

**SEMESTER 1**

**Term 1: Feb 8 - April 8**

**Term 2: April 27 - July 1**

**KEY DATES**

*(further details inside)*

**28 Mar**

**North Shore** Bring A Friend Day

**31 Mar**

**Senior Choir** Chamber of Commerce performance

**2 April**

**Saturday School (all choirs)**

open rehearsals - family welcome, The Wharf

**4 April**

**North Shore** open rehearsals

- family welcome, Pymble

**5 April**

**Kats-Chernin Choir** open rehearsal - family welcome, Ultimo PS

**6 April**

**Senior Choir** with Gondwana

Voices for their 2011 tour farewell concert, Verbrugghen Hall

**7 April**

**Leek Choir** open rehearsal - family welcome, The Wharf

**19,20,21 April**

**Saturday School** visits to Botanical Gardens

**30 April - 1 May**

**Saturday School** (not Minis) camp - Naamaroo

**6, 7, 8 May**

**Senior Choir** Lord of the Rings symphony concerts, Sydney Opera House (SOH)

**14 & 15 May**

**Kats-Chernin & Leek Choirs** Carmina Burana with SPC, SOH

**19 May**

**Senior Choir** VCASS concert, St Marys Chapter Hall

**From our Artistic Director (in Cairns)**

I'm up at 5.45 each morning; I would not want to miss another magnificent Trinity beach sunrise! A walk along the beach, a quick swim in the pool and I am ready for the day's work. Through the wonders of modern technology, I am able to spend most mornings in the Sydney office - we discuss all the upcoming SCC events, the various Gondwana tours to the USA, Canada, Brisbane, Tasmania, the Sydney activities of the GNICC, choral education issues and all other matters relating to the planning of all sorts of exciting opportunities for our choirs.

Then it is out of the virtual world and into the real world. The real world for me is in and around Cairns. I am working twice a week (for singing and theory & sight-singing) with a group of approximately 50 choristers who make up the Cairns group of the Gondwana National Indigenous Children's Choir. There is remarkable talent and enthusiasm in this group. We are off to a tremendous start and have many exciting performance opportunities ahead of us, including a concert appearance with the famous Soweto Gospel Choir!

The choristers have decided that they have three main goals as a choir:

- To sing like professionals,
- To let people know that we are proud to be Indigenous Australians
- To make people happy

When I am not working with the GNICC, I am providing professional development opportunities for teachers and choral conductors in the region. They attend conducting workshops and I visit them in their schools to assist them in developing their choirs. We are planning a 'mini festival' to bring these schools together.

I LOVE life in Cairns, however one recent performance of the SCC was SO exciting and SO important that I was lured back to Sydney. Last weekend, 34 members of the Senior Choir performed in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra concert.

Their tasks were nearly impossible:

- Sing some Grainger excerpts which were not designed for voices and required the entire choir to sing A above the staff twice!
- Sing a Mozart canon with the magnificent soprano Renee Fleming to a pre-recorded track. To suggest that the ebb and flow of the tempo required the choir to be extremely flexible would be a complete understatement.

The choristers (as would be expected) were extraordinary in their musical skill and professionalism. I was so incredibly proud of them all. What an amazing opportunity to be conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas (one of the world's most famous and respected conductors) AND to be seen by over 25 million viewers across the world. BRAVO everyone!

*Lyn*

**OPEN REHEARSALS**

**In early April we will be holding open rehearsals for our Saturday School, North Shore, Kats-Chernin & Leek choirs, where choristers are welcome to bring their family for a first-hand look & listen to what they have learnt and how they have progressed in Term 1.**

**Normal rehearsals will be open at the halfway point - families will be then invited in by their chorister's conductor. With limited space, please bring immediate family only - there will be plenty of opportunities to watch your chorister perform throughout the year!**



## CHOIR CAMP!

The annual weekend camp at lovely **Naamaroo Conference Centre** (adjacent to Lane Cove National Park) **from 30 April til 1 May** is an essential activity for all choristers from **Jarman, Twist, Walker, Stanhope & Atherton Choirs**, and is always a highlight of the choral calendar for our Saturday School choristers.

During camp, choristers learn much of the repertoire that forms the basis of their Term 2 choral program and participate in a variety of different activities which will assist their choral development. These include intensive rehearsals, composition, drama and visual art workshops, as well as games and other activities.

Camp is an excellent opportunity for choristers to get to know each other outside the weekly rehearsals and importantly, for the choir to develop a cohesive sound over an intensive weekend of working together, and for choristers to develop skills essential for a touring performance ensemble. And most of all, camp is heaps of fun.

We are particularly looking forward to our new North Shore choristers meeting their Miller's Point equivalents and enjoying raising the roof of Naamaroo Camp by singing in a choir of more than one hundred and thirty young voices!

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



Communities  
arts nsw



## From our Director of Choral Education

### SCC North Shore Bring A Friend Day

On Monday 28 March, SCC North Shore will be hosting a 'Bring a Friend' day, where choristers can bring a friend, classmate or family member of a similar age to rehearsal to join their choir as an 'honorary chorister' for the day.



This is a great opportunity for choristers to show their friends what happens in choir, share their musical skills and favourite songs and have fun singing together.

If you have a friend who would like to join in, please let Anita or Michael know (email [scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au](mailto:scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au)) or simply turn up

and register on the on the day.

We are planning to open up another Mini-Singers and Twist-Walker choir at North Shore in Semester 2, so this is a great opportunity for potential choristers to come and see what choir is all about!

### Botanic Gardens

Hot on the heels of our successful 2010 composer-in-residence collaboration with the Art Gallery of NSW, SCC is very pleased to be collaborating with the Royal Botanic Gardens in 2011. This year we welcome Ruth McCall as our composer-in-residence. Ruth is currently composing choral works for all of our SCC choirs based on her visits to the gardens earlier this year. **As most of you know, we are inviting all SCC Saturday School and North Shore families to take part in a holiday program at the Royal Botanic Gardens on 19,20 or 21 April\***. This tour is called *Mystery of the Munches* and will provide the inspiration for the chorister's composition workshops at this year's camp (see CAMP story on left).

**\*We understand that the school holidays are often busy, which is why this program is being run over three days, two sessions per day**, so that choir families can choose one session on one of the three days. **Choristers will be issued with a 'showbag' at their choir's open rehearsal** (see front page for dates) with instructions to solve the *Mystery of the Munches*. At each session the choristers will enjoy a self-guided tour, beginning at the education centre. If you cannot attend on April 19, 20 or 21 (e.g. are out of town) the self-guided tour will be available from 14—21 April - your visit to the Gardens will inform your camp composition workshop. On Tuesday 19, feel free to bring a picnic lunch and join SCC staff between midday & 1pm on the Band Lawn.

The Gardens visit will also give our Saturday School and North Shore choristers an opportunity to learn about the plants upon which our composer-in-residence Ruth has based her composition. During camp, all choristers will be asked to draw upon their newly acquired botanical knowledge to write text and music. Past camp experiences have produced some fantastic choral compositions that have been recorded and performed and we look forward to hearing the efforts of this year's future composers.

### North Shore

I have been thrilled with your enthusiasm about SCC North Shore this year and am pleased to announce that in Semester 2 we look forward to adding a Wednesday Mini Singer Choir (Years 1 and 2) and Twist/Walker Choir (Years 3 - 5). This will allow the patient Mini Singers-in-waiting to begin their choral journey and any keen participants from our North Shore **Bring a Friend** rehearsal on Monday March 28 to join our programs.



Allison

*P.S. please let me know if your chorister has an artistic achievement to celebrate in the next newsletter.*

# UPCOMING CONCERTS

## Gondwana Voices (with Senior Choir) 2011 Tour Farewell Concert 6 April

Gondwana Choirs invite you to hear some of Australia's most talented young musicians in a farewell concert by our acclaimed national children's choir, Gondwana Voices, on the eve of their 2011 North American tour, at **Verbruggen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, on Weds 6 April, 7-8pm.**

Established by Lyn Williams OAM in 1997, Gondwana Voices is a truly national choir whose members come from right across Australia - cities, country towns and remote homesteads. They perform music which is close to their hearts; new Australian works which capture the mystery and grandeur of their land, and traditional works which display the cultural diversity of the Australian people. The work of the choir is a powerful expression of the determination of young Australians to create an extraordinary musical ensemble.

This concert will also feature a guest performance by the Sydney Children's Choir. As part of your ticket, you are also invited to join us for supper after the concert. Tickets are available [here](#) or by calling 02 8256 2222.

**As a part of this tour we are looking for host families to billet two (or more) Gondwana Voices choristers during their Sydney rehearsal season from Sun 3 – Fri 8 April.** A chance to meet two of these talented and professional young musicians and in greatly assist in their musical journey – you never know, it may be your chorister touring one day soon! If you can help out, please contact Rachel Whealy ASAP on 02 9251 4226 or by email [rachel@gondwanachoirs.com.au](mailto:rachel@gondwanachoirs.com.au).

## Fellowship of the Ring: On Stage and Screen 6, 7, 8 May



The Lord of the Rings film trilogy's equally epic soundtrack from composer Howard Shore used the power of a full symphony orchestra and massed voices to match the visceral impact of the journey unfolding on screen. For these performances, the **Sydney Opera House Concert Hall** will become a cinema, screening part one of the trilogy, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, with its Oscar-winning score performed live on stage. Featuring: Ludwig Wicki, conductor; Kaitlyn Lusk, vocalist; Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and Sydney Children's Choir.

Tickets available [here](#) or by calling 02 9250 7777.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT RHYTHM

Gershwin/Bernstein/Orff

**SATURDAY 14 MAY 7pm, SUNDAY 15 MAY 2pm**

Presented by Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, this concert celebrates these three composers - absolute masters of harnessing the seductive and enormous power of an infectious beat.

Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* was groundbreaking and it has taken us the better part of a century to fully appreciate it. His fusion of blues and folk music with the European operatic tradition opens this exciting program.

*West Side Story* made Bernstein a household name overnight. It has been said that he had more rhythm in his little finger than most musicians have in their entire bodies. American jazz meets the sensuality of Spain: music that is sexy, dangerous and powerful.

*Carmina Burana*, featuring our **Kats-Chernin & Leek** Choirs, is Orff's crowning achievement and the embodiment of his belief that all humans are innately musical and indeed, rhythmic. **Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House** Tickets available [here](#) or by calling 02 9250 7777 or 02 9251 3115.

Senior Choir perform *The Wicked Witch of the North* at ISCM World Music Days



## Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) Choral & Chamber ensembles concert with SCC Senior Choir 19 May

7.30pm, St Mary's Cathedral Chapter Hall

Two of Australia's most vibrant choirs for young people in one special concert! Featuring conductor Claire Preston, Head of Choral Studies at VCASS. A guest conductor with Gondwana Choirs since 2007, Claire has worked extensively with young singers in Australia and North America and has toured extensively nationally and internationally with Canada's foremost professional chamber choir - The Elmer Iseler Singers. Tickets at the door.

## WEBSITE

We apologise that the 'Member Log-In' facility on our website is sadly out-of-date. This will be remedied shortly, however we would really like to completely overhaul our website this year.

If you are able to provide any assistance in this area, please contact Daria: [daria@gondwanachoirs.com.au](mailto:daria@gondwanachoirs.com.au)

# SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

## Sydney Children's Choir

c/o Gondwana Choirs  
Pier 4 Hickson Road  
Millers Point NSW 2000

Tel: 9251 4226 Fax: 9252 2801

Mobile: 0429 990 122

E-mail: [scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au](mailto:scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au)

[www.sydneychildrenschoir.com.au](http://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**, Senior Sight-Singing Tutor

**Laura Altman**, Senior Sight-Singing  
Tutor

**Libby Choo**, Vocal Coach

## MANAGEMENT STAFF

**Alexandra Cameron-Fraser**, GM

**Jess Chambers**, SCC Operations Coord

**Anita Burkhart**, Nth Shore Ops Asst

**Carla Deplancke**, Saturday School Asst

**John Nolan**, Artistic Administrator

**Sophie Longmuir**, Artistic Admin Asst

**Rachel Whealy**, Gondwana National  
Choral Program Manager

**Erica Byrne**, Gondwana National  
Indigenous Children's Choir Coord

**Clare Ainsworth**, Philanthropy Mgr

**Daria O'Neill**, Development Manager

**Cassandra Bayley**, Accounts Admin

**Anne McKenna**, Office Volunteer

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

## A Message from Jess

I can't believe we're nearly at the end of Term 1! Highlights of this term for me have included: welcoming our excited new Mini Singers and North Shore choristers to the SCC community; joining the Senior Choir at camp – the focus and joy with which these young people rehearse always fills me with awe; visiting the Botanical Gardens with Kats-Chernin and Leek Choirs and learning all about the different trees there, and then hearing the choristers work with Sally to turn their experiences there into a beautiful new piece of music; and making whirlpools with Kats and Leek in the pool at camp!

I look forward to catching up with parents and families at the open rehearsals in the last week of term, and welcoming our new SCC Administrator next week. **Jess**



Kats-Chernin choristers at the Wishing Tree in the Botanical Gardens

## GOING GOOGLY

As we continue to grow, we are exploring new ways of making communication easier and presenting & compiling information more efficiently, most recently by introducing Google Forms. We will send you the link in an email - simply click on this link and it will take you to our online Google form, which contains instructions on how to use it. *Please note that the SCC will not request personal medical or contact information in this way.* If you have any questions about Google Forms, please contact Michael or Jess on 02 9251 4226 or email [scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au](mailto:scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au) and we can discuss it with you further.

## From our General Manager

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our **new SCC Administrator, Jocelyn O'Brien!** Jocelyn has recently completed a BMus Performance in Voice at the Sydney Conservatorium and during her studies has worked in administration in the social services sector. Jocelyn will be in the office on Tuesday through to Fridays and will be attending weekday rehearsals and Saturday School from time to time to meet choristers, parents and our artistic team. We look forward to welcoming Jocelyn on Wednesday 30 March. You can contact her in the office on 9251 4226 or by email [scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au](mailto:scc@gondwanachoirs.com.au). Michael Stapleton, who has been acting in the SCC Administrator role since February, has kindly agreed to stay with us until Easter to assist with the handover to Jocelyn.

Thanks to Michael and welcome to Jocelyn, with best wishes, **Alex**

## SCHEDULE CHANGES week of Writer's Festival

Please note that, due to the Sydney Writer's Festival taking over The Wharf, there will be no choir activities onsite on Weds 18, Thurs 19 or Saturday 21 May.

That week the Kats-Chernin rehearsal will take place at Ultimo as usual, Senior will be held off-site, Leek will attend the VCASS concert as audience and **all Saturday classes will be cancelled.** We apologise for the inconvenience but it's unavoidable...