

GONDWANA CHOIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2019





Eric Avery with the Gondwana Indigenous Choir, performing the acknowledgement of country, at the opening of the Gondwana World Choral Festival at the Sydney Opera House

Cover Image:
Gondwana Collective at the Festival of Summer Voices

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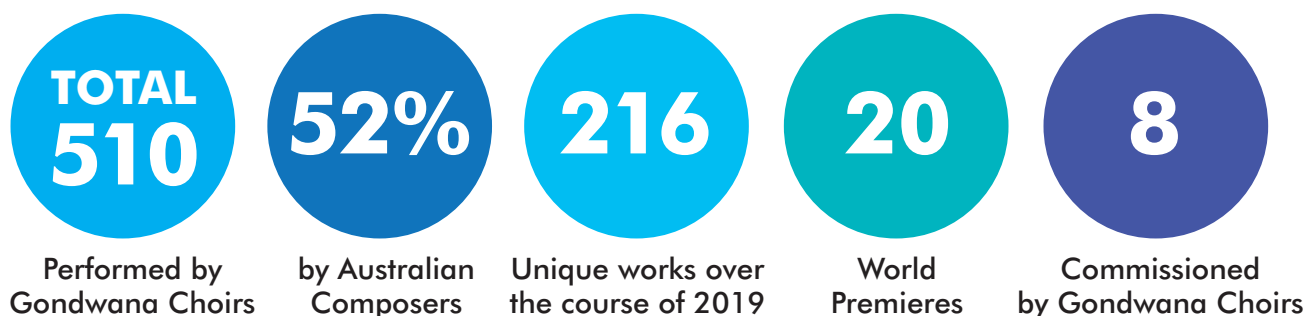


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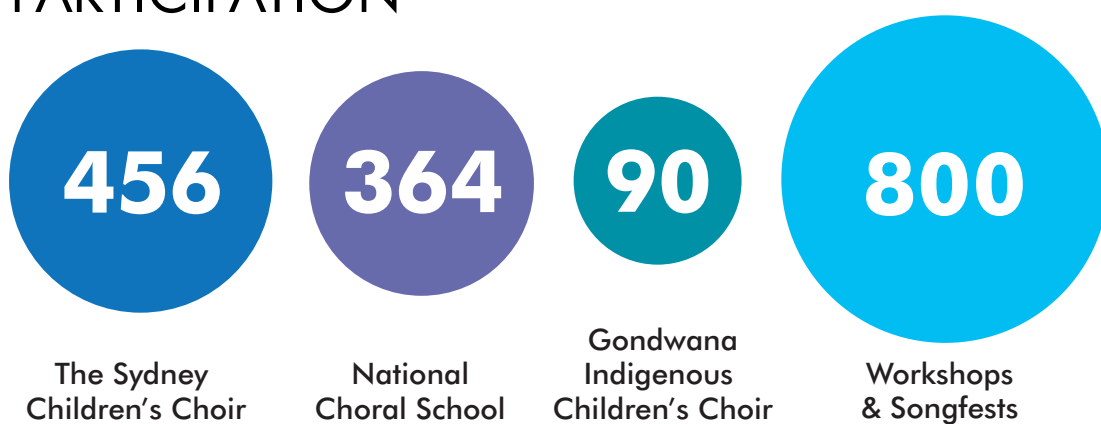
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2019 STATISTICS

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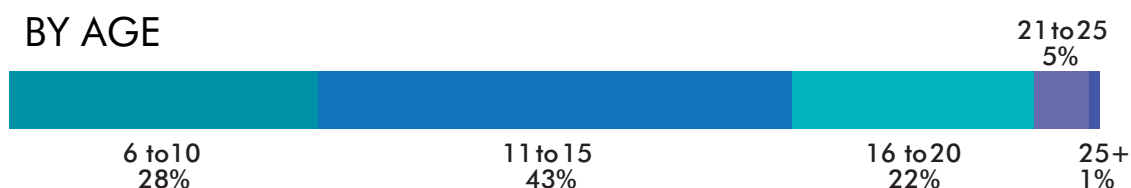
PARTICIPATION



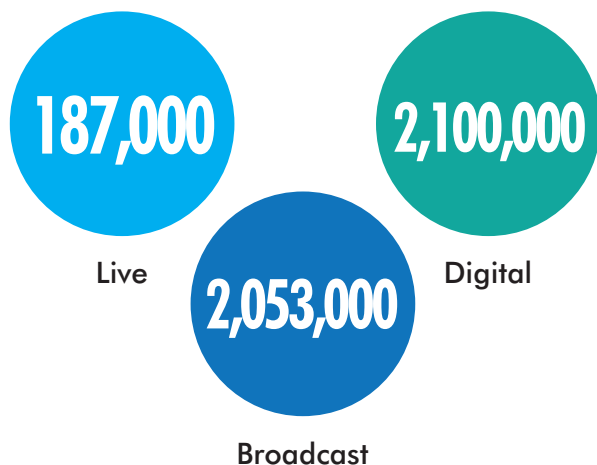
BY LOCATION



BY AGE



AUDIENCES



PERFORMANCES



GWCF

Gondwana World Choral Festival



Total Choristers



Gondwana Choirs



International Guest Choirs



Regional & Interstate Choirs



Partner School Choirs

2019 IN REVIEW



Lyn Williams AM
Artistic Director



Kate Lidbetter
Chair



Bernie Heard
Executive Director

In 2019 we celebrated 30 years of Gondwana Choirs in a most ambitious and spectacular way. The centrepiece of our year was the Gondwana World Choral Festival for which we brought together choirs from across the globe. Large audiences came to enjoy this splendidly joyous event, and a week of live and delayed broadcast through ABC Classic meant that audiences everywhere were able to listen in to performances of the finest children's and youth choirs of the world. As the final notes of Christopher Gordon's *Peace on Earth* performed by the youth of the world resounded through the Opera Concert Hall at the closing concert, it was clear to all the Gondwana World Choral Festival would need to return in the not too distant future.

The Sydney Children's Choir were the host choir for the festival because after all, it was their birthday. They presented the lion's share of the *Sounds of Australia* Opening Gala at the Opera House. This performance included two newly commissioned works; the first of these was our first international commission, *Only I*, from renowned American composer Nico Muhly and the combined choirs performed Paul Stanhope's new work *I am Martuwarra*.

2019 saw many other significant choral highlights from Gondwana Choirs. Marliya was a particularly busy choir last year, beginning with a sold out Opera House Concert Hall performance of *Spinifex Gum* in the Sydney Festival, and extensive touring which saw them perform at Garma Festival, the National Indigenous Music Awards in Darwin, in the Pilbara, the Melbourne Recital Centre and the Canberra Theatre. They also appeared in the foyer of Parliament House in Canberra as they called for an Indigenous voice to Parliament. The choir was met with standing ovations wherever they performed.

Gondwana National Choirs celebrated the year with two international tours: Gondwana Chorale touring the Baltic countries and Gondwana Voices accepting an invitation to perform Brett Dean's *Vexations and Devotions* with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and Choir in Berlin's famous Philharmonie. Gondwana Voices has had a long association with this work having performed it at its premiere in Perth in 2006. They once again surprised the audience with their remarkable musicianship and maturity. It was thrilling to see Gondwana Voices performing at the highest international level.

The Gondwana World Choral Festival was supported by the NSW Government through Destination NSW, and also made possible through the partnership of ABC Classic, the Sydney Opera House, and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. We are grateful to our Festival sponsors, partner

schools, and the many, many families who opened their homes to welcome our international visitors.

We acknowledge important contributions Rio Tinto as Principal Partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Choir, and our other generous partners including the Crown Resorts Foundation, the Packer Family Trust, James Kirby Foundation and the E.H. Marion Flack Trust, as well as a variety of incredibly valued family trusts and our many generous patrons and donors. We are truly moved by the many who choose to support us, thank you all for sharing our vision.

2019 was our most active year with multiple major events and international tours, and our highest income and expenditure in the history of the organisation. Despite close control of administrative costs, increased project expenses and our strongest and most diversified fundraising campaign, this significant year reported a modest operating deficit of \$46,098.

In 2019 the Choir offices remained in their temporary home in Woolloomooloo and we appreciate the support of Create NSW as we plan our return to the Walsh Bay arts precinct at the end of 2020, and of course for continued multiyear funding support of our program in NSW. We also acknowledge Notre Dame University, Fairfield Public School, St Stephens Uniting Church and the Australian Performing Arts Grammar School in Broadway for their venue partnership for our SCC rehearsals, and Cairns State High School, who have been integral to the continued development of the Gondwana Indigenous Choir.

We congratulate and thank the Gondwana Choirs artistic and administration staff, as well as our colleagues on the board and the many wonderful volunteers who give their time and expertise to Gondwana Choirs. As Chair, Artistic Director, and Executive Director, we each feel immensely privileged to work together to support the innovative projects which engage talented young people from across Australia.

We commend the 2019 Annual Report to you.



EXIT

The combined choirs at the closing performance of the Gondwana World Choral Festival at the Sydney Opera House



GONDWANA WORLD CHORAL FESTIVAL

Planning the Festival

The idea of bringing the world's finest children's choirs together in Sydney for a festival had been discussed at Gondwana as a dream for about ten years. The opportune moment came when we were working out how to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Sydney Children's Choir – this seemed to be the ideal time to turn this idea into a reality. So in the final months of 2017, we proceeded to formulate plans – prospective choirs, programs, budgets, schedules.

The invitations were focused on choirs with a strong connection to Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices or Lyn Williams in some way – for instance, SCC had visited La Cigale de Lyon in both 1997 and 2013, while Gondwana Voices had shared a concert with the Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir on its 2017 tour. By March 2018, we had a confirmed list of choirs, the support of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Sydney Opera House, and so we prepared to launch the largest choral event in Sydney in two decades.

The Choirs

International Choirs

Boston Children's Chorus (USA)
La Cigale de Lyon (France)
Estonian Television Girls' Choir (Estonia)
Guangdong Experimental Middle School Choir (China)
Inner Mongolia Youth Choir (China)
Nagoya Children's Choir (Japan)
Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir TIARA (Latvia)
Toronto Children's Chorus (Canada)
Miami Children's Chorus (USA)

Australian Choirs

Abbotsleigh Chamber Choir (Sydney, NSW)
Cairns State High Chorale (Cairns, Qld)
Colla Voce of St Monica's College (Cairns, Qld)
Hunter Singers (Newcastle, NSW)
Luminescence Children's Choir (Canberra, ACT)
Pymble Chorale (Sydney, NSW)
Resonance of Birralee (Brisbane, Qld)
SCEGGS Darlinghurst Choir (Sydney, NSW)
Valla Voices (Valla, NSW)
Voices of St Andrew's (Cairns, Qld)
Young Adelaide Voices (Adelaide, SA)

Host Choirs

Sydney Children's Choir
Gondwana Indigenous Choir and Marliya
Gondwana Latitude 34

The Festival

The Gondwana World Choral Festival took over Sydney between 15 and 21 July 2019. There were nine international choirs from across the globe, three choirs from interstate and two choirs from regional NSW, as well as three partner school choirs and seven ensembles from Gondwana Choirs.

concerts, discovery workshops, panel sessions and open rehearsals and became a hub for lovers of choral music.

For a week, the airwaves were alive with the sound of young voices, with media partner ABC Classic broadcasting 10 of the concerts. Hosted by the effervescent and knowledgeable Vanessa Hughes, this partnership allowed tens of thousands of listeners to experience the sounds of the world's finest choirs.

Gala Concerts

The festival was bookended by two gala concerts in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall: the opening gala, *Sounds of Australia*, celebrated the richness of our repertoire with an almost entirely Australian program. The concert featured two world premieres; *I am Martuwarra* by Paul Stanhope with text by Steve Hawke, was written for the combined choirs charting the course of Martuwarra, the mighty Fitzroy River of the Kimberley region of Western Australia. The Sydney Children's Choir gave the premiere of *Only I*, a new work by celebrated American composer, Nico Muhly, who was present in the audience.

In the closing gala, *Sounds of the World*, each of the international guest choirs took to the stage in a feast of music from across the globe. The choirs came together for a rousing finale: Dan Walker's *The Arafura* with didgeridoo player William Barton and Christopher Gordon's *Peace on Earth* with a string orchestra comprised entirely of current and former parents and choristers of Gondwana Choirs.

In her closing remarks, Lyn Williams acknowledged the great artistry of the young singers who had come together and suggested that the success of this festival could only augur well for the next one!

Greater Insight

Over the course of the week, 31 workshops offered insights into different areas of choral style and practice. The *Discovery* series presented some of Gondwana's most-loved collaborative artists – the Gerib Sik dance troupe from Cairns, Suara Indonesia Dance, Naomi Crellin from The Idea of North, Matthew Doyle, and Taikoz – giving a greater insight into their artform and its connection with choral music. In The Studio allowed the audience to go behind the scenes to see the guest choirs in an open rehearsal context while Sydney Children's Choir stepped through its choral training program to show the lifecycle of a chorister.

Panel discussions explored a wide range of issues, from the protocols of working with Australian Indigenous cultural custodians, to different approaches to choral training around the world. Dr Anita Collins gave a presentation on 'Fireworks in the Singing Brain' exploring the benefits of singing to childhood neurological development and the week concluded with Atrium Choir, a chance for all, including a good number of Gondwana alumni, to come together for an hour of relaxed singing of old favourites, under the expert guidance of Paul Holley.

On the next page - international choirs performing at the closing concert 'Sounds of the World' at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Gondwana World Choral Festival

Each day at the Sydney Conservatorium, GWCF hosted a rich program of







Cairns

Following the festival in Sydney, we travelled to Cairns with three of our guest choirs – the Estonian TV Girls' Choir, Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir and La Cigale de Lyon. Here, the choirs were hosted by St Monica's College, Cairns State High School and St Andrew's College and despite some misalignment of weather and sightseeing schedules, enjoyed a chance to experience a different part of Australia. The choirs came together to present a gala concert with the Gondwana Indigenous Choir at the Cairns Performing Arts Centre on Thursday 25 July. Each of the guest choirs performed one work with their host choir, providing an opportunity for musical exchange and the forging new friendships between singers and conductors.

Behind the Scenes

This was largest scale event the organisation has ever staged and a huge thanks is due to the small army of staff and volunteers who created this heaven for lovers of choral music. Particular thanks goes to the volunteer chaperones from the Gondwana community who hosted each of the international choirs, attending to their every need for the whole week.

Lyn Williams conducts the combined choirs at the closing performance of the Gondwana World Choral Festival at the Sydney Opera House



SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

2019 represented a milestone for the Sydney Children's Choir – its 30th birthday. From the small group of singers formed by Lyn Williams in 1989, the choir has flourished into one of the world's leading children's choirs.

The major focus of the year was, of course, the Gondwana World Choral Festival, which you can read more about elsewhere in this report. In the lead up to the Festival, the performing choirs gave recitals in the beautifully intimate acoustic of the Mosman Art Gallery, delighting audiences with sneak-previews of the diverse repertoire programmed for the festival. To mark the 30th anniversary, Lyn Williams commissioned celebrated American composer Nico Muhly to write a work for the SCC – the resulting piece, *Only I*, which sets two poems of Roberta Sykes, became a favourite of the choir. The singers enjoyed meeting Nico when he came out to Sydney for the final rehearsals and opening gala of the festival. Some choristers were also fortunate to receive feedback on their compositions from Nico (the youngest composer ever to be commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera in New York!).

The Festival incorporated every single member of the Sydney Children's Choir, from the youngest chorister of the Mini Singers through the veteran singers of Senior and Young Men's Choirs. The Winter Concert was included in the festival program, with all the choirs filling the resonant acoustic of the Verbrugghen Hall. SCC also presented a Behind the Scenes set of workshops as part of the festival, tracing the life-cycle of a chorister.

After the festival, the Senior and Young Men's Choirs began preparation for the next major project. In October, SCC joined forces with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to give the second performance of Paul Stanhope's epic cantata *Jandamarra: Sing for the Country* Ngaly'barra Muwayi.u. The cantata features a libretto by Steve Hawke, and tells the story of Kimberley freedom fighter and Bunuba man, Jandamarra. It was first performed in 2014 by Gondwana Choirs and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. This performance took place in the Sydney Town Hall on Friday 18 October 2019 to a full house and was conducted by Elizabeth Scott, who also prepared the choirs, assisted by Sam Allchurch. The role of Jandamarra was sung by Mataika Gerrie (alumnus of the Gondwana Indigenous Choir), who had sung the role as a treble in the premiere performance, and the role of Lindsay was sung by Lachlan Massey (alumnus of the Sydney Children's Choir).

In October, SCC's Junior Performing Choir embarked on their regional tour to

Goulburn and Wagga Wagga, where they presented the 2019 Gondwana Songfest in collaboration with local young singers. The Junior Performing Choir spent the weekend rehearsing alongside local choristers from Wagga Wagga, culminating in a combined performance at the end of the weekend. Songfest was the first touring experience for many members of the Junior Performing Choir and offered them the opportunity to rehearse and perform with other young musicians outside of their normal rehearsal contexts.

The Paul Stanhope Choir, in the meantime, welcomed some visiting children with cochlear implants as part of a research program for SCIC with the Deaf Foundation; while the Advanced Training Choir participated in a full day with the Fairfield Choir which included workshops with local experts in Vietnamese dancing and Middle Eastern drumming.

Sydney Children's Choir's youngest singers finished their year with *A Festive Menagerie* – a zoological twist on the Christmas concert. Featuring animal-themed music and poetry readings by choristers, the Mini Singers and Junior Training Choirs enjoyed sharing the rewards of their hard work over 2019 with their friends and families.

2019 concluded with the traditional performances of Voices of Angels at the City Recital Hall. This year, the concerts were conducted by Associate Artistic Director Sam Allchurch, while Lyn Williams enjoyed some well-deserved long service leave. The program charted the twelve days of Christmas and included new arrangements of much-loved carols by Owen Elsley and Joseph Twist. A highlight of the program was the premiere of a new work by Principal Pianist, Sally Whitwell. *Forged in the Fire* marks the latest instalment in the commission series 'Moments that shaped Australia' and reflects on the marriage equality decision in Australia in November 2017.

This remarkable year of performances was, as ever, underpinned by countless weekly rehearsals, residential camps, sight singing and music theory classes, where our leading conductors, pianist and tutors ensure that each child develops as a musician.

FAIRFIELD

The new Sydney Children's Choir Fairfield (SCC Fairfield) had a great first year. Our Community Projects Coordinator Shabnam Hinton established excellent relationships with the area's diverse communities. Fairfield Public School generously provided rehearsal space for choristers from their own and surrounding schools, forging strong bonds between Sydney Children's Choirs, the choristers and their families.

Oud player Martin Al-Sumery and Shohrat Tursun who plays the dutar (a 2-stringed harp) taught the choristers traditional Iranian and Uyghur songs which were transcribed and added to our repertoire. The SCC Fairfield sang in the Sydney Children's Choir's Springtime Concert with Al-Sumery as guest artist, and at NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors' (STARTTS) 30th birthday celebration.

In 2020 we will increase our Western Sydney impact building towards a new SCC program in Blacktown. We will also cultivate the connection between the ensembles throughout greater Sydney by holding combined rehearsals.



Martin Al-Sumery accompanies the Sydney Children's Choir's Springtime performance at the Seymour Centre



Sydney Children's Choir perform for shoppers at the Queen Victoria Building

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL

2019's National Choral School was the largest to date, hosting a total of 361 choristers, composition students, and young conductors onsite for the full length of the two-week program.

In 2019 NCS featured 6 choirs, each of which had the opportunity to perform their diverse programs in our Opening and Closing gala performances at the Festival of Summer Voices at the end of their stay at the University of New South Wales. At the end of each concert, the choirs came together to sing the newly commissioned *One Pure Voice* by Paul Jarman, enveloping the audience in the powerful music of this exciting new work.

This year, we were also lucky enough to have renowned English conductor Simon Halsey on campus, working intimately with our conductors and acting as guest conducting one work from each of the choirs' repertoire in the Closing Gala. This gave the choristers unrivalled access to one of the world's leading voices in choral conducting and education.

Further broadening the horizons of the choristers at the Choral School, the

program featured an eclectic mix of electives that choristers could choose from. Participants engaged in electives on Javanese Gamelan, Taiko Drumming, Randai Indonesian Dance, Musical Theatre, A Cappella, Music Media, Community Singing, and Music Therapy, each taking something unique from their experience. The Explorations concert, in which each elective put forward a performance, spanned the full spectrum of musical and cultural expression, thrilling the audience as well as the other choristers, eager to see what their peers had been working on.

In addition to their regular rehearsals, two of our ensembles were preparing for international tours. Gondwana Chorale departed on a tour to the Balkans immediately after the end of the program, and in lieu of taking an elective, selected choristers from Gondwana Voices were rehearsing for their European tour to perform Brett Dean's *Vexations and Devotions* with the Berliner Philharmoniker.

Our group of composition students were treated to close instruction from Paul



Stanhope and Annie Kwok, with each composer working with a single choir throughout the duration of the program to produce a new work, tailored for the ensemble and performed on Monday 14 January. They were also given the opportunity to work with a diverse group of guest artists, learning the skills of arranging music from non-Western cultures.

Finally, we expanded our Choral Ideas Symposium, continuing to share our staff's expertise with 40 music educators from around Australia over the course of three days. Attendants had the opportunity to observe our choirs' rehearsals and sit in on a series of seminars that covered subjects from repertoire selection to teaching Indigenous music. They also had access to a Q&A session with the choral conductors for each choir and sampled some of the electives that our choristers had experienced throughout the program.

2019's National Choral School heralded an ambitious expansion of every aspect of the program, featuring a staggering breadth and depth of musical instruction. It continues to be the greatest educational opportunity available

to young Australian choristers, conductors, and choral composers, and we continue to strive to increase the scope and quality of the program even further as we go forward.

The combined national choirs perform 'One Pure Voice' by Paul Jarman, at the closing concert of the 2019 Festival of Summer Voices



A MIGHTY YEAR FOR MARLIYA

Following their inaugural year in 2018, in 2019 the young women and girls from the Gondwana Indigenous Choir who are known to the world as Marliya, went from strength to strength.

We could not have asked for a more stirring start to the year when Marliya performed Spinifex Gum to a packed Opera House Concert Hall on the eve of Australia Day as guests of the Sydney Festival. Marliya were joined on stage by their co-stars: Peter Garrett, Emma Donovan and Adam Briggs and of course Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill. Before the night was even over the audience rose to their feet as one, many in tears, tremendously moved by the performance of these young women and girls.

In what may have seemed to audiences to be a hiatus, the next project for the girls was to record a new album of the songs of Felix Riebl. Marliya's second album *Sisters* was recorded mid-year and released towards the end of 2019.

In August and September, the girls were divided into several groups and undertook an extensive tour which began with the unique Garma Festival in North East Arnhem Land. This was not only a fabulous performance opportunity in front of a very appreciative audience but also a remarkable cultural and learning experience for those who were fortunate enough to attend. The tour was undertaken in stages with school, university and jobs attended to in between. The next leg was to Darwin to perform for the National Indigenous Music Awards. Everyone enjoyed being backstage at this major event and sharing the stage with so many celebrity performers. The response to this performance was tremendous.

The third portion of the tour was a long one, Karratha – Roebourne – Canberra – Melbourne. Spinifex Gum all started when Felix Riebl and the Choir visited the Pilbara five years ago and it was therefore a very special opportunity to be able to return. They were so generously received by Michael Woodley and the Yindjibarndi community of Roebourne. It was profoundly moving to be shown the country that inspired so many of the Spinifex Gum songs.

From the Pilbara they travelled to Canberra and performed at the Canberra Theatre Centre. The highlight of the Canberra visit was to be able to take their singing petition to Parliament. *Dream Baby Dream*, a song from the new album was posted online and Australians were called to add their voices calling for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Over 10,000 voices were included in the vinyl album which was presented to Senator Wyatt, Minister for Indigenous Australians. The Marble Foyer of Parliament House was packed when the girls performed and many politicians joined in singing *Dream Baby Dream*.

Marliya's performances for the year ended in Melbourne at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the entire Spinifex Gum Team and in particular Felix Riebl and Deborah Brown for their dedication to the project and to the Marliya members. We would also like to acknowledge all the generous Spinifex Gum donors including those who assisted in the genesis of the project all those years ago.

Friday, 25 January

Spinifex Gum at Sydney Festival - Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Saturday, 26 January

Marliya performs at Yabun, Barangaroo - Barangaroo Headland Park

Saturday, 3 August

Spinifex Gum Workshop, Garma Festival - Garma, Gove

Sunday, 4 August

Spinifex Gum Performance, Garma Festival - Garma, Gove

Thursday, 8 August

Spinifex Gum Workshop with the Saltwater Divas - Boardroom of Music NT

Saturday, 10 August

Spinifex Gum Performance, Darwin - National Indigenous Music Awards, Darwin Amphitheatre

Wednesday, 4 September

Spinifex Gum workshop: Karratha Senior High School - Karratha Senior High School

Friday, 6 September

Spinifex Gum Performance, Karratha, Opening of Red Earth Arts Festival - Festival stage, Karratha

Saturday, 7 September

Spinifex Gum Performance, Roebourne - Roebourne Amphitheatre

Saturday, 7 September

Spinifex Gum workshop: Roebourne (primary) - Roebourne School

Saturday, 7 September

Spinifex Gum workshop: Roebourne (secondary) - Roebourne School

Monday, 9 September

Spinifex Gum Performance: Parliament House - Parliament House

Monday, 9 September

Spinifex Gum workshop, Canberra - Canberra Theatre Centre

Tuesday, 10 September

Spinifex Gum Performance, Canberra - Canberra Theatre Centre

Thursday, 12 September

Spinifex Gum workshop, Melbourne - Melbourne Recital Centre

Friday, 13 September

Spinifex Gum Performance, Melbourne - Melbourne Recital Centre

On the next page - Marliya with Felix Riebl, outside Federal Parliament House in Canberra



GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHOIR

Based in Cairns, Queensland, Gondwana Indigenous Choir (GIC) and their 'big sisters' Marliya are among the most powerful and well-recognised group of young Indigenous performers in the country. The rich, vibrant sound of the choir warms the hearts of audiences whenever it performs.

Established in 2008, the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir program has grown and developed with projects in various regions nationally, but the constant has been the Cairns program in Far North Queensland. GIC regularly collaborates with the Australian Chamber Orchestra Collective and with leading Indigenous artists.

From the ranks of GIC has emerged a new ensemble, Marliya, first formed to appear in Spinifex Gum. This unique stage show was nominated for Best New Australian Work in the Helpmann Awards and Marliya toured with the project in January, August and September 2019 with performances at the Sydney Festival, Garma Festival and in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

Gondwana Indigenous Choir program's success is due to the high-quality artistic training and skill development, led through the weekly training program by Gondwana Choirs' Artistic Director Lyn Williams AM and the dedicated local artistic team. Through years of engagement with the community in Cairns deep connections have developed with the families, schools and community organisations, and also with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities represented in the region.

In 2019, we strategically focussed on building the Cairns program and our artistic staff resources on this choral hub. The recruitment campaign for 2019 included free workshops presented in targeted schools throughout the Cairns

region, and resulted in increased numbers and introducing a new level of choral training for the program.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE AND ARTS PROGRAM

Over the past 10 years, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir has developed a model of creating new artistic work in close collaboration with Indigenous communities. Since 2017 through support from the Ministry for the Arts' Indigenous Language and Arts Program, this has developed to regular commissions, engaging with elders and custodians from the First Nations communities with which we partner. Central to this is sharing traditional stories and ancestral languages with our choirs, to pass on and preserve this heritage through song.

Buda:dji (carpet snake), is a traditional Djabugay creation story, shared with the choir for a new work by Australian composer Dan Walker in 2019. Dennis Hunter of the Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation spent time on country with Walker and shared the story and language words to form the basis of the choral piece.

This was performed at Cairns Performing Arts Centre in October alongside traditional Meriam Mir songs and dances with string accompaniment and a program of string masterworks led by the ACO's Principal Violin Helena Rathbone.

Significantly, Gondwana Indigenous Choir was joined for a matinee



performance by young Djabugay students from Kuranda District State College who rehearsed with GIC in the lead up to the event. The Djabugay people's traditional lands include the Barron Gorge National Park in Queensland's world heritage listed Wet Tropics.

GONDWANA WORLD CHORAL FESTIVAL

GIC performed in the Gondwana World Choral Festival in Sydney and Cairns in July 2019. They proudly shared their musicianship and unique sound, performing alongside the Gerib Sik Dance Troupe in the Sydney Opera House, and then at home in Cairns with local choirs from Cairns State High School, St Andrew's Catholic College and St Monica's College. Together with international choirs the Estonian Television Girls' Choir, France's La Cigale de Lyon and the Latvian Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir TIARA, the performance culminated in a massed ensemble of more than 300 singers.

We acknowledge the support of Principal Partner of Gondwana Indigenous Choir, Rio Tinto as we entered a new multiyear partnership in 2019. We are grateful to Cairns High School for generously supporting the weekly training program, providing a rehearsal venue and continued advocacy in the community. We sincerely thank MMEM through Haymans Electricals, and the CaPTA Group for providing a free bus service in 2019, collecting children from targeted schools reaching more broadly across the Cairns region.



The Gerib Sik Dance Troupe perform with GIC and combined choirs at the opening concert of the Gondwana World Choral Festival

WORKING WITH

Throughout 2019 Gondwana Choirs worked with a diverse range of artists, presenters and fellow choirs within Australia and on tour in the UK and Europe.

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL

Artistic Staff: Lyn Williams, Carl Crossin, Paul Holley, Kate Johnson, Rowan Johnston, Elizabeth Scott, Luke Byrne, Paul Jarman, Chris Burcin, Mark O'Leary, Jeremy So, Kate Albury, Kim Sutherland, Alice Hanna, Amandine Petit, Hester Wright, Robin Parkin, Graeme Morton, Lauren Hannay, Paul Stanhope, Annie Kwok

International Guest Artist: Simon Halsey

Guest Artists: Vi King Lim, TaikOz (Ryuji Hamada, Kerryn Joyce), Alfira O'Sullivan and Murtala, Alexander Andrews, Peter Hayward, Bonnie Nilsson, Naomi Crellin, Hayden Rodgers, Hamish Boyd

Gondwana Chorale Tour (UK and Baltics Tour)

21 January – 4 February 2019

Video recording at Australia House, London

Performance at Trinity College, Cambridge and masterclass with Stephen Layton

Performance at St John's Church (Jaani Kirik), Tallinn

Performance with E Studio Youth Choir, Tartu

Performance with Koris Maska, Riga

Performance at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas

Performance with Azuoliukas Boys Choir and Sonoros at

St Kotryna's Church, Vilnius

Gondwana Voices (UK and Germany Tour)

14 May – 29 May 2019

Performance at the Swiss Church London with Gondwana alumni Lotte Betts-Dean, Alexandra Oomens, Oliver Boyd, Lauren Easton and pianist Joseph Havlat

Performance at the Stadtkirche, Radeberg

Morning Service at Meissen Cathedral

Performance with the Leipzig Oper Kinderchor at Kunstkraftwerk, Leipzig

Performance at the Australian Embassy, Berlin

Performance of Brett Dean's Vexations and Devotions with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and the Berlin Rundfunkchor conducted by Vladimir Jurowski at the Berlin Philharmonie

GONDWANA WORLD CHORAL FESTIVAL

15-21 JULY 2019

The inaugural Gondwana World Choral Festival drew upon our strong existing relationships with choirs whom we have been performing with for many years both in Australia and overseas, as well as welcoming some new performing partnerships.

We also continued relationships with the **Sydney Opera House, Sydney Conservatorium of Music** and with **ABC Classic**.

International Choirs

Boston Children's Chorus – Anthony Trecek-King (President and Artistic Director), Jacob Hiser (Piano)

Estonian Television Girls' Choir – Aarne Saluveer (Founder and Conductor)

Guangdong Experimental Middle School Choir – Xie Mingjing (Permanent Conductor)

Inner Mongolia Youth Choir – Yalungerile (Artistic Director),

Tsorya (Piano)

La Cigale de Lyon – Anne-Marie Cabut (Conductor), Cécile Cottin (Piano)

Miami Children's Chorus – Timothy A. Sharp (Conductor), Alan Ngim (Piano)

Nagoya Children's Choir – Tani Suzuyo & Kanda Toyohisa (Conductors),

Kotoha Fukagawa (Piano)

Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir TIARA – Aira Birziņa (Artistic Director), Veronika Rinkule (Piano)

Toronto Children's Chorus – Elise Bradley (Artistic Director),

Lara Dodds-Eden (Collaborative Pianist)

Australian Festival Choirs

Young Adelaide Voices – Christie Anderson (Conductor), Jamie Cock (Piano)

Hunter Singers – Kim Sutherland (Conductor), Amanda Neale (Piano)

Luminescence Children's Choir – AJ America (Conductor),

Veronica Milroy (Piano)

Resonance of Birralee – Paul Holley & Peter Ingram (Directors),

Cara Tran (Piano)

Valla Voices – Paul Jarman, Bonnie Nilsson, Pru Borgert (Conductors)

Partner School Choirs

Abbotsleigh Chamber Choir – Kimbali Harding & Lynette Clarke, Kimbali Harding (Piano)

Pymble Chorale – Sabina Turner (Conductor), Estella Roche (Piano)

SCEGGS Darlinghurst Choir – Allison Harrigan (Conductor)

GWCF Guest Artists

Heinz Schweers, Eric Avery, Joel Davison, Darren Compton, Julian Smiles, Jess Ciampa, Philip South, William Barton, Joshua Hill, Helena Rathbone, Aiko Goto, Emma Jezek, Airena Nakamura, Esmeralda Tintner, Beatrice Colombis, Emily Gelineva, Rosemary Curtin, Andrew Jezek, Angela Bonetti, Kristy Conrau, Ruben Palma, David Campbell

Workshop Presenters

Suara Indonesia Dance – Murtala, Alfira O'Sullivan

Gerib Sik Torres Strait Islanders Corporation – Noel Zaro, Kaylynn Zaro

Naomi Crellin

Matthew Doyle

Taikoz – Claudia Wherry

Lifecycle of a Chorister: Ruth McCall, Bronwyn Cleworth, Anna Sandstrom,

Hester Wright, Liz Vierboom, Amandine Petit,

Sam Allchurch

Music & Ideas: Lauren Hannay, Dr Anita Collins

Cairns Partner School Choirs - Cairns High School, St Monica's,

St Andrew's

OTHER CONCERTS, PROJECTS & GUEST APPEARANCES

Guest artists:

Martin Al-somery, Shorah Tursun, Bukhchuluun Ganburged, Phillip South, Astrid

Jorgensen – Guest Artist for Cairns GIC Camp

Opera Australia's Turandot

Our choristers formed the children's chorus for 17 performances of Giacomo

Puccini's Turandot at the Sydney Opera House

Sam Allchurch (Children's Chorus Master); Christian Badea,

Tahu Matheson (Conductors), Kim Walker (Revival Director)

Basement Jaxx, 14 April

A group of SCC choristers perform the hit "Where's your head at" with band

Basement Jaxx with orchestra in two sold out performances at the Sydney

Opera House Concert Hall

Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, 29 June

Choristers from Senior Choir and Young Men's Choir performed for patients

and for guests at their inaugural Chris O'Brien Symposium

SCIC for Deaf Foundation project: "Choral Participation for Children Who Use Cochlear Implants", 11 and 17 August

Amandine Petit (Conductor), Jane Brew (Best Practice Lead Cochlear Implant

Audiology, SCIC), Antonio Fernandez (Piano)

We worked with seven children aged 8-10 with cochlear implants on hearing assessments, a choral workshop and a singing assessment. The children attended a Paul Stanhope Choir rehearsal on 17 August, participating with the assistance of designated buddies from Stanhope Choir.

with Curtin University in Western Australia, the program aims to train more Indigenous psychologists to deliver best-practice care in high-risk communities.

STARTTS 30th Anniversary Celebrations, 20 September

Our Fairfield Choir (conducted by Nita Lawrie), performed at this special event to celebrate thirty years of the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) held at the Imperial Paradiso, Fairfield.

Opening of the new offices of the Australia Council, 25 September

Our choristers performed Dan Walker's Road Poem to celebrate the opening of the new offices of the Australia Council for the Arts.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Sydney, 17 – 19 October

with Michael Cassel Group (producers), Australian Defence Force, Sydney Youth Orchestra in a production featuring over 1500 performers from around the world at ANZ Stadium. Gondwana Choirs assembled a choir specifically for these four performances, which was prepared by Mark Donnelly.

Jandamarra: Sing for the Country (Ngalanybarra Muwayi.u), 18 October

with Sydney Conservatorium of Music Orchestra and Choir and Chamber Choir, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs' VOX, Yilimbirri Ensemble. Conducted by Elizabeth Scott.

The Sydney Children's Choir and Young Men's Choir (prepared by Elizabeth Scott and Sam Allchurch) joined forces with the Conservatorium Choirs and VOX for this performance of Paul Stanhope's major cantata at the Sydney Town Hall.

Crowe Global World Conference, 28 October

Choristers performed at the opening of the Crowe Global Conference, where Crowe Global welcomed delegates from over 75 countries in the Ballroom of the Sheraton, Hyde Park.

Voices of Angels Orchestra

Violin: Helena Rathbone, Concertmaster

Dimity Hall, Nicola Lewis, Liisa Pallandi, Kirsten Williams, Aiko Goto, Anne Sweeney, Esmeralda Tintner

Viola: Rosemary Curtin, Nicole Forsyth, Angela Bonetti

Cello: Julian Smiles, Ruben Palma

Double Bass: Josef Bisits

Harp: Genevieve Lang

Flute: Lisa Osmialowski

Clarinet: Justin Julian

Percussion: Jess Ciampa, Aedan McNamara

Members of Sydney Children's Choir performing in Opera Australia's staging of *Turandot*





GONDWANA ON THE WORLD STAGE

A telephone rings, and your call has been placed in a queue. So begins the second movement of Brett Dean's *Vexations and Devotions* for children's choir, adult choir and symphony orchestra.

Navigating the loneliness and existential angst of living in a hyperconnected world, even more relevant today than at its premiere in 2005, *Vexations* is a complex piece with the children's choir at its heart. Gondwana Voices is intimately connected with the piece, having given the premiere at the Perth International Arts Festival and then performing it at the BBC Proms and with the Australian World Orchestra.

It was a great delight that in our 30th year, Gondwana Voices was invited to Berlin to perform *Vexations and Devotions* with Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and Rundfunkchor Berlin under conductor Vladimir Jurowski. From the moment of the first rehearsal Gondwana Voices impressed all their fellow performers, composer and conductor alike with their professionalism,

their deep knowledge of the work and their musicianship. The performance, which took place in one of the world's most famous concert halls, the Berlin Philharmonie, was thrilling and memorable.

This was a special tour, one in which the choir were able to show that they indeed belonged at this level on the world stage. It was held during term time so schoolwork was squeezed in at any possible moment, on planes and buses, in airports and backstage. Prior to their arrival in Berlin, Gondwana Voices had the opportunity to present a special 30th Anniversary performance in the Swiss Church London. They were joined on stage by alumni Lotte Betts-Dean, Alexandra Oomens, Oliver Boyd and Lauren Easton and many other alumni were in attendance. Further performances were given in Radeberg, Meissen, Leipzig as well as the Australian Embassy in Berlin.

2019 was also an international touring year for Gondwana Chorale. They performed in Cambridge England and in the Baltics, a part of the world



where choral music is most profoundly appreciated. Performances included an Australian Day Filming at Australia House, Trinity College Chapel in Cambridge England, Tallinn and Tartu in Estonia, Riga in Latvia, Kaunas and Vilnius in Lithuania. Along the way they shared concerts with several highly respected choirs: E STudio, Koris Maskas, Azuaoliukas Boys Choir and Sonoros.

During 2019, it was also announced that Gondwana had been invited to represent Australia at the prestigious World Symposium on Choral Music to be held in Auckland in 2020. Leading choirs from across the globe were invited, and Gondwana (the only Australian choir selected) would be represented by Gondwana Collective, an ensemble which gathered singers from the top treble performing choirs across the organisation.

In the Berlin Philharmonie

NEW WORKS IN 2019

Paul Jarman, *One Pure Voice*

Commissioned for the combined choirs of National Choral School

Premiered at the Festival of Summer Voices, Sir John Clancy Auditorium, University of New South Wales

2019 marked the 20th year of Paul Jarman's involvement with Gondwana Choirs: Lyn Williams offered him his first commission in 1999 and since then he has become one of Australia's most popular choral composers. Both Paul's daughters are members of Gondwana National Choirs and he describes *One Pure Voice* as a thank you letter to choirs. Jarman pays tribute to a variety of choral idioms, interweaving hymn-like textures with pop-inspired ostinati, coming together in an anthemic conclusion, celebrating singing itself.

Paul Stanhope, *I am Martuwarra*

Commissioned for the Gondwana World Choral Festival

Premiered at Sounds of Australia, Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Supported by Prue Ashurst

For this work, Stanhope teamed up again with Jandamarra librettist, Steve Hawke, whose text traces the journey of the Fitzroy river (Martuwarra) from its source through to the ocean. The piece paints a picture of life along the river from the point of view of the Kija, Bunuba and Nyikina nations in the Kimberley. Stanhope uses the poem's structure to create a commensurate journey from slow trickles of water through to gushing torrents of energy, harnessing the richness of multi-layered choral forces to great effect.

Nico Muhly, *Only I*

Commissioned for the Sydney Children's Choir

Premiered at Sounds of Australia, Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Supported by Lyn Williams AM

2019 marked the first visit to Australia of celebrated American composer Nico Muhly (b.1981). Muhly's influences are wide, ranging from American minimalism to the Anglican choral tradition, and his music has been commissioned by The Metropolitan Opera, and the Tallis Scholars.

Only I sets two texts by Australian poet Roberta Sykes – *A Poem for Poets* and *Insecurity*. An exploration of the interior of the artist, the piece is loosely divided into two sections, and exploits the expressive capabilities of harmonic dissonance in upper voices. Muhly writes 'the fantastic ambiguity of the lines 'A lot of poems are lost / Born / Somewhere just around my eyes' suggested to me a sense of harmonic wandering, in which we never quite find home base. The phrases 'What is wrong? / There is no reply' are repeated several times with shifting colours, suggesting somehow a serene crisis. The piece ends wordlessly, with pulsed chords and a link between the end of part one ('Only I have known them') and part two ('And only I / Can ask the question.').'

Dan Walker, *Buda:dji*

Djabugay story and text used with permission by Dennis Hunter

Commissioned for the Gondwana Indigenous Choir

Premiered with the ACO Collective, Cairns Performing Arts Centre supported by the Australian Government through the Ministry for the Arts Indigenous Language and the Arts program

Buda:dji is the latest in a series of works commissioned for the Gondwana Indigenous Choir which brings together traditional Aboriginal and Torres Island stories and language and the distinctive choral voice of Australian composers. Dan Walker travelled to Cairns to meet Djabugay cultural custodian Dennis Hunter, who shared the story of the carpet snake and its role in the creation of Djabugay country, on which the town of Kuranda is located. Dan Walker wove this story into a lyrical and poetic song for the choir which gave the premiere alongside the Australian Chamber Orchestra Collective in October 2019.

Sally Whitwell, *Forged in the Fire*

Commissioned for the Sydney Children's Choir

Premiered at Voices of Angels, City Recital Hall

In 2018, Lyn Williams embarked on a commissioning series 'Moments that shaped Australia': choristers of the Sydney Children's Choir are asked to nominate particular moments which they see as a significant in building our nation. In 2019, we continued the series by commissioning our Principal Pianist, who enjoys a celebrated reputation as a composer, to write a piece reflecting on the 2017 Marriage Equality decision. *Forged in the Fire*, which sets text by the composer, speaks of the challenges as well as the hope that characterised this debate. It was premiered as part of the Twelve Days of Christmas program for Voices of Angels, matched with the fifth day of Christmas. Whitwell's harmonic language nods to this, using a set of interlocking fifths as a symbol of unity and the five gold rings.

Sydney Children's Choir Cultural Partnership – Sydney Living Museums

Composer in Residence – Ella Macens

The SCC Composer in Residence gives emerging composers the unique experience of writing for ensembles of specific ages and levels. Uniquely, each composer focuses on one of Sydney's great cultural institutions, researching the history and stories of the partner and facilitating SCC chorister visits to the institution, engaging them in the compositional process.

The 2018/19 Composer in Residence was Ella Macens, who wrote a suite of works based on the historic houses and museums of Sydney Living Museums. Ella's residency was supported by Composer in Residence Patron Jill Wran, whose love of new music and her long association with both Sydney Children's Choir and Sydney Living Museums made this an ideal partnership.

Works written included:

- The Lion of Sydney (Mini Singers and Junior Training Choirs)
- Do You Remember (Intermediate Training Choirs)
- The Lost Garden (Advanced Training Choir)
- The Love Token (Young Men's Choir)
- Suspended in Time (Senior Choir)



PERFORMANCE REPERTOIRE

* **Australian work**

^ **World Première Performance**

Adolphe Adam	Regina Caeli	Ladybug
O Holy Night	Don Besig & Nancy Price	John Gardner
Alice Chance	The Ghost Ship	Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
The Eye of the Sound Storm*	Donald Patriquin	John Leavitt
The Hungry Mile*	J'Entends le Moulin	Antiphonal Kyrie
It's Bonfire Season*	Eleanor Daley	John Rutter
Anders Edenroth	The Child with the Starry Crayon	Matthew Mark Luke and John from Five
The Grass is Always Greener	Elena Kats-Chernin	Childhood Lyrics
Andrew DeTeliga & Paul Jarman	Deep Sea Dreaming*	Sing a Song of Sixpence
Ancient City*	Elizabeth Poston	King Jesus Hath a Garden
Anna K Jacobs	Jesus Christ the Apple Tree	Shepherd's Pipe Carol
Complete*	Ella Macens	Joseph Twist
Annie Kwok	Stavi Stivi Ozolin*	Jubilate Deo*
Travelling*	The Love Token*^	Joyce Eilers Bacak
Arvo Part	Suspended in Time*^	Dreamer
Magnificat	Felix Mendelssohn	Kate Miller-Heidke, arr. Dan Walker
Audrey Snyder	Laudate Pueri Dominum	Our Song*
Skylark and Nightingale	Felix Reibl, arr. Ollie McGill	Kenneth Lampl
Moon at the Ruined Castle	Marliya*^	Memory's Wavering Echo*
Basement Jaxx	We Cast Our Web*^	Kerryn Joyce
Where's Your Head At	Voice Treaty Truth Now*^	Summer Cicadas*^
Ben Van Tienen	Sisters*^	Kevin Stannard
The Boy who Sticks out his Tongue*	Together*^	Pule 8
I Carry Your Heart With Me*	Ready or Not*^	Ki Nartosabdo
Benj Pasek & Justin Paul	Living in a Dream*^	Lancaran Lumbung Desa
This is Me	Sunshine in F*^	Luke Byrne
Benjamin Britten	I am the Greatest*^	The Foundling*
Spring Carol	Out Where You Are*^	Where Sails Once Flew*
Wolcum Yole	Francis Poulenc	Desert Sea*
The Birds	Tout puissant, très saint	Dayiwul Lirlmim*
A New Year Carol	Seigneur, je vous en prie	Foundling*
Bennelong	Giacomo Puccini	Three Snake Leaves*
Barrabula Barra Ma*	Turandot	Buruwan Elegy*
Bob Chilcott	Giovanni Batista Pergolesi	The Number One Train*
The Lily and the Rose	Stabat Mater Duets	Travelling Companion*
Brett Dean	Stabat Mater - Inflammatus and Accensus	Lyn Williams
The Path to Your Door*	Stabat Mater - Amen	Festive Alleluia*
Vexations and Devotions*	Stabat Mater	Ferry me Across the Water*
Bruce Springsteen, arr. Owen Elsley	Herbert Howells	Lyn Williams, text by Lucy Cousins
Dream Baby Dream*^	Come Sing and Dance	Hooray for Fish*
Carlo Gesualdo	Hildegard von Bingen, arr. Lyn Williams	Marta Keen
O Vos Omnes	O Eterne Deus	Light a Candle
Carolyn Jennings	Hodge/Rowan	Matthew Hindson
Jabberwocky	Pipes and Drums Set 2	A Wallaby in my Garden*
Christine Anu, arr. Ollie McGill	Huo Hua	Matthew Orlovich
My Island Home*^	Uzesglent Saihan Mini Nutag - Beautiful	Butterflies Dance*
Christopher Gordon	Grassland, My Home	Michael Atherton
Peace on Earth*	Iain Grandage	The Greedy Octopus*
Dan Walker	Shore	Michael Bojesen
Eight Bells and All is Well*	Ian Jefferson and Beth Daly	Eternity
Litany of Earth and Sky*	Bound for a Speck on the Map*	Michael Leighton-Jones
Road Poem*	Ivo Antognini	That Lord That Lay in Asse Stall*
The Ether of Infinity*	Canticum Novum	Michael McDermott
The Wanderer*	Jacob, arr. Hills	The Ice
Laudate for Another Place, Another Time*	God Save the Queen	Miguel Matamoros, arr. Jonathan Quick
Bamba Hunting*	Jake Runestad	Son de la Loma
The Arafura*	Come to the Woods	Morten Lauridsen
Piliga Stomp*	Nyon Nyon	Sure on this Shining Night
Buda:Dji*^	Jim Papoulis	Neil Finn
The Unicorn*	Oye	Little Fish
David Hamilton	Johannes Brahms	

Nico Muhly
Only I
Niels Rosendahl, Daniel Phillips, Ben Van Den Akker
ADF Segment
Noel Coward, arr. Carl Crossin
Nina*
Ola Gjeilo
The Rose
Ave Generosa
Otmar Macha
Hoj Hura Hoj
Paul Caldwell/Sean Ivory
Go Where I Send Thee
Paul Jarman
One Pure Voice*^
Pemulwuy*
Moko*
The Will to Climb*
Icarus*
Volta do mar Largo*
Sea of Berries*
The Captain's Tale*
Paul Jarman and Bonnie Nilsson*
Forest of Dreams*
The Sound of our Home*
Paul Stanhope
The Duck - Songs of Innocence and Joy*
Ground Zero*
The Acrobat*
I Am Martuwarra*^
Jandamarra: Sing for Country*
Peder Karlsson
Gota
Peter Jenkins
The Owls
Peter Rutherford and James Millar
Twisted Little Town*
Tiny Glow/Sail*
Ralph Vaughan Williams
Orpheus with his Lute
Silent Noon
Richard Gill
Bat Bat & A Rhyme for Ham*
Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein
Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'
The Farmer and the Cowman
Oklahoma!
Robert Hugh
Clear Water
Rodgers & Hammerstein, arr. Anton Koch
You'll Never Walk Alone
Romuald Twardowski
Alleluja
Ruth Morris Gray
The Railway Train
Sally Whitwell
Yellow Rain*
The Pizza*
Stuck*
Mary had a Stalker Lamb*

Forged in the Fire*^
Shellie Morris
Li-antha wirri yarra a Kurija*
Sherri Porterfield
Something Told the Wild Geese
Sid Robinovitch
Noche de Lluvia
Stephen DeCesare
Pure Imagination
Stephen Leek
Voices of Gondwana*
Stephen Sondheim, arr. Ed Lojeski
Selections from Into the Woods Medley
Sunarto Ciptosuwarmo
Ketawang Mijil Gondhang Kasih
Todd MacNeal
Whenever the Wind is High*
How to Get There*
Trad, arr. Alice Chance
Nuabaugatare*
Ki Keriba*
E Cumma*
Trad, arr. Parker and Shaw
What shall we do with the drunken sailor?
Trad. American, arr. Mary Goetze
The Piglets' Christmas
Trad. Arabic
Mali Shugul
Trad. Arr. Owen Elsley
I Saw Three Ships*
Trad. Congolese
Banaha
Sisi Banaha
Trad. Indonesian
Ratoh Duek
Trad. Irish, arr. Carl Crossin
The Parting Glass*
Trad. Tatar
Eyyara
Trad. Uyghur
Kizil Horaz Nahshisi
Sawakdashla
Kazil Horaz Nahshisi
Traditional arr. Carl Crossin
Bound for South Australia*
Traditional, arr. Bang and Alfira O'Sullivan
Randai Performance
Trish Delaney-Brown
Rachel
Uģis Prauliņš
Es uzkāpu kalniņā - I Climbed Up on top of the Hill
Vytautas Miskinis
Dum Medium Silentium
Warabeuta Hikaru Hayashi
Karasu Kanemon Kanzaburo - A Fire Like Sunset
Wendy Ireland
Mosquitoes
William G. James
The Three Drovers*

Carol of the Birds*
William Mathias
Be We Merry in this Feast from Salvator Mundi
Susanni from Salvator Mundi
Christe Redemptor Omnium from Salvator Mundi
Welcome, Yule from Salvator Mundi

ARRANGEMENTS

arr. Dan Walker
Away in a Manger*
Stille Nacht*
Angels from the Realms of Glory*
Ding Dong Merrily on High*
O Come all ye Faithful*
Hark the Herald*
arr. David Stanhope
Advance Australia Fair*
arr. Donald Patriquin
Ach Synku Synku
arr. Hodge/Rowan
Parade Medley
arr. Joseph Twist
The Twelve Days of Christmas*^
arr. Mac Huff
Chattanooga Choo-choo
arr. Moira Smiley
Bring me Water, Silvy
arr. Nick Page
Niska Banja
arr. Niels Rosendahl, Daniel Phillips, Ben Van Den Akker, Thomas P. Hodge
Ode to Australia*
arr. Owen Elsley
Joys Seven*
Little Drummer Boy*
arr. Richard Burchard
Ecce Dedi Verba Mea
arr. Ryuji Kamada
Senior Taiko Performance*^
arr. Stephen Leek
Waltzing Matilda*
arr. Thomas P. Hodge
Auld Lang Syne



Sydney Children's Choirs' performance of *Voices of Angels: The Twelve Days of Christmas* at the City Recital Hall

GONDWANA CHOIRS

Gondwana Choirs is the voice of Australia's youth. Through the artistic leadership of Lyn Williams AM, we create and present innovative new choral work and drive collaborations which redefine how audiences perceive choirs, and what they are capable of.

When Lyn created the Sydney Children's Choir in 1989, she wanted audiences to experience the unique and captivating sound of a well-trained children's choir. From that single choir, our performing ensembles now include the Sydney Children's Choir, Young Men's Choir and SCC Junior Performing Choir, Gondwana Voices, Gondwana Chorale, the Gondwana Indigenous Choir (GIC), and the newest Indigenous performing ensemble, Marliya. These are supported by regular and seasonal training programs, engaging up to 1,000 young people nationally each year.

Gondwana presents a range of concerts each year in leading venues and collaborates regularly with other arts organisations including the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Opera Australia and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Most recently, the national children's choir Gondwana Voices performed Brett Dean's *Vexations and Devotions* with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and Choir in the Philharmonie in Berlin.

Marliya, 'big sisters' to GIC in Cairns, performed a new full length stage work called *Spinifex Gum* at major Festivals nationally. Written by singer/song writer Felix Riebl, the performances featured Marliya with special guests Peter Garrett, Emma Donovan and Briggs. Through the unique blend of choral music, electronica, and stunning visuals, *Spinifex Gum* challenges audiences to consider confronting social issues such as

Indigenous youth incarceration.

Through our Festival of Summer Voices each January, young choristers from every state, including regional and remote areas, gather to form Australia's national youth choirs. Along with emerging composers and conductors, hundreds of young singers participate in an intensive season of activity which develops their own practice. They also engage with specialist artists who open up music of other cultures, community engagement and new collaborations. The project culminates in an incredible four-day concert series, and also includes professional development for music educators.

We engage the best Australian choral conductors, pianists, guest artists and composers. Since 1989, the choirs have commissioned or premiered hundreds of new works by Australian composers, a substantial body of work which has made a significant contribution to the artform.

Our alumni perform in opera companies, orchestras, and as contemporary artists worldwide. As composers, conductors, music teachers, pop artists, and arts workers, they are the next generation of audiences and advocates for the arts. In 2012, Gondwana Choirs won the APRA/AMC Award for Excellence in Music Education and in 2014, the APRA/AMCOS award for Excellence by an Organisation for its Artistic Program and significant contribution to Australian music since 1989.



Gondwana Choirs is the leader in Australian choral performance.

We create and present innovative new choral work, which gives voice to Australia's youth.

We provide world-class choral training by leading artists.

We provide opportunities to talented young Australian singers to perform at the highest level.

OUR VISION

To be a truly national institution, which creates excellent choral work, representative of modern Australia in all its diversity and is celebrated by audiences.

OUR VALUES

We strive for excellence, every time

We have an uncompromising commitment to the highest standards in the creation of choral art.

We offer young people skills and opportunities to perform in a professional environment with Australia's finest musicians.

Innovation is essential

We are committed to innovation and creativity in all aspects of our work. In this way, we can add to the development of choral music as an art form.

Everyone is welcome

We endeavour to give any committed and talented young person the opportunity to participate in our programs, irrespective of financial, social, physical or distance barriers.

Diversity is essential to Australia's story

We seek out Australia's best young talent, representative of all backgrounds.

We need them to truly tell modern Australia's story through song.

Audiences deserve to be inspired

We want every seat at every performance filled by delighted and uplifted audience members.

LYN WILLIAMS AM

Founder & Artistic Director

Since establishing the Sydney Children's Choir in 1989, Lyn has completely transformed the choral landscape in Australia by harnessing the incredible musical and expressive power of young voices through her world-renowned children's choirs: The Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices and the Gondwana Indigenous Choir. This has grown into the organisation, Gondwana Choirs, which puts the vocal power of young voices at the centre of its impressive and wide-reaching artistic program.

As a conductor, Lyn could have easily chosen to pursue a career working exclusively with the nation's symphony orchestras. Instead, she forged her path to create the instrument of a children's choir in Australia like no one had done before. Her approach was, and remains, premised on treating young people with complete respect as musicians. This is reciprocated by her singers being willing and able, through her choral training, to charter previously unknown artistic territory.

Lyn is in constant pursuit of the new and the exciting and draws interesting and meaningful connections between artists. In addition to her ongoing work with the Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana Voices, for the past ten years Lyn has been devoted to the creation and evolution of the Gondwana Indigenous Choir (GIC). Through Lyn's support, the singers see choral music as an ideal vehicle for the preservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island languages and cultures. Lyn has developed strong relationships with Indigenous elders and cultural custodians across Australia and has brought together these cultural custodians with composers to create new works for the choir. This work would not be possible without Lyn's artistic vision, cultural respect and integrity and this remarkable ensemble makes a unique contribution to Australia's cultural life.

Recently, Lyn's work with singer-songwriter Felix Riebl and the singers of Marliya (present and past members of the GIC) has resulted in the critically-acclaimed festival show *Spinifex Gum*, which has featured at almost every Australian arts festival since its premiere at the Adelaide Festival in 2018. This work is political, challenging, and uplifting and evinces that our young Australians should be at the centre of our national discourse. Lyn conducts Marliya on their two albums – *Spinifex Gum* (2017) and *Sisters* (2019).

Lyn continues to maintain connections with professional orchestras as Music Director of several significant national events and as a trusted chorus master. She is frequently engaged to speak and lead workshops at international events such as *Europa Cantat* (2018) and *Africa Cantat* (2020).

Lyn's choirs have shaped the course of thousands of lives, with alumni now performing in opera houses and concert halls across the world, completing ground-breaking medical research and working as skilled and passionate leaders of non-profit organisations.

Lyn's dedication and contribution to the Arts has been acknowledged on multiple occasions with: the Excellence by an Individual at the 2019 Art Music Awards; the Australia Council for the Arts' prestigious Don Banks Music Award in 2017 for outstanding and sustained contribution to music in Australia in recognition of her lifework as founder and director of Gondwana Choirs; the Medal of the Order of Australia (2004); Member of the Order of Australia (2019). She is also a composer, winning the 2009 APRA-Australian Music Centre Vocal/Choral Work of the Year for her work *A Flock of Stars*.

Above - Lyn Williams accepts the Excellence by an Individual at the 2019 Art Music Awards

2019 PARTNERS

MAJOR GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



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Indigenous Languages and Arts

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

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PRINCIPAL PARTNER
Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

MAJOR PARTNERS



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AUSTRALIA



St Stephen's,
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GONDWANA WORLD CHORAL FESTIVAL PARTNERS

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OUR SUPPORTERS

From our beginnings 30 years ago, creativity has been a constant. Lyn William's innovative vision has been made possible by individuals for whom supporting Gondwana Choirs is an investment in excellence and opportunity for young people throughout Australia.

Supporting Gondwana Choirs sustains our programs and so much more. Join the Gondwana Choirs community today and be part of our incredible journey.

Find out more at gondwana.org.au/support-us

Thank you to all who have supported Gondwana Choirs in 2019:

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE Donations \$20,000 & above

Hooper Shaw Foundation
Vicki Olsson
Lyn Williams AM

CHAIR'S CIRCLE Donations \$10,000 & above

Anonymous
Peter Goes & Michelle Harvey
Longmuir Family
The Magnolia Foundation
Samway Family
Todd Family Foundation
Jill Wran

INNOVATIONS PATRONS PLATINUM Donations \$5000 & above

Helen & Matthew Allchurch
Anonymous (2)
Prue Ashurst
Christine Bishop
Larry Boyd & Barbara Caine AM
Emma & Andrew Maple Brown

Martin Dickson AM & Susie Dickson
Herschell Family
Elena Kats-Chernin
Ian & Pam McGaw
O'Brien Foundation
Surveying Solutions PLDickson

INNOVATIONS PATRONS GOLD Donations \$2000 & above

America Family
Anonymous (2)
Baz & Keltie Archer
Sonya Bajenov & David Cassidy
Tessa Boyd-Caine & John Chan
Rosemary Curtin & Alexander Wonhas
Grimshaw Family
Louise Herron

Dr Ian Jacobs & Dr Chris Jacobs
Kozak Family
Kate Lidbetter & Peter Kerin
Robyn Martin-Weber
Karen Mundine
Anthony & Annie Whealy
Helen Williams
Melanie Wroth

INNOVATIONS PATRONS SILVER Donations \$500 & above

Anonymous (4)
Bortz Family
Karin Brown
Alexandra Cameron-Fraser
Gertraud & Richard Cohen
Rebecca Davies AO
Daryl & Kate Dixon
Dr Janice Dudley, in memory of
Raymond Dudley
Evans/Green Family
Richard & Mary Evans
Kate Gillingham & James Sheller
Francis Greep & Michael Blake
Gorbatov Family
David G Hannay
Ms Bernadette Heard
Prof. John Horvath AO
Andrea & Michael Huelin
Darryl & Katherine Hodgkinson

Kains Family
Michael Kertesz
Elisabeth McDonald
Dr Jean McPherson
Pieter & Liz Oomens
Catherine Playoust & Elliott Gyger
Rees Family
Anna Robilliard
Vanessa & Mark Rohanna
On & Beth Sin
WGCDR Michael Stuart-Watt
Penny & Imogen Sturrock
Mike and Briony Tyquin
van Proctor Family
Ray Wilson OAM in memory of
James Agapitos OAM
Connie Wong
Els Wynen & David Vanzeitti
Mark & Anna Yates

OUR PEOPLE

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR PATRONS

The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC,
Governor of New South Wales and Mr Dennis Wilson

GONDWANA CHOIRS BOARD

Kate Lidbetter, *Chair*
Lyn Williams AM
Tessa Boyd-Caine
Nicholas James
David Longmuir
Karen Mundine
Caroline Sharpen (concluded May 2019)

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR ARTISTS 2019

Artistic Director Lyn Williams AM
Associate Artistic Director Sam Allchurch
Head of Training Choirs Amandine Petit
Associate Conductor Elizabeth Vierboom
Principal Pianist Sally Whitwell
Conductors Bronwyn Cleworth, Ruth McCall, Atalya Masi,
Anna Sandstrom, Allison Harrigan, Elizabeth Scott, Jessica Westcott, Jane
Nieminska, Joanna Brooke
Pianists Heinz Schweers, Antonio Fernandez, Nita Lawrie
Guest Artists Ben Burton, Erica Byrne, Luke Byrne, Szu Yu Chen, Timothy
Cuniffe, Mark Donnelly, Owen Elsley, Conrad Hamill,
Alice Hanna, Jem Harding, Clare Howard Race, Kate Johnson, Lanneke
Jones, Erzs Marosszeky, Catherine McKay, Nicholas Ng, Andrew O'Connor,
Brendan O'Mahony, Anthony Pasquill, Estella Roche, Josie Ryan, Jeremy So,
Paul Stanhope

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL ARTISTS 2019

Artistic Director Lyn Williams AM
International Guest Conductor Simon Halsey CBE
Junior Gondwana Amandine Petit and Hester Wright, *conductors*;
Robin Parkin, *pianist*
Gondwana Novus Kate Albury and Kim Sutherland OAM, *conductors*;
Alice Hanna, *pianist*
Gondwana Voices Lyn Williams AM and Mark O'Leary OAM,
conductors; Jeremy So, *pianist*
Gondwana Singers Paul Jarman and Chris Burcin, *conductors*; Sally
Whitwell, *pianist*
Gondwana Chorale Paul Holley OAM and Carl Crossin OAM,
conductors; Kate Johnson, *pianist*
Latitude 34 Elizabeth Scott and Rowan Johnston, *conductors*; Luke
Byrne, *pianist*
Gondwana Conducting Academy Graeme Morton AM, *Director*;
Lauren Hannay, *pianist*
Gondwana Composer School Paul Stanhope and
Annie Kwok, *Directors*

Special Performance Projects

SINGING TAIKOZ: Ryuji Hamada, Kerryn Joyce
RANDAI-SUARA INDONESIA DANCE: Murtala & Alfira
JAVANESE GAMELAN AND VOCAL MUSIC: Vi King Lim
MUSICAL THEATRE: Peter Hayward, Alexander Andrews,
Hayden Rodgers
A CAPPELLA: Naomi Crellin
MUSIC THERAPY: Bonnie Nilsson
MUSIC MEDIA: Hamish Boyd

NCS Auditions

Luke Byrne, Carl Crossin, Mark Donnelly, Jane Edwards, Charissa
Ferguson, Anna Fraser, Anne Gralow, Violet Hari, Patrice Hogan, Paul
Holley, Kylie Los, Mark O'Leary, Amandine Petit, Sue Powell, Leanne
Roobol, Kim Sutherland, Lyn Williams, Hester Wright

GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR 2019

Artistic Director Lyn Williams AM
Conductors Stephanie Grenning, Lauren Hannay, Violet Hari
Pianist Lauren Hannay

SPINIFEX GUM

Creative Director Felix Riebl
Choreographer Deborah Brown
Choir Director Lyn Williams AM
Lighting Chloe Ogilvie

GONDWANA CHOIRS ADMINISTRATION 2019

Founder & Artistic Director Lyn Williams AM
Executive Director Bernie Heard
Associate Artistic Director Sam Allchurch
Artistic Coordinator Lachlan Cameron
Accounts Administrator Wendy Cundy
National Projects Coordinator Georgia Ginnivan
Development Manager Francis Greep
Finance Manager Susan Hart
Community Projects Coordinator Shabnam Hinton
Chorister Manager Heather Kelley
Head of SCC Training Choirs Amandine Petit
SCC Coordinator Madeleine Picard
Artistic Producer Sarah Thomas
Marketing Manager Kristy Wandmaker
Digital Content Producer Ebony Wightman & Rainbow Chan

Casual and contract staff:

NCS Chorister Support Coordinator Nuala Williams
SCC Assistants Lana Kains & Rebecca O'Hanlon
Spinifex Gum Producers Claire Portek & Tegan Redinbaugh
Spinifex Gum Development Manager Bronwyn Lobb
GWCF Producer Tegan Reginbaugh
GWCF Associate Producer Arnold Klugkist
GWCF Marketing Manager Genevieve Lang
Opera chaperones Claudia Douglas, Erica Byrne, Adele Kozak, Jerome
Studdy
Philanthropy Manager Rachel Whealy
Cairns GIC Coordinators Margaret Wymarra & Bronwyn Osbourne
Cairns GIC Assistant Zhane James
Spinifex Gum Tour Manager Rachel Whealy
Marliya Tour Tutors Dee McFaul, Prue Ashurst
Marliya Tour Supervisor Rosemary Cook

On the next page - Sydney Children's Choir workshop at the Gondwana World Choral
Festival

VOLUNTEERS 2019

Sincere thanks to the 139 volunteers who supported our choristers in 2019, giving generously of their time - a total of 8,725 hours across the Sydney Children's Choir, National Choral School, Gondwana Indigenous Choir, and the Gondwana World Choral Festival. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers!

Volunteer Doctors: Marion Tait & Anita Green.

Ulviyya Afaridan, Heather Albury, Johanna Andreasen, Genevieve Andresson, Prue Ashurst, Sonya Bajenov, Kate Barratt, Michael Bell, Hazel Bingon, Beate Birr, Bridget Bolliger, Pru Borger, Jenny Bortz, Jane Bradshaw, Lucianne Brady, Ruby Brady, Jane Brew, Jane Brookes, Ruth Brunsdon, Jodie Bullock, Jayne Bye, Bianca Ceissman, Gertraud Cohen, Mary Colls, Anneliese Conoulty, Sally Cook, Vanessa Corbin, Maria Costello, Kerryn Daly, Kristina Dodds, Catherine Dolle-Samuel, Angela Durrant, Sharon Edwards, Supriya Eliezer, Cameron Evans, Janine Evans Holt, Liz Evans, Kerrie Evers, Ziyan Fan, Jane Fissenden, Suzanne Gardiner, Emily Gelineau, Nik Glass, Alexander Gorbato, Tarekul Hasan, Jeanne Fourie-Hattingh, Katja Habith, Kathryn Harriss, Janelle Heron, Philip Hersch, Melanie Hirst, Irfana Hodzic, Lisa Horvath, Louise Horwood, Sally Johnstone, Heidi Jones, Megan Kalucy, Maria Katsiaris, Ben Kelley, Melissa Kenny, Sara King, Yoko Koyobashi, Barb Kozak, Jenny Lanyon, Amelia Lawrence, Catherine Leamey, Doris Lecuna, Yana Liu, Yuanxun Alina Lin, Yen-Hsin Lin, Anna Lissienko, Bill Lloyd, Delena Lologa, Nicole Lucas, Marie Maalouf, Mandy Macarthur,

Pene MacGeorge, Mary Makarios, Tara Marsh, Toby Martin, Danny May, Dee McFaul, Mary McCusker, Heather McKay, Maria McQuinn, Skye Mead, Annette Milroy, Christina Mimmocchi, Amanda Miller, Ros Moxham, Loretta Musgrave, Jean-Claude Neiderer, Van Nguyen, Emma Nicholas, Brenda Nielsen, James Nielsen, Trent Oliver, Louisa O'Toole, Catherine Phillips, Emma Pierce, Damien Power, Rachel Power, Sally Pyke, Penny Rees, Estella Roche, Mark Rohanna, Vanessa Rohanna, Sima Rowshan, Sarah Sandstad, Mary Scicchitano, Anushiya Selvarajah, Lisa Shaw, Rosa Sierra, Sabine Simmonds, Jennifer Spillane, Diana Steinberg, Tricia Studdy, Alvin Sun, XiaoMian Kasey Sun, Rebecca Sutherland, Anne Sweeney, Caroline Taylor-Newling, Briony Tyquin, Isobel Tyquin, Jackie Vincent, Lu Wan, Jason Winsbury, Peter Wolfe, William Yates, Funda Yilmaz, Yvonne Young, Emma Zampieri, Neda Zare, Anastasia Zasentseva, Cathy Zhang, Han Zhang, Wei (Emily) Zhao

Sincere thanks to the many generous families who provided homes for the visiting choristers during the Gondwana World Choral Festival:

Andressen, Bortz, Boyd-Caine, Brew, Buchanan/Smallbone, Burns/O'Toole, Campbell, Colleran, Constable, Constable, Crutchley, Daly, Deitz/Lennox, Di Marco, Downey Twiss, Easson/Corbin, Eck/McNamee, Eisenmann, Epps/Murphy, Farrer/Dargie, Fekete/Goldrei, Ferrie, Fletcher/Nicholas, Girdis/Unwin, Golding/King, Goodman/Vorsay, Gorbato/Kalucy, Gray, Green/Evans, Hayes, Hodgkiss, Hopkins, Hughes/Neilson, Johnston/May, Joyce/Townsend, Juarez, Kellahe/Fairweather, Kelley, Kenny, Kepert/Wilson, Lang, Lang/Svenne, MacNamara, McKay, Mullen/Rogers, Nielsen/Steinberg, Ng/Lee, Oates/Bilous, Porrit/MacGeorge, Power, Rees, Rogers, Ronan, Roumanoff, Schmiga/Altmann, Simpson/Borg, Sheller/Gillingham, Speyer Groen/McNicol, Tan/Dodds, Terley-Li, Thomas/Powell,

Thorley/Chadwick, Twomey, Tyquin, Utian, Vincent, Wallace/Nakamura, Watson/Sicchitano, Williams/Wilson/Mitchell/Cooper, Winsbury/Johnstone, Wishart/Winter, Wonhas/Curtin, Wright/Bonetti

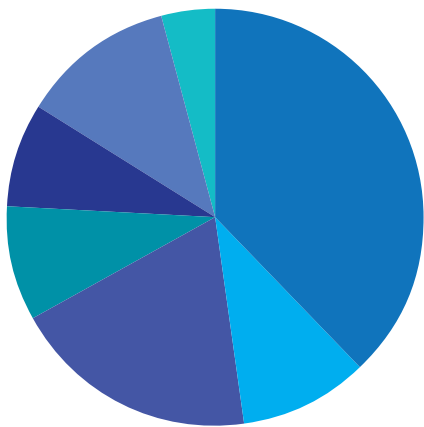
And also to the many families and staff from our partner schools:

- Abbotsleigh
- Pymble Ladies College
- SCEGGS Darlinghurst
- St Scholastica's College



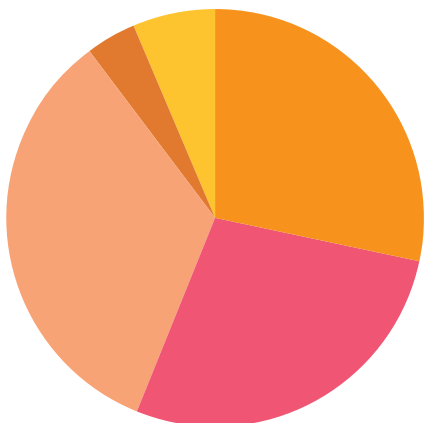
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the full, audited 2019 Financial Report, please visit
<https://www.gondwana.org.au/annual-reports-policies/>



INCOME

Participation fees	1,261,206	38%
Tour fees	340,430	10%
Box office	639,949	19%
Government grants	306,152	9%
Sponsorship	260,000	8%
Donations	398,033	12%
Other income	149,318	4%
TOTAL	3,355,088	



EXPENDITURE

Travel & accommodation	960,734	28%
Production	924,241	27%
Salaries, fees & superannuation	1,120,930	33%
Marketing & merchandising	150,433	4%
Administration	217,760	6%
TOTAL	3,374,098	



Spinifex Gum performance by Marliya

