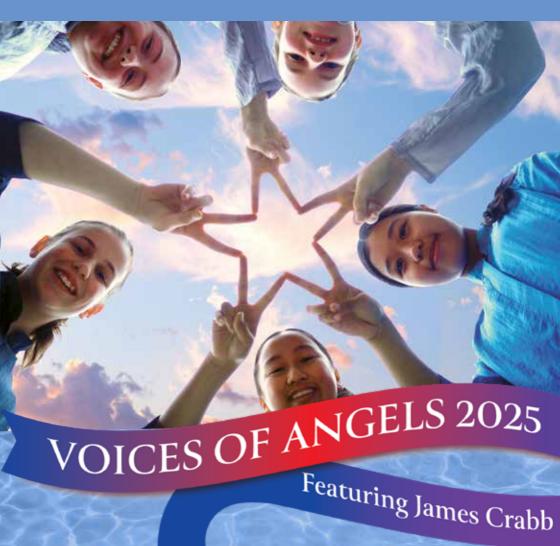
# **SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRESENTS**



7PM, MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2025 CITY RECITAL HALL











# VOICES OF ANGELS 2025

Featuring James Crabb

7PM, MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2025

Lyn Williams AM, Founder and Artistic Director

James Crabb, Classical Accordion

Sam Allchurch, Associate Artistic Director

Lachlan Massey, Artistic Associate

Luke Byrne, pianist and arranger

Genevieve Lang, presenter

The Sydney Children's Choir

**Gondwana National Choirs** 

Voices of Angels Ensemble

Helena Rathbone, leader

Peter Ellis, Additional Choral Preparation

Ronan Apcar and Catherine McKay, Pianists

# **Program**

The Three Drovers Music by William G James and traditional English carol,

Lyrics by John Wheeler, arranged by Luke Byrne and Lyn

Williams

Like a Singing Bird Bob Chilcott, Lyrics by Christina Rossetti and Robert Burns

Salva nos, stella maris Anonymous

The Silver Stars Music by William G James, Lyrics by John Wheeler,

arranged and orchestrated by Luke Byrne

Nature Boy Music & Lyrics by Eden Ahbez, arranged by Luke Byrne

O Magnum Mysterium Phillip Faber, Lyrics Traditional Latin from the Holy Matins

of Christmas, English translation by Jens C. Aaberg,

German lyrics by unknown (1677)

La Peregrinacion Ariel Ramirez arranged by Luke Byrne

Tanti anni prima Astor Piazolla

Libertango Astor Piazzolla, arranged by Oscar Escalada and

James Crabb

## **INTERVAL**

Joys Seven Traditional Carol, arranged by Owen Elsley

The Time of Snow Bob Chilcott

Angels' Carol Music & lyrics by John Rutter, orchestrated by Luke Byrne

Real and Right and True Neil Finn and Richard Tognetti. Soloists: Charlotte

Stanhope and Sonya Gussak

Flight Song Music by Kim André Arnesen, words by Euan Tait

Underneath the Stars Kate Rusby, arranged by Jim Clements

Recercada Segunda Diego Ortiz

Voces Angelorum Music Traditional and by Felix Mendelssohn, Various

sacred texts, arrangement by Luke Byrne

Silent Night / Away in a Manger Music by Franz Gruber & James Ramsey Murray, Lyrics

by Joseph Mohr & Anon.,arranged by Owen Elsley

Sussex Carol English traditional, arranged by Bob Chilcott

Angels from the Realms of Glory, Old French tune, words by James. Montgomery,

arranged by Dan Walker

This performance lasts approximately two hours including one 20-minute interval.

# Artists

# Lyn Williams AM

For over 35 years, Lyn Williams has harnessed the incredible power of young voices through her world-renowned ensembles: the Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices, the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Marliya. Her choirs have appeared with the world's leading orchestras and conductors and at festivals including the BBC Proms and Polyfollia.

Lyn has commissioned over 250 works from composers across Australia and around the world and her ability to forge innovative and meaningful collaborations is widely recognised. She continues to foster strong relationships with First Nations artists across Australia, bringing together cultural custodians and composers to create new works which preserve and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island languages and cultures. Lyn enjoys a long-standing collaboration with singer-songwriter Felix Riebl of the Cat Empire and the singers of

Marliya, presenting the critically-acclaimed show *Spinifex Gum*, which has featured at every Australian arts festival since its premiere at the Adelaide Festival in 2018.

In 2024, Lyn directed the performance of *Spinifex Gum* at London's Barbican Hall which received a standing ovation. In 2024, Lyn also toured Gondwana Voices to France and Spain, giving the premiere of *Following the Sky* by Lisa Young.

Lyn's visionary work with young musicians has been recognised widely. In 2024, She received the Richard Gill Award for distinguished services to Australian music. Lyn's outstanding contribution to Australian music has also been recognised by the Don Banks Music Award (2017) and the Sir Bernard Heinze Memorial Award (2021) and as a Member of the Order of Australia (2019). In 2024, Lyn presented one of the four Boyer Lectures for the ABC on Future Classic.



### James Crabb

Scottish born James Crabb, widely regarded as one of the world's leading classical accordionists, studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, Copenhagen with accordion pioneer Mogens Ellegaard, became professor there from 1995 until 2010, and was awarded the prestigious Carl Nielsen Music Prize, Denmark in 1991. He also held a guest professorship at the University in Graz, Austria.

James has collaborated with many of the most important contemporary composers including Sofia Gubaidulina, Thomas Adès, Harrison Birtwistle, Sally Beamish, Luciano Berio and has premiered countless concertos, chamber music and solo works dedicated to him. Recognised internationally as an authority on the music of Astor Piazzolla he was invited to curate the inaugural Piazzolla Festival in Buenos Aires. James has given the world premiere of Brett Dean's accordion concerto The Players in Sweden, (recorded on the BIS label) and featured in the onstage role in Dean's opera Hamlet with Glyndebourne Opera, Cologne Opera, the Bavarian State Opera, Munich, at Adelaide Festival and for Opera Australia. Recent and upcoming projects include returns to the ACO, the AFCM, the UK for performances, including at Wigmore Hall, with Anthony Marwood and recitals at festivals around Australia

A passionate and sought-after music educator and mentor, whilst Artistic Director of the Four Winds Festival in Bermagui, James curated both the Easter and inaugural Youth Festivals and developed the local schools music education program.

## Sam Allchurch

Sam Allchurch is Associate Artistic Director at Gondwana Choirs, where his work with young people is widely recognised. Sam has a longstanding relationship with Gondwana, having started his musical life as a chorister



in Gondwana Voices and the Sydney Children's Choir. He has worked with many of Gondwana Choirs' ensembles, in concerts, collaborations with orchestras and on tour across Australia and around the world. In addition to his conducting work, he plays a key role in artistic planning for the organisation, including working on the 2019 Gondwana World Choral Festival.

Sam is Artistic Director of the Sydney Chamber Choir where his repertoire spans the works of Bach and Handel to the music of contemporary Australian composers such as Paul Stanhope, Meta Cohen, Luke Byrne, Nardi Simpson and Anne Cawrse. Sam 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 in residencies at Westminster Abbey and the Thomaskirche, Leipzig.

Sam holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Melbourne and a Master in Music (Choral Studies) from the University of Cambridge where he was a Gates Scholar.

# **Lachlan Massey**

Lachlan Massey is a young Australian conductor and composer. Lachlan is Artistic Associate at Gondwana Choirs, and has prepared the choirs for performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Theatre Company and for six Prime Ministers of Australia. He is privileged to conduct the Sydney Children's Choir's Junior Performing Choir, a selective extension ensemble for young people ages 9-14 who show especially strong musical aptitude. As a composer and director of opera, and especially those for young audiences, Lachlan's productions with Musgrove Opera have been called "ingenious...petite productions for hungry young minds" (Time Out). The company has performed children's operas to packed houses at The Concourse and the Sydney Opera House, as well as regional venues. Lachlan is a primary music teacher at SCEGGS Darlinghurst, and Director of Choirs at Shore School. He is a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Luke Byrne

Luke is a musical director, composer, pianist, conductor and teacher who has worked extensively with all age groups, across a diverse range of musical fields including musical theatre, choirs, theatre, dance and festivals, as well as with leading youth arts organisations and tertiary institutions in Australia and the UK.

Luke's compositions are performed around Australia and the world, from Sydney to Hannover, Uluru to Cambridge. His choral works include Desert Sea, Capricorn and Earthrise for Sydney Philharmonia, Rainforest for Junges Vokalensemble Hannover, Song for Sydney Chamber Choir and Storm Bird, Buruwan Elegy and Birinyi for Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. In 2023 Luke was commissioned by the University of Oxford in partnership with the Guildhall School to set Bertolt Brecht's poem To those born after,

premièred at the Sheldonian Theatre by the Bauhaus Band. Luke was resident composer at the London Academy of Music & the Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) and in Sydney is also a teacher at NIDA and the Sydney Conservatorium.

Luke is also a musical director and composer in theatre, including *The Harp in the South, Muriel's Wedding* and *Chimerica* for the Sydney Theatre Company, and *Snugglepot & Cuddlepie, Hamlet* and *The Events* for Belvoir St Theatre. Luke's first musical *Between the Sea and Sky* was selected for the 2018 New York Musical Festival where it won five awards including Outstanding Score and Best Musical. In London Luke composed music for many LAMDA productions including *The Wonderful World of Dissocia, Mosquitoes* and *Tristan & Yseult* and in 2024 he travelled to Ireland to conduct his opera *The Ballybruff Trilogy*, commissioned by the Arts Council of Ireland.

Luke has worked extensively with all the Gondwana Choirs and is very proud to have two daughters in the Sydney Children's Choir.

# Voices Of Angels Ensemble

Helena Rathbone (Violin 1)
Aiko Goto (Violin 2)
Rosemary Curtin (Viola)
Kristy Conrau (Cello)
David Campbell (Double Bass)
Bridget Bollinger (Flute)
Jason Noble (Clarinet)
Christina Leonard (Saxophone)
Paul Nicolaou (Harp)
Jess Ciampa (Percussion)
Maya Hersch (Guitar)

# The Sydney Children's Choir

Over its 35-year history, the Sydney Children's Choir has forged a reputation for artistic innovation and spell-binding performance. Recognised for their crystal-clear sound, their precision and artistry, they possess a courageous and compelling performance style. Founded as a single ensemble by Lyn Williams AM in 1989, it now includes approximately 400 young people, comprising performing choirs and training ensembles.

Close to the choir's heart is its repertoire of over 200 specially commissioned works, and it continues to premiere new music from leading and emerging composers annually. The choir enjoys rich artistic collaborations with musicians from a wide range of cultures such as Suara Indonesia Dance and Mongolian singer and horsehead fiddle player, Bukhchuluun Ganburged. The choir has a long history of performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and other leading ensembles, and has worked with conductors including Simone Young, David Robertson and Vladimir Ashkenazy. Over the decades it has performed at many high-profile events including the Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony, World Youth Day, Sydney Festival and with the YouTube Symphony Orchestra. The choir has toured extensively, presenting their signature performances of contemporary Australian music to new audiences across the world.

In 2022, the choir premiered the daring staged work 'Hypnopompia', directed by Alexander Berlage and performed in William Barton's 'Of the Earth' to celebrate the re-opening of the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. In 2024, the choir performed the first concert with the new Dobson pipe organ at St James' King St and performed with The Cat Empire and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

# The Sydney Children's Choir

Sara Andrew, Ehryn Bala, Frederick Beck, Heidi Campbell, Rachel Carpenter, Lynn Chen, Jolene Corpus, Bibi Debelle Hancock, Emily Dingle, Charlotte Fletcher, Maddie Fletcher, Freyja Gray, Sasha Green, Sonya Gussak, Maya Hersch, Madeleine Huang, Zoë Humberstone, Yuhansa Jayakody, Louis Kerbert, Hazel Lam, Aojie Liu, Oliver Lu, Anna McAweaney, Dara Minogue, Josephine Motum, Mietta Nankervis, Sofia Nicholas, Lana Nisevic, Lucy Oakes, Juliette Pfeil, Elizabeth Samuel, Olivia Sekers, Elana Smith, Charlotte Stanhope, Genevieve Williams, Jessica Wong, Kaylee Wong, Ivy Wu, Macayla Wu, Nicholas Xu

# **Matthew Doyle Choir**

Antony Autore, Sashko Boubbov, Elias Buggy-Axton, Liam Byrne, Monty Cisterne, Emmett Daly, George Ding, Arthur Feng, Samuel Li, Oliver Logie-Smith, Vincent McDonald, Nana Nimmagadda, Lucas Ong, Thomas Prowse, Samuel Pyke, Reif Robertson, Rafael Vesentini

## **Junior Performing Choir**

Sage Adamson, Kirrily Armstrong, Zoe Yuzheng Chen, Vicky Chernyshova, Deslyn Corpus, Kiera Cowie, Juliette Dick, Stirling Donaldson, Alexis Fairlie, Ryan Han, Isla Harkin, Darius Hooshmand, Sophia Huang, Felix Huppert, Svana Iyer, Chuxiao Kong, Mira Lam, Scarlett "Scout" LaMotta, Cyan LaMotta, Isabella Leong, Sebastien Lewis, Lawson Li, Ivan Li, Leah Liu, Claire Lou, Emily Moss, Lachlan Ong, Angela Ou, Clark Poppert, Alexander Razavi, Alvie Rech, Samson Ren, Thomas Reztsov, Scarlett Rigato, Emmett Roan, Zachary Sekers, Kaiya Smith, Eloise Sorensen, Bronte Stender, Qiyuan Tao, Maya Vesentini, Leo Weng, Lhotse White, Marcel Whitelaw, Neela Wijeratne, James Yang, Eric Zhang







# Gondwana National Choirs

Gondwana National Choirs are the voice of Australia's youth, bringing together young singers from across the country to form vibrant musical ensembles. The choirs are proudly representative of people from every state and territory and come together for annual seasons of rehearsals and performances under leading conductors from across the world.

In 1997, Lyn Williams AM and Mark O'Leary OAM joined young singers from every state and territory for a season of music and song in Sydney. This began the tradition of the annual residential camp which would become National Choral School, where hundreds of young singers live, rehearse and perform together each January.

Two of the national choirs, Gondwana Voices and Gondwana Chorale, proudly represent Australia on the world stage.

### **Gondwana National Choirs**

Milla Baddock, Axl Beeby, Arlie Bragg, Etta Buggy Axton, Sean Byrne, Ling Butler Chen, Farley Dawes, Liam Fitzpatrick, Pascale Freeman, Estelle Gilmovich, Lachlan Gray, Josephine Grayden, Jim Hodgson, Herbie Khan, Mila Liu, Hasan Mirza, Bessie Mizrahi Davies, James Morris, Katie Nielsen, Charlotte O'Hara, Pascal Sageman, Miranda Vaz, Malley Wiggins, Erin Winsbury, Evelyn Zhu







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# Want to hear more from Gondwana Choirs?

# ABC CLASSIC

# 'Our Song' Album

Listen to 'Our Song', an album recorded by Gondwana Voices in 2025, including some of the music you've heard this evening, out now!





Hear young singers from across Australia who will form vibrant ensembles under the direction of international guest conductors Michael Barrett, Basilio Astulez and Mat Wright MBE, and our Australian stars!

# St James' Church, King Street, 1pm

20 January 2026: Gondwana Novus and Gondwana Singers

21 January 2026: Gondwana Voices and Gondwana Chorale

# Verbrugghen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, 7pm

23 January 2026: Gondwana National Choirs, Global Perspectives

# Professional Development at Gondwana National Choral School: Global Perspectives in Choral Conducting

Hosted by Artistic Director, Lyn Williams AM, and Bronwyn Cleworth, Director of Choral Education, Gondwana Choirs

This unique two-day professional development program is open to anyone with a passion for choral music and the desire to gain new insights. Participants will have the opportunity to observe rehearsals across all choirs at National Choral School, network with

NCS conductors and pianists, and choral colleagues, and attend dedicated Q&A forums with our renowned international and Australian conductors.

### Dates:

16 January 2026: Gondwana Novus and Gondwana Voices

17 January 2026: Gondwana Singers and Gondwana Chorale

Cost: \$175 per day or \$300 for both days (students receive a 10% discount!)

Includes rehearsal observation, Q&A sessions with conductors, lunch and refreshments.

Does not include travel or accommodation or meals other than those listed above.

Places are limited - book your place here now!





gondwana.org.au