, and if you have any questions regarding invoices or payment, please contact Cassandra@gondwanachoirs.com.au

TIFFIN BOYS' CHOIR
AUSTRALIAN TOUR JULY & AUGUST 2011
FAURÉ REQUIEM
& Popular Choral Classics

IN CONCERT
with the St James Players

THE HEART OF THE CITY
ST JAMES CHURCH
KING STREET, SYDNEY
SATURDAY 30th JULY 2011, 5pm
Tickets \$30/20
Available at the door

"THE OUTSTANDING TIFFIN BOYS' CHOIR"
(THE TIMES)

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sydney Children's Choir

c/o Gondwana Choirs

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Millers Point NSW 2000

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Mobile: 0429 990 122

E-mail: scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au

www.sydneychildrenschoir.com.au

ARTISTIC STAFF

Lyn Williams OAM, Artistic Director

Allison Harrigan, Director of Choral Education & Conductor

Dan Walker, Conductor

Sally Whitwell, Pianist & Conductor

Amandine Petit, Conductor & Leek Vocal Coach

Erica Byrne, Conductor

Petrina Lewis, Conductor

Marcus Bortolotti, Music Craft Tutor

Tristan Coelho, Music Craft Tutor

Joe Twist, Sight-Singing Tutor

Laura Altman, Sight-Singing Tutor

Libby Choo, Vocal Coach

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Larry Boyd, Acting GM

Jess Chambers, SCC Operations Coord

Jocelyn O'Brien, SCC Administrator

Anita Burkhart, Nth Shore Ops Asst

Carla Deplancke, Saturday School Asst

Kate Tomlinson, Office Manager

John Nolan, Artistic Administrator

Sophie Longmuir, Artistic Admin Asst

Clare Ainsworth, Philanthropy Mgr

Peach Emmett, Development Manager

Cassandra Bayley, Accounts Admin

Rachel Whealy, Gondwana National Choral Program Manager

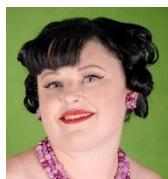
Erica Byrne, Gondwana National Indigenous Children's Choir Mgr

Anne McKenna, Office Volunteer

And a huge **THANK YOU** to all our weekly and occasional supervisors - we really couldn't do it without you!

Introducing Kate, our new Office Manager & Peach, our new Development Manager

We are very pleased to have two new staff members in the SCC/Gondwana Choirs



office - **Kate Tomlinson & Peach Emmett!** Kate, our new Office Manager, comes to us from a background in finance and administration, most recently at St Vincent's Hospital. You will have a chance to meet Kate at concerts and rehearsals, where she will be selling SCC merchandise.

Peach, our new Development Manager (replacing Daria, who is on maternity leave) comes to us a background in fundraising and communications, including Media Access Australia, Ted Noffs Foundation and the Royal Hospital for Women Foundation. She will be in touch with you occasionally throughout the year, sending out *Behind the Swirl* and assisting with front of house at concerts.



A huge thank you to our 'assistant conductors' from the Senior & Leek Choirs who so ably supported our Saturday School choirs during Term 2, generously volunteering their time and skills and inspiring our younger choristers. Thanks to Beth Harper, Tabitha Lee, Amelia Smiles, Tim Sampson, Christina Syrkiewicz and Rebecca Hart.

A Message from Jess:

Welcome back to Term 3 everyone! I hope you all enjoyed your holidays. I spent mine touring with two of our national choirs, *Junior Gondwana* and *Gondwana Singers*, to the Festival of Voices in Tasmania. It was a wonderful tour – the joyful energy these choristers had, on and off stage, was an absolute delight to see and hear. It was just another occasion on which I have been overwhelmed with admiration for the fantastic young people I get to work with. I look forward to seeing you all back at rehearsals this week. Term 3 is going to be another busy one, culminating in the always-exciting Studio Day!



STUDIO DAY Sat 17 Sept 2011

Recording, as well as performing, is an important part of our choral training program - our Senior Choir records regularly, has released several CDs on the *ABC Classics* label and can also be heard on numerous film soundtracks including *33 Postcards*, *Australia*, *Happy Feet* and *Moulin Rouge*.



Studio Day (at Trackdown Studios, the Entertainment Quarter) is a fantastic opportunity for all of the SCC Choirs to record in a professional studio environment and see what goes on behind the scenes. Choristers will also learn what is expected of them in a recording session in preparation for future recording opportunities.

Each year we produce a CD from the day, celebrating our choristers' growth and development. The CDs are professionally manufactured and include a booklet featuring photos of our choristers and some of their artwork.

Studio Day CDs make a great gift and are an excellent record of your chorister's journey through the years. There are some **Studio Day 2009** and **2010**

CDs available to purchase from the office (email kate@gondwanachoirs.com.au) - Jocelyn will send out a form for your **Studio Day 2011** CD order shortly.