



SYDNEY
CHILDREN'S
CHOIR
Lyn Williams OAM Artistic Director



Welcome 2018

WELCOME TO SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Lyn Williams OAM founded Sydney Children's Choir 27 years ago to create a world-class ensemble, capable of performing complex music at a professional standard. Since then, the organisation has grown to include Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana National Choirs and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, captivating audiences across Australia and the world. Gondwana Choirs is now synonymous with performance excellence and has a well-deserved reputation for the highest standards of young people's choral music in Australia and internationally.

The Sydney Children's Choir now proudly represents Sydney as the most prestigious and well-known vocal program for young singers of school age. Its performing ensembles are instantly recognised for their crystal clear sound, precision and discipline. They display a courageous and compelling performance style and regularly perform, record and collaborate with the professional orchestras, ensembles and opera companies in Sydney.

Gondwana Choirs is committed to creativity through the composition and presentation of new choral works. Its young musicians are intimately connected to contemporary and traditional repertoire throughout their training through collaborations with emerging and established composers. The body of work created over the past 27 years is an integral part of Australian choral repertoire, enabling the development of many Australian composers writing single songs or works for massed choir and orchestra, such as *Jandamarra: Sing for the Country* by Paul Stanhope.



CULTURE OF SCC

Gondwana Choirs is the leader in Australian choral performance, shaping the Australian sound through the creation and presentation of innovative new work, and providing opportunities to all talented young Australians through world class training by leading artists.

The Sydney Children's Choir is highly regarded for its unique performance style. Our open and honest style of musical performance is a reflection of our particular rehearsal techniques and of our respect for the young people we work with. Children are placed into the choir we feel is most appropriate for their level of musical and personal maturity. We aim to make each child feel challenged and happy.

Our Choral Training Program is based on the core values of our organisation: excellence, professionalism, creativity, accessibility and community. With these values in mind, we strive to develop each chorister's skills in the following areas:

- Choral Singing
- Artistic expression and style
- Professionalism (on and off stage)
- Aural skills, music theory and sight singing
- Composition
- Movement

The development of these skills through our Choral Training Program leads to a wide range of positive outcomes for each individual chorister, including:

- Leadership
- Dedication, focus and commitment
- Self-discipline and maturity
- Increased self-awareness and self-confidence
- A love of singing and music



CHOIR STRUCTURE

Joining Sydney Children's Choir

Choristers in Year 1 and 2 at school receive automatic placement into SCC. Choristers in Year 3 and above at school are asked to attend a placement test to find a place in a choir best suited to their age and skill set.

Progressing through Sydney Children's Choir

Throughout the year, choristers are assessed by their conductors and tutors.

Mini Singers and Junior Singers

At the end of the year, choristers are offered a place for the following year, based on the development of their choral skills and musicality.

Intermediate and Advanced Singers

Choristers have the choice of remaining in their level for another year or audition for the next level. To be eligible to audition, choristers must have completed the corresponding level of music theory and sight singing.

Junior Performing Choirs

Choristers have the choice of remaining in their level for another year or audition for Senior Choir. To be eligible to audition, choristers must have completed the corresponding level of Music Theory and Sight Singing.

Mini Singers

Mini Singers Year 1

Choristers must be at least 5 years old and in Year 1 at school. Choristers will remain in these groups for 1 year, then (in most cases) automatically progress to Mini Singers Year 2. We use songs and games to develop concentration as well as pitch and rhythm skills. No placement test is required.

Mini Singers Year 2

Choristers are in Year 2 at school. Choristers in these groups rapidly extend the skills developed in Mini Singers Year 1, learning to sing rounds and more complicated unison works. A basic knowledge of score reading is also introduced. No placement test is required.

Junior Training Choirs

Paul Jarman, Ruth McCall & Ben Van Tienen Choirs

Choristers are typically in Year 3 at school. Numbers are deliberately kept small so that choristers receive both the time and focus they need to improve skills in pitch matching, diction, rhythm and music reading.

Training Choirs

Joseph Twist, Sally Whitwell, Michael Atherton, Paul Stanhope & Luke Byrne Choirs

These groups are typically for children in Year 4, 5 or 6 at school. Choristers focus on developing their aural and sight singing skills, whilst learning to create a more refined choral tone. All choristers study music theory and sight-singing both at home and in a weekly class as part of their weekly SCC rehearsal. Intermediate Singers also attend their first weekend residential camp.

Advanced Training Choir

Advanced Singers focus on developing advanced choral and performance skills and a strong emphasis is placed on the development of part-singing, improving sight-singing skills and accepting both musical and general responsibility within the choir.

Junior Performing Choir

This choir is for children with exceptional musical aptitude who display an inherent enjoyment of choral singing and a real desire and enthusiasm to make music. It is an extension group for choristers aged 8-14 and rehearses twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Senior Performing Choirs

Senior Choir (The Sydney Children's Choir)

Senior Choir is a treble choir of girls and unchanged boys voices and is the ensemble recognised in the professional musical community as representative of the Sydney Children's Choir. The Senior Choir has a very strong reputation, both within Australia and internationally, for being a choir of exceptional standards that performs interesting and demanding repertoire. This reputation has been gained through the hard work and complete dedication of choristers. Therefore, choristers are expected to work on music at home and make a real commitment to attend every rehearsal.

Like many other great children's choirs around the world, the Sydney Children's Choir rehearses twice a week on Thursday afternoon and a further dedicated rehearsal on Saturday afternoon. This choir which is formed to work on specific projects and tours and whose membership is under constant review.

Young Men's Choir

The Young Men's Choir is an ensemble for boys with changed and changing voices. Most of the choristers in this ensemble have already been part of SCC and the standard of musicianship is high. As each voice changes in a different way, we take care to guide choristers through this process. As the boys learn to use their new instruments, repertoire and performance opportunities are carefully matched to the ensemble.

FEES

Gondwana Choirs is a not-for-profit organisation and relies on grants the Create NSW, sponsorship, performance income and chorister participation fees.

CHOIR LEVEL	CHOIR GROUP	2018 FEES (For 1 YEAR)
MINI SINGERS	Mini Singers Year 1 Mini Singers Year 2	\$970
JUNIOR TRAINING CHOIRS	Paul Jarman Choir Ruth McCall Choir Ben Van Tienen Choir	\$1075
INTERMEDIATE TRAINING CHOIRS	Joseph Twist Choir Sally Whitwell Choir Michael Atherton Choir Paul Stanhope Choir Luke Byrne Choir	\$1300 + \$255 Camp
ADVANCED TRAINING CHOIR		\$1360 + \$265 Camp
PERFORMING CHOIRS	Junior Performing Choir Senior Performing Choir Young Men's Choir	\$1360 + \$285 Camp

Bursaries

Through the support of generous parents, individuals and organisations, Gondwana Choirs is able to provide financial assistance to some families in need.

Bursaries are awarded at the beginning of each year and cover all or partial cost of semester fees. Please note that bursaries do not cover the cost of camps or SCC uniforms.

To be considered for a bursary, children must be accepted into Sydney Children's Choir and parents can demonstrate the need for financial assistance for their child to attend the choir. Please ask the SCC Manager for more details.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

MINI SINGERS	
WEDNESDAY Notre Dame University Mini Navy 4.00-4.45pm	SATURDAY Notre Dame University Mini Blue 9.00-9.40am Mini Red 9.00-9.40am Mini Green 9.45-10.25am Mini Orange 9.45-10.25am
JUNIOR TRAINING CHOIRS	
	SATURDAY Notre Dame University Paul Jarman Choir 10.45-11.45am Ruth McCall Choir 10.45-11.45am Ben van Tienen Choir 1.45-2.45pm
INTERMEDIATE TRAINING CHOIRS	
WEDNESDAY Notre Dame University Sally Whitwell Choir 4.45-6.15pm Luke Byrne Choir 4.45-6.15pm	SATURDAY Notre Dame University Michael Atherton Choir 12.30-2.00pm Paul Stanhope Choir 12.30-2.00pm Joseph Twist Choir 3.00-4.30pm
ADVANCED TRAINING CHOIR	
MONDAY Conservatorium High School Advanced Singers 4.30-6.30pm	
JUNIOR PERFORMING CHOIR	
WEDNESDAY Conservatorium High School Junior Performing Choir 4.30-6.30pm	SATURDAY Notre Dame University Junior Performing Choir 2.15-3.40pm
SENIOR PERFORMING CHOIRS	
THURSDAY Conservatorium High School Senior Choir 4.15-6.45pm Young Men's Choir 4.15-6.45pm	SATURDAY Notre Dame University Senior Choir 4.00-6.00pm Young Men's Choir 2.00-4.30pm

MUSIC THEORY & SIGHT-SINGING

Music theory knowledge and sight-singing are important parts of becoming an excellent musician and we strive for excellence in all of our choirs, no matter their age. This knowledge, along with an ability to sing music at sight will greatly enhance the skill and depth of musical appreciation of young musicians. These skills enable our choristers to participate in performances at a professional level. In the Junior and Intermediate Training Choirs, music theory and sight-singing are an integrated into weekly rehearsals. For Senior Training and the Performing Choirs, dedicated theory and sight singing classes complement the weekly classes.

Music Theory

Practical knowledge of music theory is important for musicians to develop their understanding how music works and how to perform music accurately. The national standard of teaching theory in Australia is the syllabus of the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB), which SCC and many instrumental teachers follow.

Sight-Singing

Choristers participate in weekly sight singing classes as part of their rehearsal, taught by SCC Artistic Staff. Choristers are expected to support their learning at home by using the Mark O'Leary Sight Singing School on-line, working for at least 10-20 minutes, 3 times per week. SCC staff map progress using the website to assess and guide choristers' development of their aural skills. Junior and Senior Performing Choirs' members are streamed into 4 classes, based on a skills test and progress in the previous year.



CAMPS & TOURS

Weekend camps are an essential and therefore compulsory activity for all choristers who have a scheduled camp. During these camps, choristers participate in a variety of different activities which will assist in their well-rounded choral development. These activities include rehearsals, composition, drama and visual art workshops, as well as games and other activities. These camps are always really fun and the highlight of the year, and are an excellent chance for choristers to get to know each other outside the weekly rehearsals and to develop a cohesive sound over an intense weekend.

Don't forget that Sydney Children's Choir is a touring choir. We use camps to develop the skills essential for touring ensembles. Choristers learn independence, time management, focus, strategies to manage their voices, general physical health and occasional homesickness. National and international touring opportunities are available for choristers in Junior and Senior Performing Choirs.



GONDWANA CHOIRS

Gondwana Choirs comprises the most accomplished choral groups of young people in Australia. The organisation is now synonymous with performance excellence and has a well-deserved reputation for the highest standards of young people's choral music in Australia and internationally.

Gondwana Choirs has been involved in many noteworthy collaborations and performances with leading orchestras (Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, West Australian Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, YouTube Symphony, Israel Philharmonic and Australian World Orchestras), ensembles (Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Synergy, Taikoz, Sirocco, Suara Indonesian Dance, the Soweto Gospel Choir and Martenista Choir) and artists (including Felix Riebl, Gurrumul, William Barton, Seaman Dan, Kev Carmody, Katie Noonan, Jessica Mauboy, Shaun Tan, Michael Leunig and Jeannie Baker.)

Singers from all three arms of the organisation, Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana National Choirs and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, have come together on several occasions, most notably in 2014 with Sydney Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere performances of *Jandamarra: Sing for the Country* by Paul Stanhope.

Gondwana Choirs has received many awards and recognition of their work, including the 2015 APRA/AMCOS award for Excellence by an Organisation for its artistic program in our 25th year, and significant contribution to Australian music since 1989. Lyn Williams OAM was named in the 100 Women of Influence in 2015, and is engaged nationally and internationally for her expertise in choral training.

Alumni of Gondwana Choirs are now employed by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Opera Australia and Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras and regularly appear at Pinchgut Opera, Covent Garden, Glyndebourne Festival and the Deutsche Oper Berlin. They contribute to Australia's cultural life as composers, conductors, music teachers, pop artists, arts managers, board members of Australian arts organisations and Gondwana Choirs staff. They are medical professionals, business leaders and social justice advocates, and their lifelong love of music fostered by Gondwana Choirs draws them to become the next generation of arts philanthropists and audiences.

LYN WILLIAMS OAM

Founder & Artistic Director



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

Lyn has also toured extensively internationally with her choirs to Europe, Asia and North and Central America. Highlights include with Gondwana Voices at the 2007 BBC Proms; Sydney Children's Choir in 2013 at the Palau de la Música, Barcelona, and the internationally acclaimed Polyfolia festival in France; and in 2017 Gondwana Indigenous

Children's Choir's first major tour to Germany, Slovenia and Vienna.

Lyn has conducted many major professional choirs and orchestras in Australia, including the Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Youth Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. She has been Music Director and Conductor for a number of major events, including the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

In March 2017, Lyn was awarded the Australia Council for the Arts' prestigious Don Banks Music Award for outstanding and sustained contribution to music in Australia in recognition of her lifework as founder and director of Gondwana Choirs. In 2004, she received the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of her services to the Arts. She also received the 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, winning the 2009 APRA-Australian Music Centre Vocal/Choral Work of the Year for her work *A Flock of Stars*.

JOIN US IN 2018

PATRONS OF SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd),
Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Hurley

BOARD

Kate Lidbetter, Chair	Lyn Williams OAM
Tessa Boyd-Caine	David Longmuir
Nicholas James	Karen Mundine
Caroline Sharpen	

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR ARTISTS

Artistic Director	Lyn Williams
Associate Conductor	Elizabeth Vierboom
Principal Pianist	Sally Whitwell
Conductors	Sam Allchurch, Erica Byrne, Bronwyn Cleworth, Ruth McCall, Atalya Masi, Amandine Petit, Anna Sandstrom, Hester Wright
Pianists	Antonio Fernandez, Estella Roche, Heinz Schweers

ADMINISTRATION

Lyn Williams OAM	Founder & Artistic Director
Bernie Heard	General Manager
Sam Allchurch	Artistic Administrator
Lachlan Cameron	Artistic Coordinator
Emma Carson	Projects Manager
Wendy Cundy	Accounts Administrator
Francis Greep	Development Manager
Susan Hart	Finance Manager
Liz Herbert	Marketing Manager
Shabnam Hinton	Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir Coordinator
Heather Kelley	Chorister Manager
Alice Neldner	Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir Coordinator
Amandine Petit	Head of Sydney Children's Choir Training Choirs
Jerome Studdy	Sydney Children's Choir Coordinator

Thank you to all of our parent volunteers and rehearsal supervisors for your contribution to Gondwana Choirs in 2018. You are an integral part of our organisation.

The Sydney Children's Choir is excited to announce that applications to join the choir in 2018 are now open. Experience the buzz of joining over 500 young musicians who rehearse each week, building their musicianship, theory and performance skills in their journey through its world-renowned program.

To find out more about the choir, go to
<https://www.gondwana.org.au/choirs/scc-2018>

To complete the enquiry form to apply or audition for Sydney Children's Choir in 2018, go to <http://gondwana.org.au/scc-enquiry-form>

For email contact, write to scc@gondwana.org.au or call the Sydney Children's Choir managers on 02 9361 9902.



Gondwana Choirs is supported
by the NSW Government
through Create NSW

RioTinto
Principal Partner, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir





find out more @ gondwana.org.au

