



GONDWANA CHOIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir outside the Palais Augarten, Vienna

CONTENTS



*Gondwana Voices and Sydney Children's Choir
prepare for their European tour*

4	Gondwana Choirs	20	Philanthropy
6	Calendar	20	Summary
8	Welcome	20	CPA Matched Funding
10	Major Tours	21	Cairns Philanthropy Dinner
10	Gondwana Chorale	21	Annual Giving Campaign
10	Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir	22	Innovations Patrons
11	Gondwana Voices & Sydney Children's Choir	23	Rio Tinto
12	Collaborations	24	Partners
12	The Idea of North/National Choral School	25	Vienna Project Partners
12	Barangaroo/Aurora Eora	26	2017 Statistics
13	The Australian Chamber Orchestra	28	Performance Repertoire
14	Vienna Boys' Choir/Austrian National Tourist Office	30	Board of Directors
15	Performances	31	Gondwana Choirs
15	Summary	32	Concise Annual Report
15	Festival of Summer Voices	33	Statement of Surplus or Deficit & Other Comprehensive Income
16	Southern Lights Northern Lights	34	Statement of Financial Position
16	Songs of My Country, Sydney	35	Statement of Changes in Equity
17	Songs of My Country, Cairns	35	Statement of Cash Flows
17	Voices of Angels Lullabies	36	Directors' Declaration
18	Commissions & Recordings	37	Independent Auditor's Report
18	Boori Guman		
18	Marliya & Spinifex Gum		
19	Bursaries		

GONDWANA CHOIRS



Lyn Williams conducts Sydney Children's Choir and members of Gondwana National Choirs in Voices of Angels

GONDWANA CHOIRS comprises the most accomplished choral groups of young people in Australia. The organisation is synonymous with performance excellence and has a reputation for the highest standards of young people's choral music in Australia and internationally.

When Lyn Williams OAM 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 this single choir, the organisation now includes over 500 children in the Sydney Children's Choir program; 350 choristers, composers and conductors in Gondwana National Choral School; and the choral hubs for the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir in Cairns and Sydney.

Sydney Children's Choir and the two national ensembles, Gondwana Voices and Gondwana Chorale, regularly perform with the country's leading orchestras and ensembles in the great symphonic works and new music by Australian composers. Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir has a proud record of commissioning and performing works in Indigenous languages and count performers such as Kate Miller-Heidke, Christine Anu and Jessica Mauboy among their collaborators. SCC and GICC most recently performed with the world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir in *Songs of My Country* in Sydney and Cairns in 2017.

Lyn Williams' extraordinary vision for the organisation includes many exciting performing opportunities for all of the choirs. Most recently, Marliya, a choir made up of choristers from Cairns, performed a new full-length stage work called *Spinifex Gum* at the Adelaide Festival. Written by singer/song writer Felix Riebl, the work was conducted by Lyn Williams and featured Peter Garrett, Emma Donovan and Briggs.

Alumni of Gondwana Choirs perform in opera companies and orchestras worldwide. They contribute to Australian culture as composers, conductors, music teachers and pop artists they are medical professionals, business leaders and social justice advocates, whose lifelong love of music fostered by Gondwana Choirs draws them to become the next generation of arts practitioners, audiences and philanthropists.

The **SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR** proudly represents Sydney as the most prestigious and well-known vocal program for young singers of school age. Founded as a single ensemble in 1989 by Lyn Williams, it now comprises approximately 500 young people, comprising of performing choirs and training ensembles. The performing ensembles are instantly recognised for their crystal clear sound and known for their precision and discipline, developing through regular training a courageous and compelling performance style.

The singers of Sydney Children's Choir are intimately connected to contemporary and traditional repertoire throughout their training. They are deeply engaged in the creation and presentation of new work at all levels of the program, through collaborations with emerging and established composers. The body of work created over the past 29 years for the Sydney Children's Choir is now integral to Australian choral education, and has supported the development of many Australian composers.

The Sydney Children's Choir regularly collaborates with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and has performed at events such as the Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony, World Youth Day, Sydney Festival and with the Youtube Symphony Orchestra. It has toured extensively, including Japan, Finland, China, France, Spain, England and Mongolia. In 2017 the choir toured with Gondwana Voices to the Baltic States and Iceland and hosted Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the Vienna Boys' Choir in Sydney for the major collaboration in the Sydney Opera House, *Songs of My Country*.



Gondwana National Choral School

Established by Lyn Williams in 1997, **GONDWANA NATIONAL CHOIRS** are truly national ensembles whose members come from throughout Australia. They are the children of dairy farmers and miners, teachers and doctors, engineers, office workers and musicians. They perform music that is close to their hearts: new Australian works which capture the mystery and grandeur of our land and display the cultural diversity of the Australian people. The work of the choirs is a powerful expression of the determination of young Australians to work together to create extraordinary musical ensembles.

The national ensembles form in Sydney each January at **GONDWANA NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL** for intensive training and performances. The program welcomes more than 330 choristers ages 10-24 and includes programs for developing composers and conductors.

Gondwana Voices, Australia's national children's choir, regularly performs with the country's leading ensembles. It tours nationally and internationally and has taken part in many international choral festivals. Gondwana Voices undertook a tour to the Eastern Kimberley in 2013, was a resident ensemble at the Taipei International Choral Festival in 2014 and embarked on a major tour to celebrate its 20th Anniversary in 2017 to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Iceland.

Australia's national youth choir, Gondwana Chorale, was established in 2008 and has performed nationally and internationally, most recently to the USA in 2017. In 2015 the choir formed the Gondwana Centenary Chorale with young singers from and Turkey, France and New Zealand to commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign, giving the world premiere of James Ledger's *War Music* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. In 2019 the choir will follow in its younger sibling's footsteps with a major tour to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the United Kingdom.

Created in 2008 by Lyn Williams, the **GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR** (GICC) is the most exciting 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.

GICC provides an opportunity for Indigenous young people to celebrate their identity through choral performance of Indigenous songs and stories. The program is built on a foundation of choral hubs in Cairns, Western Sydney and Inner Sydney. Through a weekly commitment, choristers receive ongoing musical training based on the world-renowned model of the Sydney Children's Choir, presented by leading national choral artists.

Through the GICC program, Gondwana Choirs has commissioned and created new works, including many in Indigenous languages, notably the children's opera *Ngailu, Boy of the Stars* by Sani Townson and Dan Walker, *Spinifex Gum - a song cycle* by Felix Riebl and most recently, *Boori Guman* by Owen Elsely and Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Elder, Gudju Gudju performed with the Sydney Children's Choir and the Vienna Boys' Choir.

The choir regularly collaborates the Australian Chamber Orchestra and with Indigenous artists including Archie Roach, Jessica Mauboy, Lou Bennett, Uncle Seaman Dan, Dr G, Christine Anu, Troy Cassar-Daley, Briggs and Emma Donovan. They have performed at G20 Summit, the Cairns NAIDOC Gala Ball and multiple times at the Sydney Opera House.

In 2017, GICC undertook its first European tour, introducing audiences to music in multiple Indigenous languages and the exciting arrangements of traditional songs and dances from the Torres Strait. This tour also included the start of the major collaboration with the Vienna Boys' Choir and the Sydney Children's Choir in *Songs of My Country*.

CALENDAR



- Sydney Children's Choir
- Gondwana National Choirs
- Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

Aurora Eora at the Cutaway, Barangaroo

JANUARY

- 9 - 22
 - 18 - 21
 - 18
 - 19
 - 20
 - 20
 - 20 - 15 Feb
 - 23 - 7 Feb
 - 24
 - 26
 - 30
 - 30
 - 31
- National Choral School, UNSW Sydney
 - **Festival of Summer Voices, Sydney**
 - Opening Gala, Clancy Auditorium UNSW
 - The Idea of North in Concert, Clancy Auditorium UNSW
 - A Cappella Academy, Verbrugghen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music
 - Gondwana Chorale in Recital, Sydney Conservatorium of Music
 - King Roger, Opera Australia, Sydney Opera House
 - **Gondwana Chorale USA Tour**
 - Memorial Chapel, University of Redlands, Los Angeles CA
 - Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford University, San Francisco CA
 - The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Washington DC
 - GICC Program commences
 - Temple Performing Arts Center, Philadelphia PA

FEBRUARY

- 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 8
- Trinity Church, Wall St, New York NY
 - Slosberg Music Center, Brandeis University, Boston MA
 - First Church in Cambridge, Cambridge MA

MARCH

- 17 - 31 March
 - 3 - 5
 - 10 - 12
 - 14
 - 25
 - 28
- Sydney Children's Choir Program commences
 - Tosca, Opera Australia, Sydney Opera House
 - Senior Performing Choirs Camp, Naamaroo
 - Cairns GICC Camp, Lake Tinaroo
 - Cairns Philanthropy Dinner, Cairns Pullman International
 - Aurora Eora, The Cutaway, Barangaroo
 - Cairns Rotary Dinner, Novotel Cairns

APRIL

- 1-5
 - 7-13
- GICC Europe Intensive Rehearsals, Cairns

MAY

- 3-16
 - 6
 - 8
 - 13 & 14
- Gondwana Voices & Sydney Children's Choir Europe Tour Intensive Rehearsals, Sydney
 - **Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir European Tour (Vienna Project)**
 - European School, Liebfrauenkirche, Frankfurt
 - Carmina Slovenica, Maribor
 - Mutterstag Concerts with The Vienna Boys' Choir, Die MuTh, Vienna

JUNE

- 27 - 28
 - 3 - 4
 - 3
 - 10
 - 10
 - 11
 - 12
 - 24
 - 28
 - 29 - 3 July
 - 30
 - 1 July
- Junior Choirs Camp, Naamaroo. Sydney
 - Sydney GICC Camp Naamaroo
 - Cairns GICC & ACO, Uluru Festival
 - **Junior Performing Choir Regional NSW Tour**
 - Lithgow Uniting Church
 - Bathurst Songfest rehearsals & workshops
 - Bathurst Songfest
 - Gondwana Voices & Sydney Children's Choir Europe Tour Intensive Rehearsals, Sydney
 - Southern Lights Northern Lights, City Recital Hall, Sydney
 - **Young Men's Choir Tour Pemulwuy QLD**
 - Choralfest - Brisbane Grammar
 - Pemulwuy Festival Finale, QPAC



JUNE CONTINUED	29-17 July	●● Gondwana Voices /Sydney Children's Choir Tour to Baltics & Iceland
JULY	1	● NAIDOC Gala Ball, Cairns
	3	● Toomkirik, Tallin, Estonia
	4	●● NAIDOC NSW Parliament Celebrations
	4	● St Elizabeth Church, Parnu, Estonia
	5	● Riga Cathedral, Riga, Latvia
	6	● Riga Latvian Society Gold Hall, Riga, Latvia
	8	● Pazaislis Festival, Open Air Museum of Lithuania Barn Theatre, Kaunas, Lithuania
	9	● Alytus Centre of Culture and Communication, Kaunas, Lithuania
	11	● Church of St Kotryna, Vilnius, Lithuania
	13	● Harpa Concert Hall, Reykjavik, Iceland
	13	● Skahalt Cathedral, Skahalt, Iceland
	19 - 24	● Mahler Symphony No.3 with Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs
	24	● Helpmann Awards, Sydney
AUGUST	6	● Red Riding Hood, Sydney Conservatorium
SEPTEMBER	26 - 9 Sept.	● National Choral School 2018 Auditions
	6	● Minerals Council of Australia Parliamentary Dinner, Canberra
	10	● Springtime Concert, Chatswood
	15	● Performance at The Tanks, GICC & ACO Collective, Cairns
OCTOBER	5 - 12	● Cairns SongFest Rehearsals
	7 - 12	●● Songs of My Country Intensive Rehearsals
	10	●● Songs of My Country, Sydney
	13	●● Songs of My Country, Cairns
NOVEMBER	7	● Sydney Children's Choir 2018 Auditions commence
DECEMBER	3	● Of Mice & Mozart, UNSW
	9 - 10	●● Voices of Angels Intensive Rehearsals
	11 & 12	●● Voices of Angels, City Recital Hall
	13 - 21	● Spinifex Gum Rehearsals, Cairns

WELCOME



Lyn Williams conducts the Sydney Children's Choir
in *Songs of My Country*, Sydney

LYN WILLIAMS OAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR KATE LIDBETTER, BOARD CHAIR

Over nearly three decades Gondwana Choirs has established itself as an organisation that provides quality choral experiences for young people, collaborates with Australia's finest and carries Australian choral music to the world. 2017 was a vintage year with no less than three international tours and a wealth of commissions and collaborations and major performances.

Training and performance opportunities continued to be offered through our three choir programs; the Sydney Children's Choir (474 choristers), Gondwana National Choirs (326) and the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir (80). We also presented a range of unique programs to develop emerging conductors and composers, as well as professional learning experiences for educators and community music leaders.

Touring

There were an unprecedented five tours in 2017. The year began with a USA tour for the Gondwana Chorale. This was followed by the first International tour for the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir who collaborated with the European School Frankfurt, Carmina Slovenica and the Vienna Boys Choir. They delighted audiences with works in a multitude of Indigenous languages.

July saw the SCC Young Men's Choir at the Pemulwuy Festival in Brisbane whilst Gondwana Voices (with a large SCC cohort) were fortunate to tour to the Baltics and Iceland including a memorable collaboration with the Riga Cathedral Girl's Choir. There were a number of regional and interstate tours, a great experience for choristers and building audiences throughout Australia.

Collaborations

The Idea of North was the ensemble in residence for our A Cappella Academy at National Choral School. The Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir continued its ongoing relationship with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. The ACO's Inspire Quartet

attended the Choir's camp, a small group travelled to Uluru to perform with the ACO and then the ACO collective invited the choir to sing with the orchestra in their Cairns performance. This concert included a new work, *Birinyi* by Luke Byrne.

Other Major Performances

Gondwana Choirs presented our first Festival of Summer Voices, a series of five concerts held in conjunction with National Choral School. The SCC performed *Aurora Eora* at Barangaroo's Cutaway. This spectacularly staged performance was mounted with the Barangaroo Delivery Authority and included art works and animations from significant artists. The works of Alice Chance based around stories of Barangaroo were featured in this performance. A choral installation drawn from one of the works was heard in the Cutaway for several weeks.

Songs of My Country was a major collaboration between the Vienna Boys Choir, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the Sydney Children's Choir that took place in Sydney and Cairns in October.

Gondwana Choirs presented two concerts in collaboration with City Recital Hall. *Southern Lights*, *Northern Lights* preceded the Baltics tour and the year rounded out with the ever popular *Voices of Angels*.

The Cairns Choir was honoured to perform for the NAIDOC Gala Ball in Cairns. Our new SCC Junior Performing Choir were delightful performers in *Red-Riding-Hood* as part of the Out of the Shadows Festival – rediscovering Jewish Music and Theatre at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Recordings

SOAR – a recording of Gondwana Chorale was released early in the year, receiving good reviews. A new experience for Gondwana Choirs was to receive airplay on Triple J, appear on Rage and be reviewed in Rolling Stone! This was the case for Marliya, a group



Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

of young women who hail from the Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. *Spinifex Gum* a long-term collaboration with Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill was released in October. In addition to the Choir the album features Peter Garrett, Emma Donovan and Briggs. With festival performances in the pipeline, the future looks very bright for Marliya.

Financial and Management

2017 demonstrated continued strong results for self-presented performances, increased media coverage and online resources. Also pleasing was the modest surplus achieved for the year, the result of significant fundraising efforts. This fundraising mitigated the impact of our first year without Australia Council funding, which saw total government funding reduce from 14% to 6%. It also enabled the successful GICC tour and presentation of *Songs of My Country* in Sydney and Cairns, with the Vienna Boys' Choir. This project attracted many new supporters and sponsorships, including new connections with the local business community in Cairns, support from the Cairns Regional Council, a fund matching grant from Creative Partnerships, major project partners Metal Manufactures Limited, and Accor Hotels.

Special relationships were built with our Presenting Partner, the Austrian National Tourist Office, and maintained with Rio Tinto, Principal Partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. With Rio Tinto's ongoing support this program for young Indigenous people has reached an inspiring level of artistic excellence and cultural significance and identity.

Through a new partnership with UNSW, National Choral School enjoyed improved and increased venue and accommodation, with the capacity to develop new creative projects and more ensembles. In 2017 we also introduced the *Festival of Summer Voices*, developing our audience and presenting five concerts (previously two) across the final week in Sydney.

Gondwana's staff was particularly stable in 2017, reflecting the strong guidance of Executive Director Bernie Heard and her leadership team. The company always prioritises the development of skills and encourages talent, and it was pleasing to see long-term staff members move on to other exciting artistic and personal challenges during the year. We wish them well.

It is with pleasure that we commend the 2017 Annual Report to the Gondwana Choirs community.

MAJOR HONOUR FOR LYN WILLIAMS 8 March 2017

Lyn Williams OAM was awarded the Australia Council for the Arts' prestigious Don Banks Music Award for outstanding and sustained contribution to music in Australia. The honour is in recognition of her lifework as founder of Gondwana Choirs, which began 29 years ago with the creation of the Sydney Children's Choir. Lyn, of course, is known for her ground breaking and innovative work. In addition to founding three internationally-recognised children's choirs (The Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir), Lyn has worked closely with many of Australia's leading composers, leading to the commissioning and premières of more than 300 new works.

Lyn was presented with the award by Tony Grybowski, CEO of the Australia Council, following the Sydney performance of *Songs of My Country* in October.

MAJOR TOURS



Gondwana Chorale conducted by Paul Holley at the Kennedy Center for the Arts

GONDWANA CHORALE

USA January/February

Australia's national youth choir, Gondwana Chorale, embarked on its first tour to the USA following intensive rehearsals at Gondwana National Choral School. Paul Holley and Carl Crossin led the 43 choristers in an adventurous program that featured emerging composers Alice Chance, Joseph Twist, Luke Byrne and Daniel Brinsmead. A tour highlight was performing with host choirs USC Chamber Singers, Redlands Chapel Singers, Stanford Chamber Chorale, Temple University Concert Choir and Boston City Singers.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Concert 1 | Tuesday 24 January, 7.30 pm
Memorial Chapel, University of Redlands
Los Angeles CA |
| Concert 2 | Thursday 26 January, 7.30pm
Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford University
San Francisco CA |
| Concert 3 | Monday 30 January, 6pm
The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts
Washington DC |
| Concert 4 | Tuesday 31 January, 7.30pm
Temple Performing Arts Center
Philadelphia PA |
| Concert 5 | Thursday 2 February, pm
Trinity Church, Wall St
New York NY |
| Concert 6 | Friday 3 February, 8pm
Slosberg Music Center, Brandeis University
Boston MA |
| Concert 7 | Saturday 4 February, 7.30pm
First Church in Cambridge
Cambridge MA |

Paul Holley & Carl Crossin, Conductors
Sam Allchurch, Tour Manager
Anita Green, Tour Doctor



Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the Vienna Boys Choir perform

GICC

Germany/Slovenia/Austria May

22 young singers from Cairns took part in Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir's first major international tour with residencies and performances in Frankfurt, Maribor and Vienna.

The first full day in Frankfurt included a workshop with students from the school and a tour of the Roman remains and forest in outlying Saalburg. On Saturday 6 May, the choir prepared for its first European concert, with the choir of the European School, at the beautiful Gothic Liebfraukirche in the historic centre of Frankfurt.

The next destination was Slovenia by way of a short flight to Graz and a picturesque coach ride to Maribor, the country's second largest city. Maribor is home to the renowned girls' choir Carmina Slovenica and after a morning workshop and rehearsal, both choirs performed at the restored 19th Century theatre Union Hall.

The choir then travelled the scenic route to Vienna by coach and commenced workshops with the Vienna Boys' Choir at their home in the Palais Augarten. The choir was honoured to perform with the VBC in two concerts as part of Mothers Day celebrations in the MuTh, the VBC's dedicated concert hall, which were enthusiastically received. Whilst in Vienna, the choir gave a private performance at the offices of Cochlear and a flash-performance at Vienna Airport.

GICC introduced European audiences the sounds of contemporary Australia in performances featuring composers Luke Byrne, Alice Chance, Dan Walker, Paul Stanhope, Shellie Morris and the wonderful arrangements of traditional songs and dances from the Torres Strait.

Lyn Williams, Artistic Director
Bernie Heard, General Manager
Lauren Hannay, Pianist
Alice Neldner, Tour Administrator
Melanie Wroth, Tour Doctor



*Gondwana Voices and Sydney Children's Choir
perform in Skálholt, Iceland*

GONDWANA VOICES & SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania/Iceland July

To celebrate its 20th Anniversary, Gondwana Voices combined with choristers from The Sydney Children's Choir for an incredibly exciting tour to countries renowned for their love of choral music. The tour saw 48 choristers perform for over 1500 audience members in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Iceland. The programs performed included a large body of works by Australian composers in addition to repertoire from each of the 4 countries.

The tour began in Estonia by attending the national Song Festival *Laulupidu*, where the choir witnessed 20,000 singers take to the stage in Tallinn's purpose built choral stadium. Inspired by the country's passion for choral singing, the choir presented their first performance of the tour in the church atop the hill overlooking Tallinn.

The choir was welcomed into the homes of choristers from the Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir to experience Latvia's capital. Together they performed in the stunning Riga Dome Cathedral, ending with two combined works, newly commissioned from each country: Rihards Dubra of Latvia and Dan Walker of Australia.

Travelling further south, the choir featured in the Pazaislis Festival in Kaunas and continued on to Vilnius to finish the Baltic section of the tour.

A day of flying took Gondwana Voices to picturesque Iceland where they performed in Reykjavik's spectacular Harpa building and let their voices ring in the picturesque and historically significant Skálholt Cathedral for the 9th and final performance of the tour.

Hayllar Music Tours ran the Family and Friends tour which followed the choir's itinerary, enjoying each performance of the choir.

Concert 1	Monday 3 July, 5pm Toomkirik Tallin, Estonia
Concert 2	Tuesday 4 July, 1pm St Elizabeth Church Parnu, Estonia
Concert 3	Wednesday 5 July, 7pm Riga Cathedral Riga, Latvia
Concert 4	Thursday 6 July, 7pm Riga Latvian Society Gold Hall Riga, Latvia
Concert 5	Saturday 8 July Pazaislis Festival, 7pm Open Air Museum of Lithuania Barn Theatre Kaunas, Lithuania
Concert 6	Sunday 9 July, 7pm Alytus Centre of Culture and Communication Kaunas, Lithuania
Concert 7	Tuesday 11 July, 7pm Church of St Kotryna Vilnius, Lithuania
Concert 8	Thursday 13 July, 2pm Harpa Concert Hall Reykjavik, Iceland
Concert 9	Thursday 13 July, 8pm Skahalt Cathedral Skahalt, Iceland

Lyn Williams, Artistic Director
Mark O'Leary, Conductor
Sally Whitwell, Pianist
Emma Barnett & Emma Carson, Tour Managers
Anita Green & Melanie Wroth, Tour Doctors & Supervisors
Nuala Williams, Supervisor

COLLABORATIONS



THE IDEA OF NORTH / NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL

In January 1997, Lyn Williams and Mark O'Leary stood before the first truly national children's choir of singers who had come from all across the country to form Gondwana Voices. In 2017 the twentieth anniversary of this project was celebrated with the largest National Choral School to date. Newly resident at the University of New South Wales, 310 singers, seven composers, eight conducting students and a team of artistic and administrative staff and volunteers came together for a fortnight of excellent music-making.

Collaborating with the country's most exciting artists has become a feature of National Choral School and in 2017 we welcomed the renowned a cappella ensemble *The Idea of North* as guest directors of the **A Cappella Academy**. Approximately half of the choirs' rehearsal time was devoted to preparing a history of a cappella singing in the twentieth century, devised and arranged by TION's music director, Naomi Crellin. Over the fortnight, under the direction of Naomi and Associate Artis Nick Begbie, six National Choral School ensembles came together in different combinations to create the sound worlds and styles of the era's most iconic a cappella groups, ranging from the Comedian Harmonists and the Andrews Sisters to Abba and Snow Patrol.

Presented in two concerts on Saturday 21 January at the Verbruggen Hall of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, A Cappella Academy delighted audiences with its exuberance and variety, especially the final number, a medley from blockbuster film *Pitch Perfect*.

Videos of these performances continue to be our most popular, with collectively 200 million plus views on YouTube alone.



BARANGAROO / AURORA EORA

Saturday 25 March 2017

Lyn Williams, Artistic Director & Conductor

The Sydney Children's Choir

Western Sydney Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

Aurora Eora was the second public art commission in a series of Artistic Associate projects opened by the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, bringing the stories of Barangaroo to life through song and art.

As part of ongoing collaborations with cultural institutions in the city, Sydney Children's Choir joined with Barangaroo Delivery Authority in 2016 to produce a series of original compositions by Sydney Children's Choir Composer-In-Residence Alice Chance that respond to the Barangaroo site. Alice has been a long-time member of Gondwana Chorale. In 2017 she toured with them to the USA where they performed her composition *Words for Wine* and in 2018 is writing songs based on Torres Strait stories for Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir in 2018.

As the 2016 SCC Composer-In-Residence, Alice composed six original songs for various ensembles within Sydney Children's Choir. Each song represents a moment in Barangaroo's rich and diverse history. The songs reflect on the continuity of Australia's First Peoples and tell the stories of the site, from Barangaroo and Bennelong's first encounter with European settlers, to the colonial town, the Great Depression, Sydney Harbour and the urban city.

In *Aurora Eora*, Lyn Williams led more than 300 choristers in performances of all six songs commissioned songs at The Cutaway, Barangaroo to a delighted 600+ audience at a free twilight concert. The performances were enhanced by large screens with animations reflecting each song. A choral installation was created from the performance of one of the works and was in the Cutaway for several weeks following the performance.



Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir perform with the ACO Collective at the Tanks, Cairns

THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Gondwana Choirs and the Australian Chamber Orchestra have a long personal and professional history of exciting music making. ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti and Lyn Williams have been close friends and artistic collaborators since they attended the Conservatorium High School together as students.

The organisations' performance collaborations date back to 2000 when the Sydney Children's Choir performed a program of mostly Australian music at the Huntington Festival in Mudgee. Next was the multi-artform *Parables, Lullabies and Secrets*, where Lyn, Gondwana Voices and the ACO performed songs and lyrical poetry by Michael Leunig, Neil Finn, Brett Dean and Richard Tognetti to great acclaim in the ACO's 2001 National Subscription Season.

In 2008, the organisations collaborated on the national stage, with the ACO presenting Gondwana Choirs as part of the Orchestra's national subscription season in *The Red Tree* – a new work commissioned by the ACO from young Australian composer Michael Yeserski and Richard Tognetti, with illustrated projections from Shaun Tan's eponymous award-winning book.

Since 2016, Gondwana Choirs and the ACO have been regularly collaborating via the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the ACO's Inspire Quartet. 2016 saw the Quartet participate in the Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir's intensive weekend music camp and they performed together later in the year at the opening of the public performance space at the Munro Martin Parklands in Cairns.

2017 saw the ACO and GICC collaborate on three separate occasions. The first was in March with the Inspire Quartet joining the choir at its residential camp, following on from the success of the previous year. The camp was the perfect opportunity to rehearse

new string arrangements of *Stormbird* and *Birinyi*, two pieces commissioned by the ACO for Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir by composer Luke Byrne and Yidinji leader Gimuy Yidinji Elder Gudju Gudju Fourmile, based on local stories.

ACO Inspire Quartet's violinist Jenny Khafagi spoke warmly of her experience at the camp:

"The camp was one of the most inspiring and moving experiences I've ever had. We began by rehearsing with the choir. Their singing and ensemble were impeccable, and the energy of the tutors and musicians in the room was contagious!"

In June, the ACO invited a small group of GICC to perform with them at the Uluru Festival in Central Australia. Together they performed an all-Australian program that included a new Acknowledgment of Country, *Stormbird* and *Buruwan Elegy* all by Luke Byrne, as well new arrangements of the Traditional Songs from the Torres Strait Islands. The choristers also performed for the children and elders of the local Mutitjulu community, who also hosted the singers for a meal.

In September, the ACO Collective and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir gave a collaborative performance to a wildly enthusiastic and full house at the Tanks Arts Centre in Cairns. The performance featured *Stormbird* and *Birinyi*, heard for the first time in their arrangement for string orchestra.



VIENNA BOYS' CHOIR/AUSTRIAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE

Lyn Williams OAM

When the Australian Director of the Austrian National Tourist Office, Astrid Mulholland-Licht, planted the seed for a ground-breaking collaboration between the Vienna Boys Choir and the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, it was clear that this project could provide remarkable opportunities to all those involved.

I immediately sensed the potential of juxtaposing the Vienna Boys Choir, whose choral heritage dates back several hundred years, with the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir who represent a culture tens of thousands of years old. Together with the Sydney Children's Choir, this unique project showcased a remarkable trilogy of choirs.

There were many stages to this project. The Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir was selected to be the core choir for this endeavour and I will never forget the moment I announced to the choir that we would be travelling to Europe to sing with the Vienna Boys Choir. A moment of awestruck silence was followed by intense googling: Vienna Boys Choir, Vienna, Austria, boys, passports, winter coats ... Their world was about to change.

The Vienna Project was GICC's first major international tour and we were able to include two other important stops beforehand: starting off in Frankfurt with a residency at the European School, then to Maribor in Slovenia for a collaboration with the renowned girls' choir Carmina Slovenica followed by a wonderful week in Vienna that culminated in two performances at the MuTh, the home of the Vienna Boys Choir. The Vienna Boys Choir were wonderful hosts and we will long remember our visits to the Palais Augarten where we not only shared music through rehearsals but meals, games and many laughs.

A new commissioned work? We are Gondwana and of course a new work was always going to be a centrepiece of this collaboration. Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Elder, Gudju Gudju shared with us the story of *Boori Guman*, the first fire, and the three warriors tasked with

bringing fire back for the community: just perfect for our three choirs to sing. Owen Elsley's work is colourful, joyful and optimistic and the story has also been captured in a book illustrated by members of the choir.

In Australia, the performances of *Songs of My Country* explored cultural heritage expressed through song. The Gondwana Choirs performed all-Australian programs including texts in four indigenous languages. The Vienna Boys' Choir performed works of Austria and neighbouring countries. It is clear that culture, history and language have a profound impact on the unique sound of each ensemble, yet they can come together as one gathering around *Boori Guman* (One Fire).

Thanks to Gerald Wirth, the staff and choristers of the Vienna Boys' Choir for being such enthusiastic collaborators in this exploration of song and culture.

I would like to thank Astrid Mulholland-Licht for her inspired idea and the Austrian National Tourist Office for their partnership throughout the entire venture. Thanks also to our loyal donors and corporate partners – especially Rio Tinto, Principal Partner of GICC and the major partners for this project, Metal Manufacturers Limited and Accor Hotels.

Moving three choirs around the country to present two major concerts was a considerable undertaking. Thank you to the enormously dedicated and talented administrative and artistic teams and General Manager Bernie Heard, who led this project with such tenacity and passion.

And of course there are singers, hundreds of them, who bring us joy and optimism.

PERFORMANCES



Tosca with Opera Australia



SUMMARY

2017 as the most prolific and productive on record across all three arms of the organisation. Our choirs gave seventy eight performances in eight countries. In addition to the major self-present and co-presentations detailed in the following pages, Gondwana Choirs continued to enjoy performing with the nation's leading ensembles and

In January, choristers from the Sydney Children's Choir provided children's choruses for two productions in Opera Australia's summer season: Szymanowski's *King Roger* in Kasper Holton's production from the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, was conducted by Andrea Molino. Our children's chorus of 15 singers gave 8 performances of this complex score. Puccini's much-loved *Tosca* also featured 12 choristers in 13 performances conducted by Christian Badea and Tahu Matheson in John Bell's compelling production.

In July, over 60 choirsters from Sydney Children's Choir joined the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to perform Mahler's Symphony No.3 under the baton of the orchestra's Chief Conductor and Artistic Director David Robertson. Other SCC performances included Lithgow and Bathurst in their regional NSW tour Choralfest in Brisbane and a charming production of *Red Riding Hood* at the Sydney Conservatorium.

September marked an historic moment as members of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Sydney Children's Choir were the first to sing the Australian Anthem in the ACT's local Ngunawal language. The venue was no less than the Great Hall of Parliament House for the Minerals Council of Australia Parliamentary dinner, supported by GICC's Principal Partner, Rio Tinto. The translation was created in consultation with local language custodian Tyrone Bell and linguist Dr Doug Marmion and performed to 500 guests including the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and politicians and business leaders from across the country.

FESTIVAL OF SUMMER VOICES

OPENING GALA

Wednesday 18 January 2017 at 7pm
Sir John Clancy Auditorium, UNSW

THE IDEA OF NORTH IN CONCERT

Friday 20 January 2017, 7pm
Sir John Clancy Auditorium, UNSW

A CAPPELLA ACADEMY

Saturday 21 January 2017, 3pm & 6.30pm
Verbruggen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music

GONDWANA CHORALE IN RECITAL

Saturday 21 January 2017, 5.15pm
Music Workshop, Sydney Conservatorium of Music

2017 marked the inaugural *Festival of Summer Voices* - a much-expanded performance schedule to mark the culmination of two intensive weeks National Choral School. More than 2200 people attend the festival's five concerts that showcased not only "traditional" Gondwana Choirs repertoire but led choristers and audiences in new directions as a whole new range of ensembles tackled 100 years of contemporary a cappella music.

Resident Artists The Idea of North were exemplary in displaying that pop music needs as much rigour, rehearsals technique and understanding of style as classical music. Artistic Director Naomi Crellin presented programs of great variety and ingenious arrangements that challenged choristers and delighted the audience.

Gondwana Chorale presented a taut and vocally thrilling recital under conductors Paul Holley and Carl Crossin, repertoire that received standing ovations in their tour to the USA that followed on from National Choirs School.



SOUTHERN LIGHTS NORTHERN LIGHTS

Wednesday 28 June 2017, 7pm
City Recital Hall, Angel Place, Sydney

Lyn Williams, Mark O'Leary, Sam Allchurch, Owen Elsely,
Amandine Petit, Conductors
Murtala, Guest Artist
Sally Whitwell, Jem Harding, Piano

Gondwana Voices, Australia's national children's choir, has secured a reputation as a world-class ensemble, capable of performing complex music at a professional standard. Lyn Williams OAM formed the treble choir Gondwana Voices in 1997 where young musicians from across the Australian continent could discover others who share their passion for singing.

On the eve of their 20th Anniversary tour to the Baltic and Iceland, Gondwana Voices was joined by the Sydney Children's Choir to perform a diverse range of music from Australia and the countries visited on the International Tour.

Australian composers were represented with works by Dan Walker, Paul Jarman, Michael Atherton, Ruth McCall, Joseph Twist and Paul Stanhope. Also included in the program were the Gondwana Choirs renowned arrangements of Traditional Songs from the Torres Strait Islands and the virtuosic *Ratoh Duek*, Sitting Dances from Aceh, Indonesia developed with Murtala from Suara Indonesia Dance.

Songs by Arvo Pärt and Veljo Tormis (Estonia); Vytautas Miškinis (Lithuania) and Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir (Iceland) were part of the concert tour repertoire that were performed in this concert, as were two ethereal pieces by Kenneth Lampl & Kirsten Lampl. The concert concluded with an excerpt from *Jandamarra: Sing for the Country* by Paul Stanhope, with English text by Steve Hawke and Bunuba text based on song words by June Oscar & Patsy Bedford.



SONGS OF MY COUNTRY SYDNEY

Tuesday 10 October, 2017, 7pm
Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Oliver Stech, Conductor & Pianist, Vienna Boys' Choir
Lyn Williams, Conductor, Gondwana Choirs
Sam Allchurch, Associate Conductor, Sydney Children's Choir
Sally Whitwell, Lauren Hannay, Jem Harding, Pianists

The Australian segment of this collaboration began on 7 October with the arrival in Sydney of Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir from Cairns and the Vienna Boys' Choir. Joint rehearsals with the Sydney Children's Choir began at the Conservatorium High School where the full sound world of the new work for all three choirs, *Boori Guman*, was heard for the first time. Final rehearsals took place at UNSW on 9 October where the choirs were joined by the two Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir ensembles from Western and Inner-Sydney.

Concert day began with media calls on the steps of the Opera House and sound checks onstage throughout the afternoon. The sold-out concert featured 225 choristers from Sydney Children's Choir, 40 choristers from the combined Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and 23 from the Vienna Boys' Choir - truly a magnificent spectacle and a wonderful experience for the young performers.

Songs of My Country explored cultural heritage expressed through song. The Gondwana Choirs (Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir) performed an all Australian program including texts in four indigenous languages. The Vienna boys performed works of Austria and neighbouring countries. It was clear from the performances that culture, history and language have a profound impact on the unique sound of each ensemble yet they came together as one gathering around *Boori Guman* (One Fire).



SONGS OF MY COUNTRY CAIRNS

Friday 13 October, 2017, 7pm

Cairns Convention Centre

Oliver Stech, Conductor & Pianist, Vienna Boys Choir

Lyn Williams, Conductor, Gondwana Choirs

Chris Burcin, Conductor, Cairns Songfest Choir

Sally Whitwell, Lauren Hannay, Pianists

CairnsGICC and the Vienna Boys Choir flew to Cairns on Wednesday 11 October and 40 choristers from Sydney Children's Choir joined them the following day. The first afternoon in Cairns was one of great cultural significance for the two choirs as it was spent at Crystal Cascades with Gudju Gudju of the Gimuy Walibara Yidinji, the traditional owners of Cairns (Gimuy). Later in the afternoon, the group left for Copperlode Dam (Place of Many Sparks) where the Rainbow Serpent can still be seen today in the form of a rainbow.

In the preceding week, Cairns-based conductor Chris Burcin began rehearsals with over 200 local choristers who formed the Cairns Songfest Choir especially for this performance in Cairns. On Thursday afternoon, all four choirs joined together to rehearse *Boori Guman* and the combined repertoire.

The large space of the Convention Centre was filled to capacity and the local audience was able to experience a high calibre of choral music in addition to seeing their own Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir performing in such distinguished company.

The project encompassed all that Gondwana Choirs lives and breathes: introducing audiences to music by living Australian composers and traditional songs from the Torres Strait; commissioning new work; international collaborations; and performing to the high standards set by Artistic Director Lyn Williams. The support of corporate partners and individual donors enabled this project to proceed and reach 6000 audience members in five cities in four countries.



VOICES OF ANGELS LULLABIES

Monday 11 & Tuesday 12 December 2017, 7pm

City Recital Hall, Angel Place, Sydney

Lyn Williams & Sam Allchurch, Conductors

Kirsten Williams, Violin Soloist

Bukhchuluun Ganburged, Guest Artist

Sally Whitwell, Piano

Voices of Angels Orchestra

Voices of Angels continues to be a joyful part of Sydney's Christmas calendar. The performances are a culmination of months of creative and focussed preparation by the incredible artistic and operations team, and of course the young singers of The Sydney Children's Choir and Latitude 34, a choir of young adults formed earlier this year at Gondwana National Choral School.

Each culture has their own distinct and beautiful ways of lulling their young children to sleep with song. One of the oldest known lullabies is etched onto a Babylonian tablet dating from around 2000BC. Since then, lullabies have remained an important way of passing on cultural knowledge and tradition from one generation to another.

The program began with a suite of lullabies from around the world, the melodies knitted into a complete work by Australian composer Owen Elsley. A highlight was the beautiful music of Mongolian throat singer and horse-hair fiddle player Bukhchuluun Ganburged whom Gondwana Choirs first worked with in 2010. A highlight of the performances was *Visions*, a new work by John Rutter for solo violin, children's choir and string orchestra.

Thank you to our partners at City Recital Hall, in particular Elaine Chia and Renata Kaldor, who achieve so much as they present diverse programming and support Australian creative communities.

COMMISSIONS & RECORDINGS



The cover of *Boori Guman* book

BOORI GUMAN COMMISSION AND CHILDREN'S BOOK

Boori Guman is based on the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji fire story and is now a major new work for multiple choirs by Owen Elsley and a beautiful children's book illustrated by members of Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. The story and words of *Boori Guman* were given to Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir by Gudju Gudju of the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji. Gudju Gudju and Elsley collaborated on the text and transcribing it into its musical setting.

Elsley says, "In the heat and humidity of the Cairns wet season, we travelled to Copperlode Dam where Gudju Gudju, Lyn Williams and I spoke of ... the excitement of bringing together choirs from all over the world. I had never been to Cairns before, but being there, seeing the beauty of the landscape and lifestyle left an impression that continued to inspire me as the new commissioned work, *Boori Guman*, was created."

In the beginning, Gudju Gudju (the Rainbow Serpent) was the only one who had fire. In order to cook food and to warm themselves, the people resolved to get the fire for themselves. They chose the three most powerful warriors in the village: Djudulu (the pigeon), Jinjarlum (the grasshopper) and Badjin (the little black bird). Each tries in turn to get the fire, but it is swift Badjin who succeeds, taking the fire back on her tail. The people celebrated and chased Gudju Gudju into the water of the cascades, where he can still be seen warming himself by the sun in the form of a rainbow.

The work premièred at *Songs of My Country* in the Sydney Opera House performed by Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, the Vienna Boys' Choir and the Sydney Children's Choir. It was repeated three days later in Cairns.

Commissioning of this work was supported by a grant from the Regional Arts Development Fund, a partnership between the Queensland Government and Cairns Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



MARLIYA & SPINIFEX GUM ALBUM RELEASE

Marliya is a group of young Indigenous singers based in Cairns, whose music goes straight to the heart. Born out of a collaboration between Gondwana Choirs and Felix Riebl, these young women sing with a warmth and richness that belies their age.

In 2015, Gondwana Choirs commissioned a new work from Felix Riebl for Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, premiering *Spinifex Gum* – a song cycle at National Choral School 2016. Felix visited the Pilbara three times, meeting and developing relationships members of Indigenous communities in Karratha and Roebourne. On one trip, 35 Indigenous choristers joined him, performing as part of the Red Earth Arts Festival.

The original 30-minute song cycle explores aspects of indigenous life in the Pilbara, incorporating Yindjibarndi language. Over the next two years, Felix and his partner Ollie McGill would add more works, expanding *Spinifex Gum* into a full album, which was released in October 2017.

In addition to Marliya and Riebl, the album features guest vocalists Adam Briggs, Peter Garrett and Emma Donovan. Its unique musical landscape of comprises treated field recordings, programmed rhythms, organic instrumentation and above all, the overarching power of human voices, bearing stories crying out to be heard.

"Peppered with treated field recordings, it invites comparison with M.I.A.'s *Kala*: see the penetrating title track, with its rapid-fire chorale, fractured industrial samples and sand-rattling beat. 4/5 stars."
Rolling Stone Magazine

BURSARIES

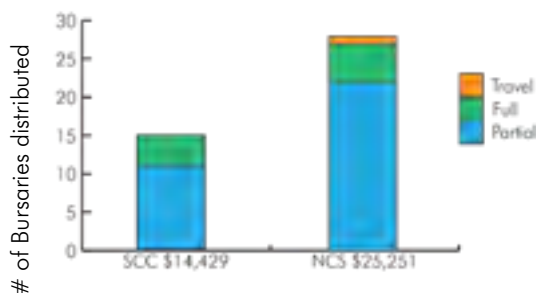


"It's more than just amazing music - it's lifelong friends and priceless memories."
NCS 2017 Bursary Recipient

One of the most important core values of Gondwana Choirs is that of Accessibility. We believe that all our young people deserve the opportunity to participate in our programs and to perform at a professional level with the finest ensembles in the country.

Key to accessibility is that Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir is provided at no cost to choristers or their families. Furthermore, we strive to keep our other two programs, the Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana National Choral School, available to all talented musicians, including those whose families cannot afford participation fees or travel from regional or remote areas.

The conduit for these affected choristers and their families is Gondwana Choirs Bursary Fund which is supported by personal giving and trusts and foundations. Each year, 100% of the Bursary Fund is distributed to successful applicants. Applications are considered by a Board-appointed panel consisting of Executive Director Bernie Heard, Board Member Karen Mundine (CEO, Reconciliation Australia) and the relevant program managers.



Gifts to the Bursary Fund can be made when paying for program fees or through our secure donation platform at:
<https://secure.gondwana.org.au/donate>



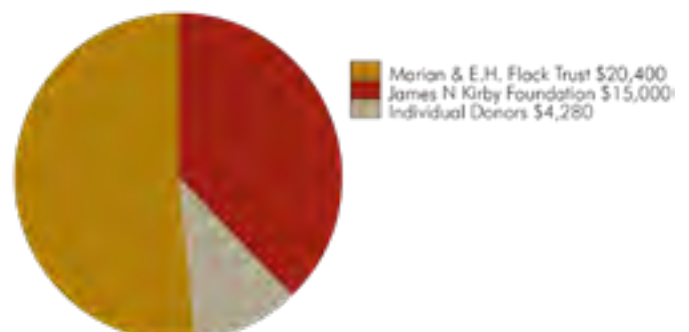
MARIAN & E.H. FLACK TRUST JAMES N KIRBY FOUNDATION

Gondwana Choirs is most grateful for the major contributions to the Bursary Fund from both the Marian & E.H Flack Trust and the James N Kirby Foundation in 2017. With the support of these two trusts and individual donations, Gondwana Choirs subsidised almost \$40,000 worth of fees for choristers to participate in Sydney Children's Choir and National Choral School.

Edwin Flack was the Senior Partner of the group that eventually became known as PricewaterhouseCoopers. The Marian & E.H Flack Trust has been making annual grants since 1935 to a variety of charitable institutions and diverse causes that seek to benefit and improve a broad range of philanthropic causes throughout Australia.

The James N Kirby Foundation is a private ancillary fund established by the late Sir James Kirby a time when major philanthropic initiatives in Australia were extremely rare. The foundation distributes approximately \$1M in grants each year.

The impact of Bursary assistance cannot be overstated to the Gondwana Choirs' community. Thank you once again for your support in 2017.



PHILANTHROPY



SUMMARY

Gondwana Choirs has seen extraordinary growth in its reach, importance and significance throughout its history due to Lyn's incredible energy, exceptional artistic standards and inspirational ability to communicate with young people. Key to supporting the organisation's vision is secure income from a diverse range of sources as possible.

Over the past 5 years, donations to Gondwana Choirs (individual donors; grants from Trusts and Foundations; donations from private Trusts) have grown at a steady rate of around 5% p/a; while Government support has decreased, and sponsorship remained steady.

Our donors support the wide range of program activities and projects of Gondwana Choirs, including:

- Young people from across Australia achieving artistic excellence through participation in dedicated training programs resulting in exciting performances, projects and collaborations;
- A proven track record of contributing to the artistic richness of Australia through the creation and presentation of new work;
- Life-changing opportunities for young Indigenous Australians, particularly girls;
- Access to world class musical training for talented young Australians who are disadvantaged financially or geographically; and
- Exciting plans for program expansion, projects and collaborations well into the future.

A sincere thank you to our donors whose generous assistance enables us realise our dreams. We promise to astound, uplift and inspire you.

Read more about philanthropic giving at Gondwana Choirs at: <http://gondwana.org.au/support-us/philanthropic-support/>



CPA MATCHED FUNDING

Participation in Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir is provided at no costs to its participants or their families. For such an ambitious project such as the Vienna Project that spanned two continents, vast amounts of planning and substantial fundraising efforts were required.

Creative Partnerships Australia Plus1 helps not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations develop and run more effective fundraising campaigns, boost their fundraising skills and secure new backers, through dollar-for-dollar matched funding. Plus1 helps organisations attract new donors, build valuable relationships and networks for new and diverse revenue sources, and boost fundraising skills.

In addition, many supporters and investors see matched funding as a means of extending their contribution—a matched fundraising campaign can be a powerful incentive in securing first-time investment from previously untapped donors or philanthropists.

Gondwana Choirs was a recipient of a Plus 1 Matched Funding Grant in late 2016, which enabled us to kick-start the European part of this project. Individual donations up to a total of \$50,000 were matched dollar-for-dollar, effectively doubling the value of individual gifts. Thus, over \$100,000 was raised between November 2016 and April 2017 that significantly offset the cost of Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir European tour.

PLUS 1 OUTCOMES FOR GONDWANA CHOIRS

44	Individual Donors
29	New Donors
8	Corporate Donors, including sponsorships and business partnerships
8	New Corporate Donors

Thank you to Creative Partnerships Australia and to those who supported the Vienna Project.



Gerib Sik Dance Troupe and family

CAIRNS PHILANTHROPY DINNER

Tuesday, 14 March, 6:30pm
Cairns Pullman International

The Cairns Philanthropy Dinner was just one initiative to raise money for the Vienna Project to get Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir to Europe. This was Gondwana Choirs' first awareness raising and fund raising event in Cairns and judging by its popularity, it won't be the last.

Thank you to all in Cairns who helped make the evening such a success, with over \$8000 raised. Over 170 people filled the ballroom at the Cairns Pullman International for an evening of song, dance, fine food and drink.

In addition to performances by Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, guests were treated to a special performance by the wonderful Gerib Sik Torres Strait Islanders Corporation Dance Troupe.

Guests included The Hon. Warren Entsch MP, Federal Member for Leichhardt and Cr Bob Manning OAM, Mayor of Cairns Regional Council. Thanks to our corporate partners and their guests, including CoralK Partners, David G Hannay, Kelly Wealth Services, Cairns Airport, IPN Medical Centres and O'Connor Law. Thanks to event partners, the Pullman Cairns International, Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort, Staging Connections, Kwik Copy Cairns and Ticket Socket, our project partner, the Austrian National Tourist Office, and of course, to our wonderful parent volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it such a beautiful event.

A highlight of the evening was the Silent Auction, which saw prizes snapped up as the auction closed. Thank you to all who donated such wonderful prizes and to those who happily placed the highest bids.



Composer Alice Chance

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2017

Young musicians have had their lives shaped by formative experiences in our programs for more than 27 years. Many are now professional musicians who developed the skills necessary to excel in their field during their years in our programs, others have taken the Gondwana Choirs ethos of hard work and dedication to enrich the lives of others as teachers, medical professionals and social justice advocates. Here is how five of our distinguished alumni answered "Where would I be without Gondwana Choirs?"

Alice Chance, Composer

Gondwana Choirs has given me incredible opportunities that helped me to form my identity as a musician and composer.

Tessa Boyd-Caine, CEO, Health Justice Australia

What I learned have been lessons for life: how hard you have to work to elevate many individual voices into unison or harmony; and how worthwhile that effort is, with its collective impact far outweighing that of any individual.

Tionne Seden, First Year Student, Doctor of Medicine, UQ

We had been blessed with the opportunity to learn songs which had been passed down through generations and it was our responsibility to share them with the world.

Pascal Herrington, Tenor, Nationaltheater Mannheim

Being in Sydney Children's Choir taught me how to use my ears, how to blend, to be aware of around me and take in everything that is happening.

Glenn Christiansen, Violinist, Australian Chamber Orchestra

As a young kid from Mackay, I definitely wouldn't be having a professional career in music without my time in Gondwana Choirs.

As we approach our 30th anniversary, Gondwana Choirs is keen to gather stories from alumni from all programs and all years. If you have a story to tell about your experiences in Gondwana Choirs or how being in choir has helped shape your life, please contact Development Manager Francis Greep.
francis.greep@gondwana.org.au

INNOVATIONS PATRONS 2017

Thank you to those who have supported Gondwana Choirs in 2017:

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Donations \$20,000 & above

Vicki Olsson
Shaw Family
Kim Williams & Catherine Dovey through Williams Dovey Creative Fund
Anonymous (1)

INNOVATIONS PATRONS PLATINUM

Donations \$5,000-\$20,000

Ainsworth Herschell Family	Peter Goes & Michelle Harvey	Todd Family Foundation
Christine Bishop	In loving memory of Aisne & Ross Krieg,	Lyn Williams OAM
Larry Boyd & Barbara Caine AM	Magda & Ferenc Kozák	Anonymous (1)
Martin Dickson AM & Susie Dickson	The Magnolia Foundation	
Daryl & Kate Dixon	Samway Family	

INNOVATIONS PATRONS GOLD

Donations \$2,000-\$5,000

Matthew & Helen Allchurch	Kate Lidbetter & Peter Kerin	Melanie Wroth
Tessa Boyd-Caine & John Chan	Longmuir Family	Anonymous (2)
Grimshaw Family	Mitchell Family	
Hans & Petra Henkell	Helen Williams	

INNOVATIONS PATRONS SILVER

Donations \$500-\$2,000

America Family	Kains Family	Rotary Club of Cairns Sunrise
Belinda Ashe & David Duncan	Lee Family	Rotary Club of Cairns West
Prue Ashurst	Elisabeth McDonald	Caroline Sharpen & Andrew Parker
Karin Brown	Robyn Martin-Weber	Dimity & Julian Smiles
Cairns Regional Council	Miller Cohen Family <i>in memory of Leora</i>	Michele Tjeuw & Alan Yap
Alexandra Cameron-Fraser	Ken & Elizabeth Nielsen	WGCDR Michael Stuart-Watt
Rosemary Curtin & Alex Wonhas	Ron, Lynn & Marcus Ogden	Penny & Imogen Sturrock
Dr John Dargavel	Dr Donna M O'Sullivan	Els Wynen & David Vanzeiti
Dr Janice Dudley <i>in memory of Raymond Dudley</i>	Pieter & Elizabeth Oomens	Frances & Gary Whatling
Katy Evans	Elizabeth Penington	Judith Wheeldon
Gorbatov Family	Catherine Playoust & Elliott Gyger	Ray Wilson OAM <i>in memory of James Agapitos OAM</i>
Hairhouse Warehouse-Cairns Central	Anna Robilliard	Mark & Anna Yates
Darryl & Katherine Hodgkinson	Vanessa & Mark Rohanna	Anonymous (9)
Prof. Diana Horvath AO & Prof. John Horvath AO	Robert & Jenny Rowland	
Hofflin Family	Rotary Club of Cairns Mulgrave	

INNOVATIONS PATRONS BRONZE

Gifts to \$500

Sajidah Abdullah & Scott Morrison	Shirley Goldrei & Alan Fekete	R & C Michaels	Clara Tenniswood
Carole Baker	Susan Grant	Ross Moller	Dr Murray & Kirsten Towne
Sue Barnsley	Belinda and Scott Griffin	David Moser	Rose and David Trevelyan
Mrs Lorette Barton	Stuart and Gail Hazell	Diana O'Neil	Rod & Melinda Unmack
Almuth Cornelia Beck	Gaye Headlam	Tania Panico	Karin Von Strokirch
Steve Burns & Louisa O'Toole	Mary Heath	Corinne Patching	Peta Weaver
CBRE Cairns	Patricia & Martin Hendriks	Andrew Peart	Chela Weitzel
Capricorn Star Charters	Sue Hewitt	Sally Pierce	Nuala Williams
Jane & Christopher Brew	Louise Hughes	Denise Playoust	Wittenoom Louw Family
Kerin Brown	Mrs Beverley Johnson	Giorgio Pompei	Rotary Club of Cairns Southside
Mark Brusasco	Sally Josh	Lauren R Power	Toni Wynne
Sue Burton	Carolyn Kay	Mr Colin Prebble	Wei Family
Frances Carlile	Leanne Knowles	Robert & Lucinda Regan	Anonymous (9)
Zinia Chan	Annie Kwok	Kate Reid	
Kathleen Chiswell	Lynette Leigh	Sylvie Renaud-Calmel	
Caroline Cockburn	Kate Lester	Toni Roediger	
John & Elizabeth Curtin	Norman Long	Joann Schmider	
Kathy Day	Johanna Andreasen	Coral Seaborn	
Ms Alison Deitz	Greg Massingham	Niamh Stephenson	
Sharon Edwards & Russell Singe	Gavin Morrison & Rachel McCallum	Anita Sullivan	
Warren Faithfull	Sarah McNaughton	Suhasini Sumithra	
Johannes Fritsch & Susan Collins	Drs Catriona McNeil & Stephen Fuller	Marie Taifalos	

RIO TINTO



From left: Rio Tinto Executives Chris Salisbury, Joanne Farrell, Jean-Sebastian Jacques with Lyn Williams and members of the Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

PRINCIPAL PARTNER, GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Gondwana Choirs' relationship with Rio Tinto celebrates extraordinary success as it enters its sixth year. Throughout this time, Rio Tinto has been the Principal Partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and its ongoing support has enabled the program to grow and thrive, providing extraordinary opportunities for young Indigenous people throughout Australia.

Central to this program is the preservation and sharing of language and story, through song. As connections with local elders, cultural custodians and community leaders builds in the regions of our choirs, we see a growing trust and willingness to share with the choir, and recognise their potential as advocates and future leaders. The choir members share the belief that their most valued responsibility as members of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, is to share their culture through their performances.

In 2017, this included several transformational projects for the young Indigenous singers, centred around the invitation to collaborate with the Vienna Boys Choir, marking an achievement of artistic excellence and acknowledgement for the choir. This led to their tour to Europe in May – for most it was their first overseas trip - where they also collaborated with students at the European School in Frankfurt, and Carmina Slovenica in Maribor.

This project culminated in high profile performances at the Sydney Opera House and Cairns Convention Centre to capacity audiences. The project featured many works in language, including new works commissioned and premièred, and demonstrated the compelling performance style, artistry and unique sound that the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir have developed.

September marked an historic moment as members of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Sydney Children's Choir were the first to sing the Australian Anthem in the ACT's local Ngunawal language. The very moving performance resonated

through the Great Hall of Parliament House for the Minerals Council of Australia Parliamentary dinner, and was also proudly supported by Rio Tinto. The translation was created in consultation with local language custodian Tyronne Bell and linguist Dr Doug Marmion, and performed to 500 guests including the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and politicians and business leaders from across the country.

Gondwana Choirs is proud to have such a strong team leading our Indigenous Children's Choir programs around the country, offering a musical program that strives for excellence and also offers extensive performance opportunities. These experiences offered at no charge to our choristers would not be possible without Rio Tinto's ongoing commitment to Gondwana Choirs. The support enables Gondwana Choirs to plan more exciting projects for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Joanne Farrell, Managing Director of Rio Tinto Australia writes,

"Rio Tinto is very proud of our long association as Principal Partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. The Choir's work in supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth through the delivery of their national programs is truly inspiring.

The Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir is playing a pivotal role in nurturing the undeniable passion and talent Indigenous youth have for the performing arts. The Choir's programs create a real pathway for Indigenous boys and girls to enter careers within the performing arts, assist in the preservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and further supports Australia's drive towards reconciliation."

PARTNERS 2017



Gondwana Songfest Choir, Cairns, Songs of My Country

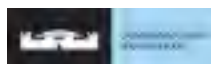
PRINCIPAL PARTNER Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

RioTinto

MAJOR PARTNER



SUPPORTING PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Gondwana Choirs is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts



TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS



PACKER FAMILY
FOUNDATION



JAMES N. KIRBY
FOUNDATION



Crown Resorts Limited
Sydney Community Foundation



Todd Family Foundation



EDUCATION PARTNERS

Cairns State High School
Conservatorium High School
UNSW

Alexandria Park Community School
NSW Government Family & Community Services

VIENNA PROJECT PARTNERS



*Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir in Cairns
before departure for Europe*

PRESENTING PARTNER



MAJOR PROJECT PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



COMMISSIONING PARTNER



EVENT PARTNER



MAJOR PROJECT PARTNER



CAIRNS PHILANTHROPY DINNER PARTNERS

Coral K Partners
Cairns Airport

O'Connor Law
IPN Omega Health

David G Hannay

FRANKFURT PARTNERS

European School
Sonic Healthcare Germany

Tourism Australia
Adina Apartment Hotels

Australia Now
Australian Embassy Berlin

VIENNA PARTNERS

Australian Embassy Vienna

IFM Investors

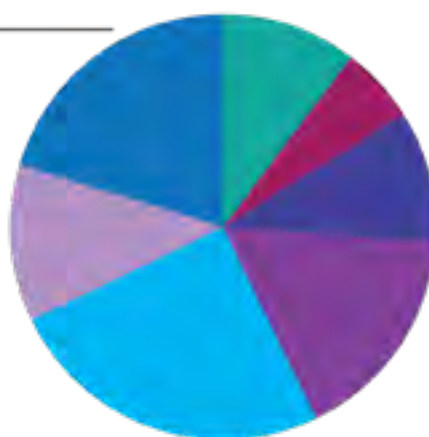
Cochlear

2017 STATISTICS

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Participation by Choir Level

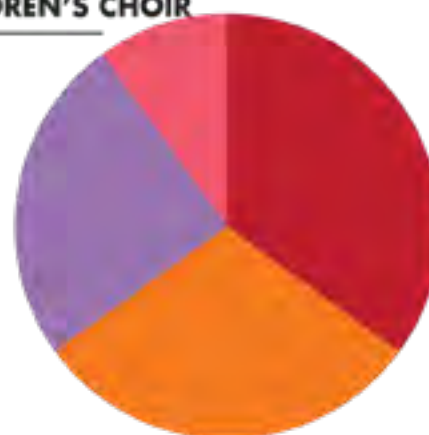
Senior	49
Young Mens Choir	28
Junior Performing Choir	48
Advanced Singers	78
Intermediate Singers	119
Junior Singers	56
Mini Singers	96



GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Participation by Location

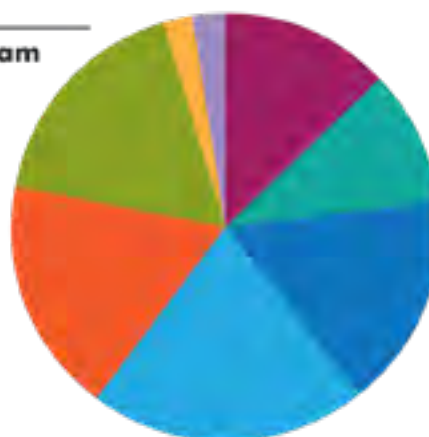
Cairns GICC Main	28
Cairns GICC Singers	24
Campbelltown GICC	20
Inner Sydney GICC	8



NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL

Participation by Ensemble/Program

Chorale	42
Latitude 34	33
Cantorum	53
Chorus Iuventus	68
Chorus Novus	58
Junior Gondwana	56
Composer School	7
Conducting Academy	8



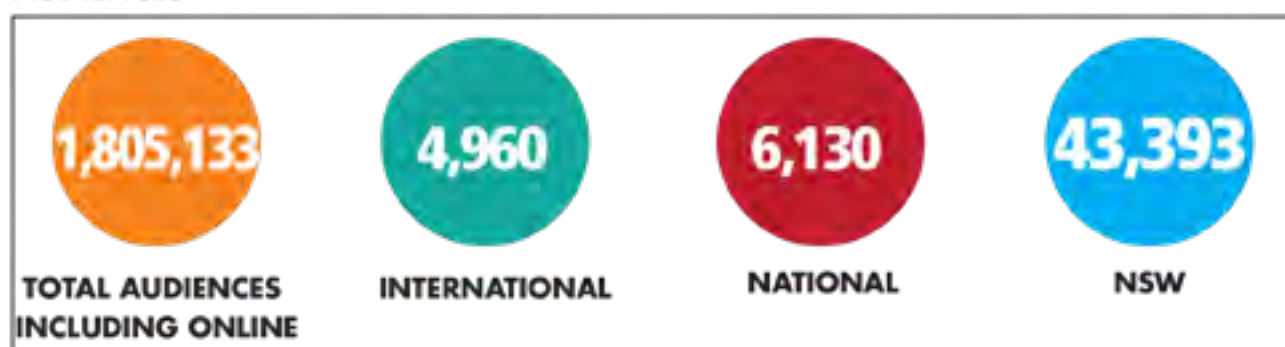
NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL

Participation by State

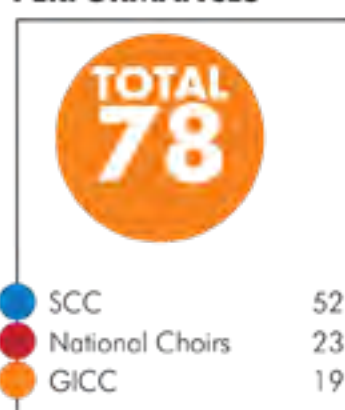
ACT	29
Sydney Metropolitan	92
Regional NSW	50
NT	8
QLD	65
SA	12
TAS	16
VIC	19
WA	34



AUDIENCES



NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES



REPERTOIRE



GONDWANA CHOIRS PEOPLE

Artists		Administration		Volunteers	
Full Time	1	Full Time	7	SCC	58
Part Time	3	Part Time	5	National	32
Seasonal	34	Casual	4	GICC	26
Casual	22				

VOLUNTEERS



PERFORMANCE REPERTOIRE 2017

AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS

*indicates world première performances

Michael Atherton

Flies
Shall we Dream
Song for Imberombera
The Greedy Octopus
The Unsociable Wallaby

Daniel Brinsmead

Spiritus Sanctus

Luke Byrne

Acknowledgement of Country*
Birinyi*
Buruwan Elegy
Desert Sea
Storm Bird

Alice Chance

Barangaroo and Bennelong
Eye of the Soundstorm
Millers Point Mob*
Nya Wali Banga
The Hungry Mile*
Words for Wine*

Ross Edwards

Dawn Canticle

Owen Elsley

Boori Guman*

Paul Jarman

Ancient City
Icarus
Lost the Plot
Towards Infinity

Annie Kwok

Festive Yubilate
My Corner of the Sea
Who am I?

Stephen Leek

Black Swan Song
Clancy
It's Raining
The Birdsville Track
Three Fat Chooks

Misron Levi arr. Lyn Williams

Baba Waiar

Peter Dodds McCormick (trans. to Ngunawal by Tyrone Bell)

Advance Australia Fair

Clare Maclean

Christ the King

Kate Miller-Heidke/Iain Grandage arr. Dan Walker

Where?

Shellie Morris

Li – Anthawirriyarra

Dennis Newie arr. Lyn Williams

Ngai Bubu Ya

Matthew Orlovich

Butterflies Dance

David Page, Helen Anu, Leonora Adidi

Kasa kab

Paul Stanhope

Hobble Gobble
The Land is Healed Ban.Garay!
This is our Home

Joseph Twist

Benedicto
Goodnight
How Shall We Sing in a Strange Land?
Rain Dream

Ben van Tienen

Some Days

Dan Walker

Arcturus in Autumn*
A Thousand Leagues of Sea
Bamba Hunting
How can you catch the wind?
Land Sleeps, Ocean Rests
Ngailu Boy of the Stars (opening scene)
Nyungar Alleluia
Out There
Pilliga Stomp
Scattered Islands in an Azure Sea
The Bird King
The Hour That I Like Best
This Secret World

Sally Whitwell

Lux Aeterna

Lyn Williams

Ferry Me Across The Water
Festive Alleluia

Traditional

Aiawal (Torres Strait Islands arr. Lyn Williams)
Kaiape (Torres Strait Islands, arr. Dan Walker)
Puluh Eh (Mer Island arr. Owen Elsley)
Sager ina Gabu Tharema (arr. Lyn Williams)
Sesere eey (Torres Strait Islands arr. Lyn Williams)
Waltzing Matilda (arr. Ruth McCall)
Ya Eh (Torres Strait Islands arr. Lyn Williams)

PERFORMANCES

● Sydney Children's Choir
● Gondwana National Choirs
● Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

● King Roger 8
● Tosca 8
● Festival of Summer Voice 5
● Gondwana Chorale Tour 8
● Cairns Philanthropy Dinner 1
● Aurora Eora
● Cairns Rotary Dinner 1
● GICC Europe Tour 7
● Uluru Festival 1

● SCC Regional Tour 4
● SCC Mini Winter 1
● Southern Lights Northern Lights 1
● NAIDOC Gala Ball Cairns 1
● NAIDOC NSW Parliament 2
● Gondwana Voices Europe Tour 9
● Pemulwuy Festival QLD 3
● Mahler 3rd Symphony 4
● Helpmann Awards 1

● Red Riding Hood 2
● MCA Parliamentary Dinner 1
● SCC Springtime Concert 1
● The Tanks GICC & ACO Collective 1
● Songs of My Country 2
● Western Sydney Community Concert 1
● Of Mice & Mozart 1
● Voices of Angels 2

INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS

Jim Papoulis Amani	A Song Of Peace
Kim Andre Arnesen	Flight Song
	Cradle Hymn
	Dreamer
Joyce Eilers Bacak	Come Sweet Death
J.S. Bach arr. London	When David Heard
Richard Burchard	Ave Maria
Javier Busto	Bow Thine Ear
William Byrd	Deus In Adiutorium Meum Intende
Juan de Padilla	Jonah
Rollo Dilworth	Gaviles*
Rihards Dubra	Chilli Con Carne
Anders Edenroth	Of Mice and Mozart
Michael and Jill Galling	Tundra
Ola Gjeilo	Red Riding Hood
Wilhelm Grosz	Night of Silence/Silent Night
F.X. Gruber arr. Kantor	Apamuy Shungo
Gerardo Guevara	In Flanders
Ivor Gurney	There Will Come Soft Rains
David Hamilton	Whanau Marama
	Ave Maria
Gustav Holst	Clear Water
Robert Hugh	Cradle Song
Aivars Kalejs	Memory's Wavering Echo 1
Kenneth & Kirsten Lampi	Memory's Wavering Echo 2
	Crucifixus
Antonio Lotti	Symphony No. 3
Gustav Mahler	In monte oliveti
Giannbattista Martini	A babe is born
William Mathias	Cúnnla
Michael McGlynn	Hush, The Waves
Todd McNeal	Beati mortui
Felix Mendelssohn	Ave Maris Stella
Vytautas Miškinis	The Water Of Tyne
Michael Neaum	Pure Imagination
Anthony Newley arr. Nielsen	Deus In Adiutorium Meum Intende
Juan Gutierrez de Padilla	Bogoróditse Dyévo
Arvo Pärt	Road to School
	Sleeping Beauty
	Songs from Childhood
	Summer Waltz
	The Book
	The Song of Atom-Boy
	Vater Unser
Donald Patriquin arr. Ridout	Ah! Si mon moine voulait danser
Sherri Porterfield	Something Told the Wild Geese
Francis Poulenc	Priez pour paix
Giacomo Puccini	Tosca
Paul John Rudoj	Miniyama Nayo
Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir	Carmen Fratrum arvalium
	Vetrarhiminn

Jake Runestad
John Rutter

Nyon Nyon
All Bells in Paradise
Visions
iii. Lament for Jerusalem
iv. The Holy City
Zigeunerleben
Johnny Said, "No!"
Benedictio
Norwegian Lullaby
Sparrow's Jig
King Roger (Krol Roger)
Mother of God Here I stand
Autumn Landscapes
A Boy and a Girl

Robert Schumann
Vijay Singh
Urmaz Sisask
Gjendine Slalien arr. Slalien
Bruce Sled
Karol Szymanowski
John Tavener
Veljo Tormis
Eric Whitacre

Traditional

All the Pretty Little Horses (arr. Jess Wells)
Apamuy Shungo (Ecuador, arr. Guevara)
Angels from the Realms (arr. Dan Walker)
Christmas Carole Suite (arr. Owen Elsley)
Coventry Carol (arr. Ola Gjeilo)
Freude schöner Götter funken (arr. Gerald Wirth)
Il est né le divin enfant (France, arr. Dan Walker)
Laulu Perunoiden Kiehuessa (Finland)
Legănelul Lui Iisus (Romania, arr. Melua & Chilcott)
O Little Town of Bethlehem (arr. R. Vaughan Williams)
Oranges and Lemons (arr. Jess Wells)
Sweet Carnlough Bay (Ireland, arr. Patti)
Ratoh Duek (Indonesia, arr. Murtala & Lyn Williams)
The Parting Glass (Ireland, arr. Carl Crossin)
Tradigister Jodler (arr. Gerald Wirth)
Tres Cantos Nativos Dos Indios Krao (Brazil, arr. Leite)

A Cappella Academy arrangements by Naomi Crellin

Sweet Georgia Brown*	Berney/inkard/Casey
Auf Wiedersehen, My Dear*	Ager/Nelson/ Hoffman/ Goodhart
Come Go with me*	Quick
Dancing Queen*	Andersson/Ulvaeus/Anderson
Queen Medley*	Mercury/May/Taylor/Deacon
Stop (At the End of the Road)*	
Stop	Spice Girls/Wilson/Watkins
End of the Road	Edmonds/Reid/Simmons
Chasing Cars*	Lightbody
Pitch Perfect Finale*	
Price Tag	Jessie J/Dr Luke/Kelly/B.o.B.
Don't you forget about me	Forsey/Schiff
Locked of Heaven	Mars/Lawrence/Levine
Lollipop	Mika
When I'm Gone	The Carter Family

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



of Sydney Children's Choir.

Kate Lidbetter is Chief Executive Officer of Symphony Services International, which provides a range of services and products to Australian and international orchestras. Her previous roles have included Director of Music at the Australian Council for the Arts, Artist Development Manager of Symphony Australia, Artistic Administrator of the Australian Youth Orchestra and General Manager

In addition to her role on the board of Gondwana Choirs, Kate is a Councillor on the Music Council of Australia and a director of Accessible Arts NSW. From 2012-2014 she was chair of contemporary music group Ensemble Offspring. She regularly participates on panels, committees and juries for various music organisations in Australia and abroad.

Kate's passion for Gondwana Choirs began in 1994 when she joined the company as General Manager and was subsequently on the board for a period of time. Her son Vincent became a chorister in 2008 and until 2014 sang in the Young Men's Choir for boys with changing voices. Kate has observed the many positive outcomes Vincent achieved and wants as many children as possible to have these experiences.



Lyn Williams is Australia's leading director of choirs for young people. For 29 years, she has been the driving force behind Gondwana Choirs' internationally acclaimed choral programs, working with hundreds of young Australian musicians each year and Lyn them nationally and internationally.

Lyn's exceptional skill in working with young people is recognised internationally for its high artistic quality and ground-breaking innovation. She has conducted Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices, Gondwana Chorale and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir nationally and internationally. Her dedication and contribution to the Arts has been recognised on multiple occasions including the prestigious Don Banks Music Award, the Medal of the Order of Australia, the NSW State Award at the Classical Music Awards and named in the 2015 100 Women of Influence. She is also an award-winning composer.



In 1989 **Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine** joined a small children's choir under the musical direction of Lyn Williams. Months later, that choir became Sydney Children's Choir, where Tessa was one of its founding choristers.

She is now the CEO of the new National Centre for Health Justice Partnerships. A criminologist by training, Tessa has previously worked in the areas of human rights, mental health law and criminal justice, both domestically and internationally. She has a PhD from the London School of Economics and her book on the decision-making about mentally disordered offenders was published by Routledge in 2010.

In 2013 Tessa was awarded the inaugural Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Non-Profit Leadership, which took her to work with non-profit and philanthropic organisations in the US. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has a keen interest in good governance of, and public trust and confidence in, charities and non-profits. Tessa has lived in Beijing, London, New Delhi and New York. These days her singing is reserved for road trips and Gondwana alumnae events.



Nicholas James is a finance and investment industry consultant. He has 30 years of global financial experience in investment banking, investment management and finance. He was Chief Executive Officer and prior to the Chief Financial Officer of Transfield Holdings from 2005 to 2015, during which time he was a member of the Transfield Holdings Advisory Board. Previous positions include Deutsche Bank (London);

Macquarie (Sydney, London, New York) and Westpac (Sydney). He was also a director of Campus Living Funds Management from 2006 until

2015. Nicholas' interest in Gondwana Choirs came about through his son, who is an ex-chorister. Nicholas takes great pleasure in providing his financial and management skills to the organisation, helping to facilitate the opportunities for the sensational young singers who journey through Gondwana.



David Longmuir has qualifications in engineering, business management and applied finance and is a co-founder of the bespoke infrastructure services business, Everything Infrastructure.

In 2000, after attending an uplifting Sydney Children's Choir concert, David's eldest daughter, Sophie, decided she wanted to join the choir. A few years later, Henrietta, David's youngest daughter, also became an SCC chorister. David volunteered as an SCC supervisor, helping out at camps, concerts and even on an overseas tour. David and his wife, Libby, also helped out by billeting many wonderful young chorister from across Australia and around the world. More recently, Henrietta sang and toured with Gondwana Voices in 2008 and 2009 and with Gondwana Chorale in 2012 and 2013. Not to be outdone, Sophie sang with Gondwana Chorale in 2010 and 2011. In 2003, David became a Director of Gondwana Choirs to help develop and support the business as a leading professional arts organisation.



Karen Mundine is a proud Bundjalung woman from Northern NSW. She is CEO of Reconciliation Australia and has a background of over 20 years' experience in public advocacy, communications and social marketing.

Ceremony is at the heart of Aboriginal culture and Karen has always had a strong belief in the power of song and music to transform lives, break down barriers and unite people. Joining the Gondwana Choirs Board has given her the opportunity to apply her professional skills to her passions and to be a part of an inspiring arts organisation that nurtures the musical talent of today to become the artistic leaders of tomorrow.

Karen is particularly excited by the growth of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the opportunity for them to proudly share their stories and language with each other, their fellow choristers, other Australians, and the world. For Karen, this is reconciliation in action.



Caroline Sharpen is an experienced strategist and consultant with a deep understanding of the creative sector. With more than 17 years senior executive experience in cultural organisations in Australia and the USA, Caroline has successfully overseen the development of corporate and business unit strategy which places creative integrity at the heart of revenue growth. She has worked with

boards and fundraising committees around the country to raise contributed capital and develop commercialisation strategies for company IP.

A trusted and respected stakeholder manager, Caroline has worked with Governments, corporate partners and many of Australia's most generous philanthropists, aligning the needs of organisations with the goals, values and beliefs of their supporters.

As a classically-trained musician Caroline laid the foundations of creative thinking, listening, identifying patterns and connecting disparate or incongruent ideas. With degrees in music, musicology and an MBA, Caroline understands the dual drivers of creative industries businesses and the challenges involved in balancing creative integrity with fiscal imperatives. Her approach lies in pursuit of clear strategy and communication, leadership and an uncompromising approach to organisational culture and retaining talented people.

GONDWANA CHOIRS



*The Sydney Children's Choir Junior Performing Choir
on tour in Lithgow NSW*

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR ARTISTS 2017

Lyn Williams	Artistic Director
Elizabeth Vierboom	Associate Conductor
Sally Whitwell	Principal Pianist
Amandine Petit	Head of Training Choirs
Conductors	Sam Allchurch, Owen Elsley, Lanneke Jones, Ruth McCall, Atalya Masi, Amandine Petit, Lyn Williams, Liz Vierboom, Hester Wright
Pianists	Tim Cunniffe, Jem Harding, Estella Roche, Heinz Schweers

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL ARTISTS 2017

Lyn Williams	Artistic Director
Graeme Morton	Conducting Academy Program Director
Antony Pitts	Composer School Program Director
Paul Stanhope	Composer School Program Director
Conductors	Christie Anderson, Chris Burcin, Carl Crossin, Jem Harding, Paul Holley, Rowan Johnston, Annie Kwok, Elizabeth Scott, Kim Sutherland, Elizabeth Vierboom, Lyn Williams
Pianists	Andrew Basile, Alice Hanna, Lauren Hannay, Robin Parkin, Heinz Schweers, Sally Whitwell
Resident Ensemble	The Idea Of North

GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR ARTISTS 2017

Lyn Williams	Artistic Director
Conductors	Stephanie Grenning, Lauren Hannay, Jem Harding, Elizabeth Vierboom, Lyn Williams
Pianists	Owen Elsely, Lauren Hannay, Brendan O'Mahony

ADMINISTRATION 2018

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
Liz Herbert	Marketing Manager
Susan Hart	Finance Manager
Shabnam Hinton	GICC Coordinator
Heather Kelley	Chorister Manager
Alice Neldner	Cairns GICC Coordinator
Amandine Petit	Head of SCC Training Choirs
Jerome Studdy	SCC Coordinator

Gondwana Choirs would like to thank Emma Barnett, Erica Byrne, Steph Dillon, Owen Elsley, Daniella Pasquil, Ana Napier, Carmel Schenke and Allison Tyra for their contributions in 2017 and 2018.

CONCISE ANNUAL REPORT

This concise financial report is an extract derived from the full financial report of Gondwana Choirs for the year ending 31 December 2017.

This extract cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance and position of Gondwana Choirs as is provided by the full financial report with accompanying notes. Please contact us to receive the full financial report or download it from www.gondwana.org.au/about-us/annual-reports

OPERATING RESULT

The operating surplus for the year ended 31 December 2016 was \$126,425. This compares to an operating surplus of \$144,825 in the previous financial year.

In 2017, Gondwana Choirs' comprehensive program greatly exceeded its core mission, providing leadership in choral training and performance. In 2017, 912 young people participated in the primary intensive programs - the Sydney Children's Choir (506), Gondwana National Choirs (326) and the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir (80), and we presented a range of unique programs to develop emerging conductors and composers, as well as professional learning experiences for educators and community music leaders.

Gondwana Choirs' artistic reputation is supported by invitations to collaborate with some of Australia's leading arts organisations and artists, and in the shadow of increased funding pressure, continued to develop innovative new work and present compelling performances.

In 2017 our ensembles performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, presenting Mahler's *Symphony No.3* (Sydney Children's Choir); Opera Australia, providing the Children's Chorus for productions of *King Roger* and *Tosca*; The Idea of North who were guest artists for the annual National Choral School; and performed the Australian National Anthem for the first time in Canberra's Ngunawal language, at the Minerals Council Parliamentary Dinner.

There were an unprecedented three international tours in 2017, all of which were completed with artistic and financial success.

Gondwana Chorale, the National youth choir, gave performances throughout the USA in January/February, including a capacity performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC.

In May, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir introduced audiences to songs in Indigenous languages and the vibrant songs and dances from the Torres Strait in their first European tour where they collaborated with Carmina Slovenica and The Vienna Boys Choir.

In June/July, Gondwana Voices performed ambitious programs in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Iceland to celebrate their 20th Anniversary. In addition to works by Lyn Williams, Kenneth Lampl, Ross Edwards, Sally Whitwell, Joseph Twist and Dan Walker, the choir performed works by Rihards Dubra, Arvo Pärt, Vytautas Miškinis and Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir, composers from each country visited. The programs also included the Sitting Dances from Aceh in collaboration with Suara Indonesian Dance.

Songs of My Country was a major collaboration between the Vienna Boys Choir, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the Sydney

Children's Choir (SCC) that took place in Sydney and Cairns in October. The project explored the cultural heritage of all three ensembles expressed through song with SCC and GICC performing all-Australian programs with texts in four Indigenous languages. It included *Boori Guman*, a major new commission by Owen Easley for all three choirs to form the centrepiece of the collaboration. The story was shared by Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Elder Gudju-Gudju and tells of three warriors tasked with stealing fire from the Rainbow Serpent.

The company reported a modest surplus result due to careful controls on expenditure, and significant fundraising in 2017. This fundraising supported the decrease in government funding (from 14% to 6%), and also enabled the successful GICC tour and presentation of *Songs of My Country*, in Sydney and Cairns, with the Vienna Boys' Choir. This project attracted many new supporters and sponsorships, including new connections with the local business community in Cairns, support from the Cairns Regional Council, a fund matching grant from Creative Partnerships, major project partners Metal Manufactures Limited and Accor Hotels.

Special acknowledgement to the Presenting Partner, the Austrian National Tourist Office, and the Principal Partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, Rio Tinto. With Rio Tinto's ongoing support this program for young Indigenous people has reached an inspiring level of artistic excellence and cultural significance and identity.

Through a new partnership with UNSW, National Choral School enjoyed improved and increased venue and accommodation, with the capacity to develop new creative projects and more ensembles. The company has stable management and prioritises investment in developing skills and encouraging talent within the team. 2017 demonstrates continued strong results for self-presented performances, increased profile and media coverage, and through the new venue partnership with UNSW, increased applications and participation nationally for the Gondwana National Choirs.

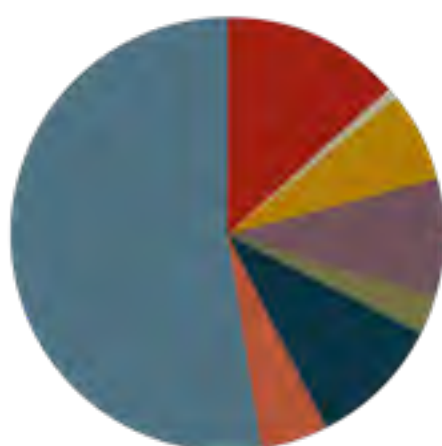
Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2017
Gondwana Choirs Ltd

	Note Sch	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue	4	3,298,700	2,372,161
Other income	4	26,609	20,792
Administration expenses		(235,764)	(227,694)
Amortisation expense	11	(12,328)	(12,405)
Depreciation expense	10	(7,403)	(4,240)
Employee benefits expense	13	(1,381,070)	(1,175,694)
Marketing expenses		(57,833)	(70,589)
Merchandising expenses		(23,663)	(28,829)
Production expenses		(1,591,156)	(747,077)
Surplus before income tax		16,092	126,425
Income tax expense	3.9	-	-
Surplus for the year		16,092	126,425
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		16,092	126,425

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

2017 INCOME



Participation Fees	52%
Donations	13%
Fundraising	1%
Government Funding	7%
Corporate Sponsorship	9%
Performance Fees	3%
Box Office	10%
Other	5%

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 December 2017

Gondwana Choirs Ltd

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,733,363	1,978,920
Trade and other receivables	6	311,241	162,037
Inventories	7	95,319	95,417
Other current assets	9	47,565	307,517
Current assets		2,187,488	2,543,891
Non-current			
Plant and equipment	10	26,938	12,748
Intangible assets	11	2,947	15,275
Non-current assets		29,885	28,023
Total assets		2,217,373	2,571,914
Liabilities			
Current			
Trade and other payables	12	120,957	90,700
Employee provisions	13	143,873	131,098
Other current liabilities	14	956,285	1,370,700
Current liabilities		1,221,115	1,592,499
Non-current			
Employee provisions	13	8,707	7,956
Non-current liabilities		8,707	7,956
Total liabilities		1,229,822	1,600,455
Net assets		987,551	971,459
Equity			
Unrestricted funds		987,551	971,459
Total equity		987,551	971,459

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2017
Gondwana Choirs Ltd

	Note	Unrestricted funds \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2016		845,034	845,034
Surplus for the year		126,425	126,425
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		126,425	126,425
Balance at 31 December 2016		971,459	971,459

	Note	Unrestricted funds \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2017		971,459	971,459
Surplus for the year		16,092	16,092
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		16,092	16,092
Balance at 31 December 2017		987,551	987,551

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2017
Gondwana Choirs Ltd

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Operating activities			
Receipts from:			
• Client contributions		1,861,954	2,453,186
• Donations received		450,231	309,411
• Government grants		276,829	397,620
• Interest income		24,208	13,998
• Sponsorships received		282,359	386,562
Payments to clients, suppliers and employees		(3,119,543)	(2,674,331)
Net cash provided by operating activities		(223,962)	886,446
Investing activities			
Purchases of plant and equipment	10	(21,595)	(8,556)
Net cash used in investing activities		(21,595)	(8,556)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(245,557)	877,890
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		1,978,920	1,101,030
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year		1,733,363	1,978,920

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Directors' Declaration

For the year ended 31 December 2017
Gondwana Choirs Ltd

In the opinion of the Directors of the Gondwana Choirs Limited:

- (a) The financial statements and notes of the Gondwana Choirs Ltd are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including;
 - (i) Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 31 December 2017 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
- (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that Gondwana Choirs Ltd will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable (Refer Note 3.16).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



KATE LIDBETTER
Director
Sydney



LYN WILLIAMS
Founder and Director

Dated 15 / 5 / 18

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of the Gondwana Choirs Ltd

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Gondwana Choirs Limited, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the statement of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Directors' declaration.

In my opinion the financial report of Gondwana Choirs Limited has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) Giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2017 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the company's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2017, but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of the Gondwana Choirs Ltd

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of the Gondwana Choirs Ltd

Auditor's Responsibility for Audit of the Financial Report continued

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

I also report that:

- a. the financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year;
- b. the accounting and associated records have been properly kept during the year in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Regulations;
- c. money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year have been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Regulations; and
- d. at the date of this report, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



STEVEN J MILLER & CO
Chartered Accountants



S J MILLER
Registered Company
Auditor No 4286

Sydney

Dated 17 / 5 / 18



gondwana.org.au