

Repertoire

Randall Thompson *Alleluia*
 John Corigliano *L'Invitation Au Voyage*
 Morten Lauridsen *Les Chansons Des Roses*

- *En Une Seule Fleur*
- *Contre Qui, Rose*
- *De Ton Rêve Trop Plein*
- *La Rose Complète*
- *Dirait-On*

Samuel Barber *Agnus Dei*

INTERVAL

Eric Whitacre *Water Night*

Irving Fine *The Hour Glass*

- *Know To End As To Begin*
- *Have You Seen The White Lily Grow*
- *Do Not Wanton With Those Eyes*
- *Against Jealousy*
- *Lament*
- *The Hour-Glass*

William Schuman *Mail Order Madrigals*

- *Attention, Ladies!*
- *Superfluous Hair*
- *Sweet Refreshing Sleep*
- *Dr. Worden's Pills*

David Conte *Charm Me Asleep*

Sydney Philharmonia Choirs

Formed in 1920, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs is Australia's leading choral organisation. The principal choirs Chamber Singers, Symphony Chorus and our youth choir VOX have reputations both nationally and internationally for inspired performances of choral works. Each year our diverse repertoire spans early a cappella works to challenging contemporary music.

Sydney Philharmonia Choirs presents an impressive annual concert series that regularly meets with critical acclaim. Our yearly programs give audiences the opportunity to experience the incomparable beauty and exciting precision of trained voices in renowned sacred and secular masterpieces. SPC has also premiered several Australian-commissioned works for chorus and orchestra, including Peter Sculthorpe's *To Music*.

COME SING WITH US! Striving to make the joy of choral singing accessible to everyone, SPC supports several massed choir programs: Festival Chorus, and the Massed Choir in Handel's *Messiah* at Christmas and the ever-popular open training program ChorusOz®.

EDUCATION In addition to our annual ChorusOz® choral training weekend, this year we now run an exciting Philharmonia Immersion program comprising monthly workshops and talks at the Walsh Bay Centre for Choral Singing in our rehearsal studio venue.

We actively encourage everyone to join our choral singing community! For more information please visit www.sydneyphilharmonia.com.au or call us in the office on 02 9250 7777.

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Journey the grand spectrum of choral music-making with us!

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BACH



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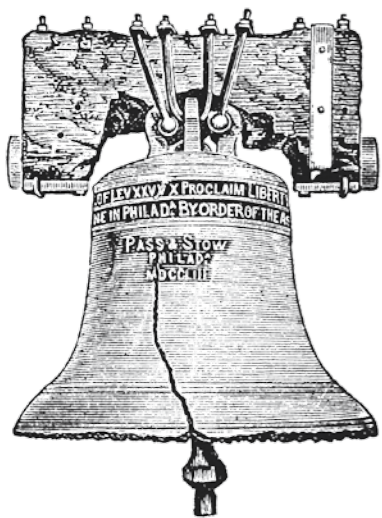
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AMERICAN JOURNEYS

Saturday 29 October
Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre
 Sunday 30 October
Orange Regional Conservatorium
 Saturday 5 November
St Simon & St Jude's Anglican Church, Bowral
 Sunday 6 November
Verbrugghen Hall
Sydney Conservatorium of Music
 Saturday 12 November
Joan Sutherland
Performing Arts Centre, Penrith



About the Composers



Randall Thompson [1899 – 1984] was one of America's great music educationalists. As a composer he is best known for his choral works which show a strong respect for historic models especially Renaissance motets, but are also appreciated for their 'effective sonorities, sensitive text-setting and strong sense of dramatic structure.' In the 1960s his *Alleluia* was the best-selling choral work in the USA.

John Corigliano [b 1939 -] also a leading figure in American music, collaborated with Leonard Bernstein on radio and many of his works conducted by Bernstein won numerous awards. The style of his first period, which grew out of the 'clean' American tonal sounds of Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber, was later

abandoned for more 'architectural' methods of composition employing microtonal, serial and aleatory techniques.

In the 1940s and '60s many American composers were inspired by the French composition teacher Nadia Boulanger and travelled to Paris to experience the artistic bohemian scene. Vocal music setting French texts was a feature of the time. Indeed **Irvine Fine** [1914 – 1962], **Samuel Barber** [1910 -1981] and **David Conte** [1955 -] all worked with Boulanger. Fine, who was said to belong to the 'American Stravinsky School' had a style that was essentially dissonant. In *The Hour-Glass* he sets 16th Century poems by Ben Johnson to music.

Barber's background, deeply rooted in singing, his love of poetry, and his intimate knowledge and appreciation of the human voice, inspired his vocal writing, which was more often in the form of art song and opera than choral music. However, thirty years after writing the *Adagio for Strings*, (1967) notably made famous for a new generation as the soundtrack for the 1987 Vietnam War film *Platoon*, he recast this immensely moving work for voices in a style that is reminiscent of Palestrina or Gabrieli.

His contemporary **William Schuman** [1910 -1992], as well as being a composer of acclaimed symphonic music and educator at the forefront of new approaches emphasising self-discovery and the creative process, had a flair for comedy and miniature works. Inspired by popular music and jazz he gave his numerous works curious and witty titles. *The Mail Order Madrigals* with texts taken from a real Sears catalogue are examples of these.

Johannes Lauridsen [b 1943 -] became the most popular American choral composer in the second half of the 20th century. His series of sacred a cappella motets were performed widely. He was once called 'a mystic' whose serene work contained elusive ingredients, which leave the impression that 'all the questions have been answered ...!' Lauridsen chose poems by Rainer Maria Rilke for his song cycle *Les Chanson des Roses*.

Eric Whitacre [1970 -] is the star of American choral music today. His work has received many accolades with commissions and thousands of performances across the world. Characteristic features are his 'Whitacre Chords' such as the root position major with added major second and perfect fourth and his unusual rhythmic patterns with frequent meter changes. A BBC programme recently said: 'what hits you straight between the eyes is the honesty, optimism and sheer belief that passes any pretention. This is music that makes you smile!'

This tour has been made possible thanks to the generous support of The Ian Potter Foundation.

Sydney Philharmonia Choristers

Soprano

Jodie Boehme
Claire Burrell-McDonald+
Clare Kenny
Alexandra Little
Gillian Markham
Laura Platts
Jessica Veliscek
Carolan

Alto

Claire Duffy
Jessica Farrell*
Melinda Jefferson
Natalie Lane
Judith Pickering+
Frances Ruocco
Maree Tyrrell

Tenor

Hamish Lane
Selwyn Lemos
Tim Matthies
Ian Seppelt
Robert Thomson+
Alex Walter*

Bass

Greg Anderson
Bryan Banston
William Bond
Edwin Carter+
Paul Cunningham*
Ian Davies
Jang Hee Han
Ken Zhang*

* indicates section leaders
+ indicates soloists

Brett Weymark



Artistic and Musical Director

Brett Weymark studied singing at the University of Sydney and conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. In 2003, Brett Weymark was appointed Musical Director of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. He has conducted the choirs in world premiere performances of works by composers such as Elena Kats-Chernin and Peter Sculthorpe, and has also prepared the choirs for concerts with such noted international conductors as Sir Charles Mackerras, Charles Dutoit and Sir Simon Rattle.

Most recently, Brett has conducted the *Brighton to Bondi* program for the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and *Die Fledermaus* at WAAPA in Perth and will conduct the OzOpera tour of *Don Giovanni* in 2013.

Carolyn Watson



Assistant Chorus Master

Carolyn Watson is a conductor and music educator. During 2010 Carolyn assisted Sir Charles Mackerras and worked with musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in *Interaction 2010*. During 2009-2010 Carolyn conducted orchestras in Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania and assisted on a production of *Carmen* at the Israeli National Opera.

Carolyn is the recipient of the Charles Mackerras Conducting Prize awarded via the Australian Music Foundation in London, Opera Foundation Australia's Bayreuth Opera Award and the Nelly Apt Conducting Scholarship.

Carolyn is currently Conductor-in-Residence at Sydney's Conservatorium High School and Associate Conductor of the Tasmanian Discovery Orchestra.

For more information please see www.carolyn-watson.com

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Brett Weymark

Musical Director: VOX

Elizabeth Scott

Assistant Chorus Master

Carolyn Watson

Marketing & Communications Manager

Juliet Izatt

Operations Manager

Mariese Shallard

Choir Manager

Mark Robinson

Administration Assistant

Lisa Parragi

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Josephine Allan

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