


Gondwana Choirs

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



A photograph of a choir of young women, likely teenagers, wearing matching orange short-sleeved robes. They are arranged in rows, facing slightly to the right, and appear to be singing. The lighting is warm and focused on the choir members. The background is dark and out of focus.

“ Without Lyn and Gondwana Choirs, simply put, I would not be the person I am today. Gondwana helped me realise my love of music and gave me the opportunity to make amazing music with the best friends I could ever ask for in life.”

2016 National Choirs Chorister

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2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

GONDWANA NATIONAL CHOIRS

GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

JANUARY

- **10-24** NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL
- **23** NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL CONCERTS
- **11-22** KIDS CHORAL ACADEMY
- **23** FELIX RIEBL AT THE BASEMENT

FEBRUARY

- **6** SCC TERM 1 PROGRAM COMMENCES
- **8** GICC TERM 1 PROGRAM COMMENCES
- **13** BEAT BUGS RECORDING

MARCH

- **5** SCC OPEN DAY

APRIL

- **11-13** CGICC CAMP
- **15** CLASSIC WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL
- **17** APPIN MASSACRE MEMORIAL PERFORMANCE
- **30** SCC TERM 2 PROGRAM COMMENCES

MAY

- **3** GICC TERM 2 PROGRAM COMMENCES
- **21-22** SCC SENIOR TRAINING CHOIRS CAMP
- **27-29** SYDNEY GICC CAMP
- ■ **29** MARITIME MUSEUM CONCERT

JUNE

- **11-13** REGIONAL NSW TOUR **13** RHYTHM & VOICE PERFORMANCE
- ■ **26** WINTER CONCERTS



JULY

- **4-11** SPINIFEX GUM RECORDING
- **17** CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR
- **19** GICC TERM 3 PROGRAM COMMENCES
- **22** PACIFIC VOICES CONCERT
- **23** SCC TERM 3 PROGRAM COMMENCES

AUGUST

- **13** OPENING OF MUNRO MARTIN PARKLANDS
- **21** BARANGAROO FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY
- **26-28** JUNIOR PERFORMING CHOIRS CAMP

SEPTEMBER

- **3-18** NATIONAL CHOIRS AUDITION TOUR
- ■ **11** SPRINGTIME CONCERTS
- ■ **22** KALDOR PUBLIC ART PROJECT
- **27-1** HOORAY FOR SONG! RECORDING

OCTOBER

- **9** PIED PIPER WITH SSO
- **10** GICC TERM 4 PROGRAM COMMENCES
- **12** SCC TERM 4 PROGRAM COMMENCES
- **15** A FLOCK OF STARS PERFORMANCE
- **23** BARANGAROO COLLABORATION RECORDING

NOVEMBER

- **4** FISHER'S GHOST ART EXHIBITION AWARDS
- **15** HUSH CD LAUNCH

DECEMBER

- **4** MINI CHRISTMAS
- ■ **10-13** VOICES OF ANGELS REHEARSAL SEASON
- **11** CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT, CAIRNS
- ■ **12-13** VOICES OF ANGELS STARS PERFORMANCES

2016 AT A GLANCE

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

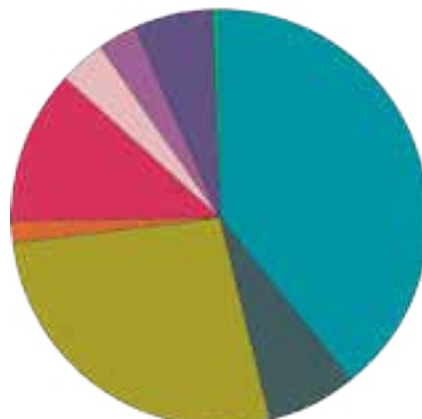
Participation by Choir Level



Senior Choirs	118
Junior Performing Choirs	100
Senior Training Choirs	120
Intermediate Training Choirs	79
Junior Training Choirs	98

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL

Participation by State



NSW	122
VIC	22
QLD	84
SA	5
WA	37
TAS	11
NT	10
ACT	19
NZ	1

GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Participation by Location



Cairns (Main Choir)	32
Cairns (Singers)	14
Mt Druitt Pilot Program	18
Campbelltown	19
Inner Sydney	28

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL

Participation by Ensemble/Program



Gondwana Chorale	61
Gondwana Singers	69
Gondwana Voices	72
Pilbara Project Choir	35
Junior Gondwana	59
Conducting Academy	8
Composer School	7

GONDWANA CHOIRS' PEOPLE



Artists		
Full Time	1	
Part Time	2	
Seasonal	51	
Casual	22	
Administration		
Full Time	7	
Part Time	5	
Casual	6	
Volunteers		
SCC	57	
National	34	
GICC	26	

Volunteers

SCC Supervisors	57
Rehearsals	1593 hours
Performances & Projects	1335 hours
Camps	1106 hours
Total	4044 hours
National Choirs Supervisors	34
National Choral School	3220 hours
Auditions & Projects	90 hours
Total	3310 hours
GICC Supervisors	26
Performances & Rehearsals	228 hours
Camps	224 hours
Total	452 hours
Total	117
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	7806
FTE	4

GONDWANA CHOIRS

Number of Performances

Sydney Children's Choir	28
Gondwana National Choirs	4
Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir	12

Audiences

Sydney Children's Choir Broadcasts	200,000
gondwana.org.au page visits	32,979
gondwana.org.au views/downloads	96,586
Combined Facebook Page Visits	9,796

Repertoire

World Premieres of Australian Works	16
Performances of Australian Works	56
Australian Composers Performed	27



Report

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR



Teamwork has always been a hallmark of the professional, artistic and personal relationships forged at Gondwana Choirs. To that end, we are delighted to present a joint Artistic Director and Chairman's report on a year of exciting projects and growth.

In 2016, Gondwana Choirs' comprehensive program continued to grow in scope and reputation, providing leadership in choral training and performance. In 2016, 936 young people participated in the core intensive programs – Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana National Choirs and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. Significantly, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir attended National Choral School in January 2016, made possible through extensive fundraising, and culminating in the world premiere performance of *Spinifex Gum*, a song cycle by Felix Riebl. Also in attendance at Gondwana National Choral School was International Guest Conductor Dr Brady Allred.

Gondwana Choirs presented 16 world premiere performances of new work by Australian composers, unique programs to develop emerging conductors and composers, and professional learning experiences for educators and community music leaders. 2016 demonstrated continued strong results for self-presented performances, increased membership for the Sydney Children's Choir training program, and increased applications nationally for the Gondwana National Choirs.

This growth is pleasing, and the result of strategic planning and effort from the entire team. 2016 saw many collaborations and invitations to perform with leading artists and arts organisations, including Sydney Symphony Orchestra, presenting the Australian premiere of *The Pied Piper* (Sydney Children's Choir); the Australia Ensemble as guest artists for a subscription series concert (Sydney Children's Choir); Kaldor Public Art Projects'



barrangal dyara/skin and bones (Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Sydney Children's Choir); and a new collaboration with Opera Australia, preparing the Children's Chorus for two programs performed in early 2017 (Sydney Children's Choir).

In addition to numerous commercial recordings, 2016 saw Gondwana Choirs realise several significant independent recording projects. *Hooray for Song!* is a collection of songs for young people, performed by young people. Featuring music entirely by Australian composers, this recording models the best choral singing for young voices, and is accompanied by a beautifully presented illustrated booklet. Gondwana Chorale's debut CD, *Soar* was also released in 2016. It included a range of Australian and international repertoire, and received a warm response for "the inimitable sound of the ensemble which reflects expert musicianship, great versatility and sophistication." The Gondwana Indigenous Children's choir in Cairns recorded *Spinifex Gum* with Felix Riebl, due to be released later in 2017.

Planning was begun for three International tours to be undertaken by the company in 2017: Gondwana Chorale USA tour; Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir tour to Frankfurt, Maribor and Vienna and their collaboration with the Vienna Boys Choir; and. Gondwana Voices/Sydney Children's Choir tour to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Iceland. The benefits of international touring can not be underestimated as they not only allow us to share the richness of Australian choral repertoire with the world but also facilitate great improvements in the standards of the choirs

The company reported a pleasing surplus result due to careful controls on expenditure and significant fundraising in 2016. There was a strong community response to the announcement regarding the discontinuation of multi-year Federal funding from the Australia Council, including an immediate fundraising result with greatly increased donations towards the End of Financial Year Campaign.

Our individual and corporate patrons, and our sponsorship partners are enormously valued and enable the company to achieve projects, tours and activities that flourish as a result of their generous investment.

Sydney Children's Choir REPORT

Gondwana Choirs is thrilled to announce Vice Regal Patronage of Sydney Children's Choir by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AS DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Linda Hurley. We thank them for their interest in Sydney Children's Choir and their help and support throughout the year.

2016 was one of the busiest on record for all of the ensembles of Sydney Children's Choir and for the administration. More than 500 young people made up ensembles over 5 different levels according to ages: the Junior Training Choirs (Mini Singers), Intermediate Training Choirs, Senior Training Choirs, Junior Performing Choirs and Senior Choirs.

The Junior and Intermediate Training Choirs' program focuses first on singing in small groups where they begin to develop an awareness of intonation, read music and their concentration. They then come together to perform as a large choir in the Winter and Spring Concerts and *Mini Christmas*, their very own end-of-the-year performance at John Clancy Auditorium, UNSW and curated by Nicole Thomson.

Choristers in the Intermediate Training Choirs develop their part-singing skills and begin formalised aural, musicianship and sight-singing training as part of their weekly rehearsals. Choristers at this level have their first residential weekend camp where they experience intensive rehearsals and spending time away from home with their friends and fellow choristers. The Intermediate Training Choirs begin to perform in public, which in 2016 included two performances at the Australian National Maritime Museum and the year's highlight, being part of *Voices of Angels*. This part of the Sydney Children's Choir program is overseen by Amandine Petit.

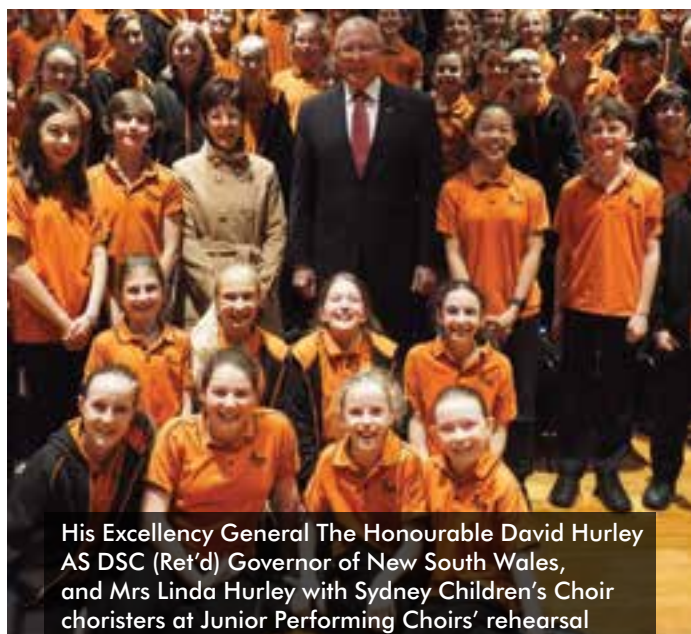
By the time our choristers reach the Junior Performing Choirs and continue their aural and sight-singing weekly during rehearsals, their musical literacy skills are well developed and they are able to undertake significant artistic programs. In 2016, the Junior Performing Choirs were featured with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performing the Australian Premiere of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Colin Matthews on 9 October at the Sydney Opera House. A more substantial role in *Voices of Angels* is also an important part of the year.

The Sydney Children's Choir and the Young Men's Choir have many exciting opportunities throughout the year, including recording for ads, films and public and private performances. One of the most special performances was with The Australia Ensemble in *A Flock of Stars*, named for the featured work by Artistic Director Lyn Williams and was recorded and broadcast on ABC Classic FM. Other exceptional performances by SCC are described in the following pages.

National Choirs' alumna Alice Chance was the SCC 2016 Composer-in-Residence in collaboration with The Barangaroo Delivery Authority. Alice composed six songs for different levels of SCC that were recorded and performed in March 2017 at the major event *Aurora Eora* at The Cutaway, Barangaroo.

Sydney Children's Choir continued its partnership with the Conservatorium High School, offering a special stream for entry to the specialist school for choristers in Year 7 and 8. The Junior Vocal Stream entails classroom music, expert vocal coaching, choral training and the performance opportunities and commitment that come with being a full member of Sydney Children's Choir.

Thank you to our wonderful SCC Artists and our exceptional cohort of volunteer parent Supervisors, without whom we could not deliver our special brand of choral training.



His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AS DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Linda Hurley with Sydney Children's Choir choristers at Junior Performing Choirs' rehearsal





Sydney Children's Choir REGIONAL NSW TOUR

Over the June long weekend, 90 Sydney Children's Choir choristers from the Senior Choir and Young Men's choir departed Sydney in two buses for a regional tour.

The first stop was at the Jenolan Caves on the Western side of the Blue Mountains. Visitors to the caves had the unique opportunity to experience the sound of the choirs performing in the 'Cathedral Chamber' deep below the surface of the earth. The perfect acoustics of the Lucas Cave made for an extremely special sound that delighted long-weekend holiday makers on tours of the caves. Following the concerts, choristers were treated to a tour through the caves before departing for Goulburn.

"It is extremely exciting for [us] to participate in such an inclusive community collaboration"

The first official duties on Sunday commenced with workshops hosted by the Goulburn Regional Conservatorium of Music. Choristers joined with singers from local high schools and the GRC's own vocal ensemble, Re:Zone8. Gondwana Choirs' Artistic Director Lyn Williams led the combined ensembles and rehearsed a number of pieces together.

After the workshop, Sydney Children's Choir gave a concert at the Conservatorium to a local audience, with repertoire included the massed ensemble performance of *Riawana* by Australian composer Stephen Leek.

Paul Scott-Williams, Director of the Goulburn Regional Conservatorium, writes, "The GRC has a proud tradition of choral and singing activity and firmly believe that everyone should sing! Gondwana Choirs has established a reputation for choral performance excellence second to none. So it is extremely exciting for the GRC to participate in such an inclusive community collaboration, combining Sydney Children's Choir with our own Re:Zone8 Vocal Youth and a range of school choirs from our region in an all-day vocal fiesta!"

On Sunday morning, it was back to the buses as everyone returned to Sydney to perform and represent Sydney Children's Choir at the fundraising concert *Rhythm and Voice* at City Recital Hall.



Sydney Children's Choir Recording HOORAY FOR SONG!

Hooray for Song! is the latest recording by the Sydney Children's Choir. Its contents reflect the wealth of music commissioned by, and written for, the choir throughout its history where Founder and Artistic Director Lyn Williams created a whole genre of music for young Australians by Australians.

In an extensive review for SoundsLikeSydney, Shamistha de Soysa says, "The writers and arrangers represent some of the best in contemporary Australian talent, many of whom have worked with the choir and who therefore have a deep understanding of children's voices and their capabilities." The list of composers include Dan Walker, Sally Whitwell, Stephen Leek, Michael Atherton, Ben van Tienen, Alice Chance, Jessica Wells, Joseph Twist and Lyn Williams.

job with the instrumental arrangements that enhance each individual song. The booklet is superbly produced with illustrations by Liz Anelli and design by Christine Bruderline.

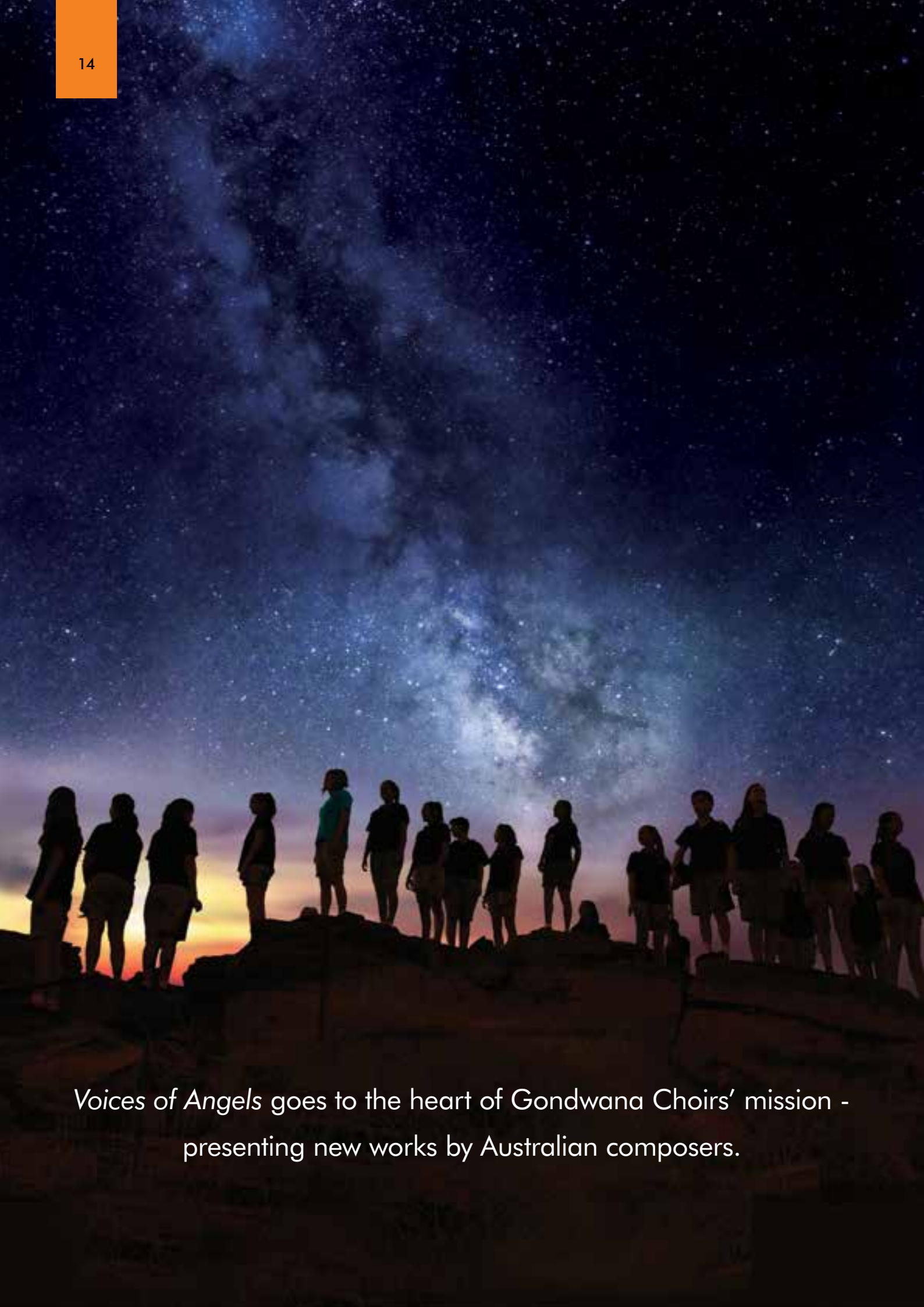
De Soysa concludes her review, "With its quintessentially Australian content and use of the vernacular sprinkled through, *Hooray for Song!* is an anthology that builds a heritage of song that is relevant and appealing to Australian children."

Hooray for Song! available at www.shop.gondwana.org.au

*"The writers ... represent some
of the best in contemporary
Australian talent."*

19 singers from The Sydney Children's Choir recorded the songs over five days in the September school holidays at Studios 301 in Alexandria. Recording sessions were directed by Lyn Williams and supported by a group of instrumentalists led by Gondwana Choirs Principal Pianist Sally Whitwell. Jessica Wells does an exceptional



A group of approximately 15-20 people are silhouetted against a night sky. They are standing on a dark, rocky outcrop. The sky is filled with stars, and the Milky Way galaxy is prominently visible, arching across the upper half of the frame. The lower part of the sky shows a soft glow from the setting or rising sun, creating a gradient of orange and yellow. The overall scene is serene and majestic, capturing a moment of collective stargazing.

Voices of Angels goes to the heart of Gondwana Choirs' mission -
presenting new works by Australian composers.



Voices of Angels STARS

Voices of Angels is many things to many people. For some, it marks the end of the school year and the beginning of the festive season. For others, it's a time to reflect on the year that has passed. For some older choristers, it is their final performance as part of Sydney Children's Choir and for others, it is a chance to reconnect with friends from Gondwana National Choirs. For many music lovers, *Voices of Angels* is their favourite concert of the year because of its diverse and interesting programming and spectacular arrangements of well-known classics combined with the purity of sound and emotional connection of our ensembles.

Voices of Angels goes to the heart of Gondwana Choirs' mission - presenting new works by Australian composers. Bringing new pieces to audiences has been the organisation's lifeblood since its establishment in 1989 and continues to invigorate what we do.

At City Recital Hall on 12 and 13 December, *Voices of Angels STARS* concerts were both special and completely typical in that they featured 12 works by Australian and Australian-based composers: four pieces specially commissioned for this year's concerts, one piece composed by a chorister, and the remainder were drawn from the treasure trove of repertoire built up over years of commissioning led by Artistic Director Lyn Williams.

The composers represent the wide range that typifies the Gondwana family. Andrew Ford is known to many as the host of *The Music Show* on ABC Radio National. He is equally well known as a composer whose works have received critical acclaim in Australia and abroad. With the help of a generous supporter, Gondwana Choirs has

commissioned Ford to compose a children's opera based on the classic tale of Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie.

Principal Pianist Sally Whitwell also enjoys a flourishing career as a composer, writing for the Acacia Quartet and a range of community choirs, including Coro innominata, of which she is the Artistic Director. Her work, *Lux aeterna*, sets Gregorian chant melodies within rippling instrumental textures.

Kenneth Lampl has recently arrived from the United States as Artistic Director of the ANU School of Music after an illustrious career on faculty at Julliard and writing over 70 film scores. His setting from Hebrew psalms conveys the universal connectedness of man.

Samuel Feitelberg has been a member of Sydney Children's Choir since 2014 and has just completed his Higher School Certificate. He composed *The Stars Around the Lovely Moon* for four part male voices, exploring his keen interest in classical literature in a setting of text by Phaedo.

Other Australian works on the program included wonderful arrangements of traditional Christmas carols by emerging composer Owen Elsley and works by Joseph Twist, Paul Jarman and Dan Walker, with an excerpt from *Ngailu, Boy of the Stars*, the first Indigenous children's opera, commissioned by Gondwana Choirs in 2009.

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

Gondwana National Choirs

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL

Over 300 young musicians from across Australia descended on Macquarie University from 10 - 24 January for Gondwana National Choral School 2016. During the two weeks more than 40 pieces were memorised, seven new songs were premiered, hundreds of kilometres were walked and hot days were tempered by welcome ice block deliveries.

This year **Junior Gondwana** was led by the dynamic trio of conductors Kate Albury and Paul Jarman and accompanist Andrew Basile. These energetic young choristers worked hard on a list of repertoire ranging from Paul's own work, *Moko*, to an arrangement of a traditional Irish song, *Shule Aroon*.

A special addition to NCS 2016 was the **Pilbara Project Choir**. This choir comprised members of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir from Queensland, regional New South Wales, Northern Territory and the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Conductors Lyn Williams and Liz Vierboom, pianist Jem Harding, choreographer Sani Townson and composers Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill made up their inspirational artistic team. They worked together over the two week camp to present the World Premiere of *Spinifex Gum- a song cycle* by Felix Riebl. (See Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir report)

Gondwana Voices was led by Principal Guest Conductor Mark O'Leary and Christie Anderson, in her first Gondwana season, with Sally Whitwell at the piano. Gondwana Voices and the Pilbara Project Choir worked together extremely closely, sharing warm-ups and combining some of their repertoire. Voices also worked with International Guest Artist Dr Brady Allred on the impressive Ēriks Ešēvalds piece, *Stars*. With wine glass and singing bowl accompaniment, this piece was a favourite among choristers.

Rowan Johnston, Liz Scott and Alice Hanna made up the wonderful artistic team of **Gondwana Singers**. Singers climbed a mountain of repertoire, conquering the tricky Hungarian of *Túrót eszik a cigány* and bringing a gospel sound for Rollo Dillworth's *Freedom Train*.

Gondwana Chorale was conducted single-handedly by Carl Crossin, supported by pianist (and percussionist) Luke Byrne. In preparation for their 2017 international

tour, Gondwana Chorale worked on a wide range of repertoire, including a commission by renowned Australian composer Katy Abbott, *Those other things* and a Gondwana premiere of Luke Byrne's *Desert Sea*. We missed Principal Guest Conductor Paul Holley during NCS but were thrilled that he was able to attend the final concerts.


Gondwana Composer School saw seven budding composers work with Katy Abbott to write new works in less than a week that the choirs performed at an in-house concert. These composers also participated in workshops with Matthew Hindson, Paul Stanhope and Andrew Ford during National Choral School.

"Without the five NCSs I have under my belt, I wouldn't be half the musician I am today."

2016 NCS Chorister

Conductor Graeme Morton and Accompanist Lauren Hannay ran a successful **Gondwana Conducting Academy**, with participants taking part in lessons and workshops, as well as conducting master classes with **International Guest Artist Dr Brady Allred**.

Artistic Director and Conductor of the Salt Lake Choral Artists in Salt Lake City, Utah, Dr Brady R. Allred has developed an international reputation for excellence. Under his direction the Salt Lake Choral Artists, a non-profit arts organization of seven choirs and over 300 singers, has achieved critical acclaim for their innovative concerts, Summer Choral Institute program, international tours and iTunes and YouTube channels. He was honoured by The Salt Lake Tribune and named as one of Utah's Top 25 Cultural Power Brokers. Dr Allred's participation at Gondwana National Choral School 2016 was made possible by the generosity of Daryl and Kate Dixon.



"I cannot live without music and what Gondwana brings to my musical life is something I will greatly miss when I become too old."
2016 Gondwana National Choirs Chorister



National Choral School 2016 **Open Day** took place on 19 January, with over 250 people coming to the campus to observe rehearsals and partake in the atmosphere. Open Day gives parents, friends, family and prospective participants the chance to find out what happens behind the scenes.

I have never met better friends than at this NCS. I really felt like I belonged, and the people made this experience so worthwhile. These are people that share the same musical loves and beliefs as me and I will never forget them!

2016 NCS Chorister

National Choral School also includes the **Professional Development** program where 25 music teachers and emerging conductors were inspired over the two weeks with new repertoire & rehearsal techniques; observed leading choral conductors, emerging conductors and composers; connected with passionate colleagues; and discussed current issues with Gondwana Choirs artists, including International Guest Artist Dr Brady Allred.

National Choral School Concerts 2016 took place on 23 January at 3pm and 6.30pm for the first time at The Concourse, Chatswood. The 3pm concert featured music from the classical masters to the most exciting contemporary Australian choral composers, including Paul Jarman, Dan Walker, Stephen Leek and Luke Byrne. The concert concluded with the spectacular sound of the 300-voice massed choir, conducted by Dr Brady Allred in excerpts from Leonard Bernstein's Mass.

All of the National Choirs ensembles performed at the 6.30pm concert, with the world premiere of *Spinifex Gum* - a song cycle by Felix Riebl being the featured work. The multi-movement work was specially arranged by Ollie McGill for the National Choral School Concerts to include vocal contributions from National Choirs ensembles. The cycle's final movement, *Marliya* (Bush Honey), is a song about friendship and fittingly involved all 330 National Choral School singers on stage in a joyous and uplifting end to an incredible two weeks.

The success of National Choral School is dependent on many people and many factors, but it certainly couldn't happen without the huge commitment from our supervisors. A sincere thank you from Gondwana Choirs for all the time and effort that you put into making National Choral School run so smoothly.

Gondwana Chorale Recording

SOAR



Paul Holley OAM
Conductor



Carl Crossin OAM
Conductor

Released in 2016, *SOAR* is Gondwana Chorale's debut recording and presents a program typical of the ensemble – a rich and varied collection of repertoire with a strong focus on contemporary Australian compositions which lies at the heart of Gondwana Choirs' ethos. The music on this disc ranges from the Spanish Renaissance to present day Australia, including Paul Stanhope's *Lament to St Cecilia*, a technically demanding tour de force of emotional intensity commissioned for the choir in 2013 for its European Tour.

*"Excellence. If you want
to hear some, listen to the
first track of ... SOAR"*

Contemporary Australian choral composition has been the cornerstone of the ensemble's repertoire since its establishment in 2008 and the list of contemporary composers on the disc features many with a long-term relationship with Gondwana Choirs, including Dan Walker, Joseph Twist, Luke Byrne, Katy Abbott and Ben van Tienen.

Stephanie Eslake, reviewing for *Limelight*, writes, "Excellence. If you want to hear some, listen to the first track of Gondwana Chorale's debut album *SOAR*. The opener, Dan Walker's *Concierto del Sur*, offers us a breath of life as this exquisitely produced recording brings together more than 50 of the brightest young singers in modern Australia."

SOAR is available for purchase digitally on iTunes or at www.shop.gondwana.org.au



Members of the Inspire Quartet with Cairns GICC Choristers at Lake Tinaroo camp

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

REPORT

2016 was an exciting and productive year for the ensembles that make up Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. The year's first major activity was for the choristers from Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia who made up the Pilbara Project Choir, who came to National Choral School for the premiere season of *Spinifex Gum* - a song cycle by Felix Riebl (see report on the following pages).

Gondwana Choirs offers its renowned choral program to all GICC choristers at no cost, providing access to our artists, weekly rehearsals and performance opportunities. When the school year begins, GICC activity is centred on the choral hubs in Cairns, Campbelltown (Western Sydney) and our newest hub, Inner Sydney. Seed funding for Inner Sydney GICC was provided through a grant from the City of Sydney.

The year in Cairns got underway with the annual residential camp at the beautiful Lake Tinaroo in the Atherton Tablelands. This year's highlight was guest artists the Inspire Quartet, from the Australian Chamber Orchestra, who collaborated with choristers on a new string arrangement of Luke Byrne's *Storm Bird*, which was commissioned with support from the Cairns Regional Council in 2015.

CairnsGICC continued to perform at many important events throughout the year in their hometown, including outdoor performances at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, the opening of Munro Martin Parklands with Gondwana Choirs alumna Kate Miller-Heidke, and their now regular appearance at *Carols by Candlelight* on the Cairns Esplanade.

For our choristers in Campbelltown, the year began by rehearsing a new work by Luke Byrne. Luke was commissioned by the Campbelltown Arts Centre to create a piece in Dharawal to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Appin Massacre. After working with local language expert Jodie Edwards, *Burruwan Elegy* received its premiere performance by the Campbelltown Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir at Cataract Gorge to over 1000 community members at the commemoration ceremony.

2016 was also the first Sydney GICC residential camp. Choristers from both Campbelltown and the newly formed

Inner Sydney GICC joined together for an intensive weekend of rehearsing, movement and other artistic activities. The weekend concluded with choristers joining with the Sydney Children's Choir for a public performance at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Both choirs also joined with Sydney Children's Choir at the Winter and Spring Concerts, adding to their performance experience and building ties with choristers from other parts of the organisation.

In September, CamGICC joined with the Junior Performing Choir of Sydney Children's Choir to work with Indigenous Performing Artist and Cultural Educator Matthew Doyle in preparation for a performance at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney (see Kaldor Public Arts Project report following).

Performing with respected Indigenous artists is always a wonderful experience for our choristers. This year, choristers from Campbelltown sang with Christine Anu at the NAISDA Dance College Gala. They completed the year performing at the Fishers Ghost Art Exhibition Awards held at the Campbelltown Arts Centre to celebrate local artists. In addition to the above, Gondwana Choirs provided choral workshops to over 500 students in Inner Sydney and Campbelltown Region.

Participation in Gondwana Choirs' programs can bring many positive experiences apart from musical ones, with parents often the people best-placed to see this objectively. A choir parent from Cairns writes, "I have no doubt that the skills [my daughter] has learnt at Gondwana have contributed to her overall school experience and success ... I am immensely proud of [her] and know that Gondwana has shaped her in many ways other than singing. Gondwana is an enormous part of our lives; it fills our home with song and our hearts with pride and joy. As a parent I will always remember these years and will be eternally grateful to Lyn Williams and Gondwana for their love and commitment to [my daughter] over the years. You have enriched all of our lives."

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

SPINIFEX GUM

The premiere performance of *Spinifex Gum* – a song cycle at National Choral School 2016 marked an important milestone in the collaborative commission known as the Pilbara Project. In March 2015, Artistic Director Lyn Williams and composer Felix Riebl visited the Pilbara for workshops with local school children and to meet members of the Aboriginal communities. In May 2015, Felix Riebl returned to explore the area on his own and in September, supported by Rio Tinto, the choir spent a week based in Karratha working with local school children and performing in the Roebourne Amphitheatre as part of the Red Earth Arts Festival.

Of the work Riebl says, "This song cycle is based on my experiences and impressions of the Pilbara and my excitement to work with this group of amazing (mostly teenage) singers. It's mostly in English, but uses Yindjibarndi words and references throughout. Many of the sounds are sampled – trains, steps, trees, coins, yells, rocks – and the songs draw from different musical worlds, mostly contemporary. I didn't want to shy away from the injustices and hypocrisy I witnessed while staying there, but have tried also to evoke something with moments of lightness and humour as well. More than anything, Ollie McGill (arranger) and I have worked to create something the singers are going to enjoy singing!"

Support from generous individual donors enabled the Pilbara Project Choir to come together at National Choral School 2016 to learn, rehearse and perform *Spinifex Gum* during the two-week long residential camp. The choir of 35 included choristers from Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia. Four were young singers from the Western Pilbara who had joined with GICC in 2015 for workshops and a major performance at the Red Earth Arts Festival in Roebourne.

Spinifex Gum - a song cycle

Lyn Williams	Conductor
Felix Riebl	Composer
Ollie McGill	Arrangements & Sound Design
Sani Townson	Choreographer
Elizabeth Vierboom	Assistant Conductor
Jem Harding	Rehearsal Pianist

Commissioned by Gondwana Choirs with support from the Australia Council for the Arts



Felix Riebl
Composer

- i Introduction
- iv Wandangarli
- ii Spinifex Gum
- v Yurala
- iii Gawarliwarli
- vi Marliya

Spinifex Gum Supporters

Vicki Olsson, Commissioning Patron
Helen & Matthew Allchurch
Roger Allen
Kerry Bennett
Christine Bishop
Jane & Richard Freudenstein
Scott & Rachel Hadfield
Elizabeth & Bob Johnston
Suzie & Jason Lee
Magnolia Foundation
Ken & Elizabeth Nielsen
Todd Family
Shaw Family
Sam Weiss
Ray Wilson OAM
Angus Woods



"Attending NCS for the first time this year was amazing! I loved performing Spinifex Gum, which was an absolutely unique and inspiring experience!"

2016 Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir Chorister

Kaldor Public Art Project 32
Jonathan Jones' *barrangal dyara (skin and bones)*
Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney

Performance

KALDOR PUBLIC ART PROJECT

On 22 September, members of Campbelltown Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Sydney Children's Choir performed at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney as part of the 32nd Kaldor Public Art Project. Entitled *barrangal dyara (skin and bones)*, the project was a large sculptural installation by Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones in the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney that was open from 17 September – 3 October.

The project recalls the original 19th Century Garden Palace that stood on the site and burnt to the ground in 1882. The site is of great significance as the Garden Palace housed an extensive collection of Indigenous objects amassed by early European settlers and all of the artifacts were lost in the fire.

After preparing with Muruwari/Dharawal performing artist and cultural educator Matthew Doyle, the combined choir sang to an audience of approximately 860 people in a free concert. The evening's repertoire complemented the project's historical and Indigenous themes and included:

- *Barangaroo and Bennelong* by Alice Chance commissioned by Gondwana Choirs
- A traditional Dharug welcome song, *Barrabula barra ma*, which was sung by Bennelong and Yam-Roweny during their visit to England in 1792.
- Australian children's classic *Dreaming in the Sky*
- The traditional Yorta Yorta song *Ngarra Burra Ferra*
- Luke Byrne's *Buruwan Elegy* (featuring Dharawal text by Jodi Edwards), commissioned by Gondwana Choirs in April 2016 commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Appin Massacre

Following the concert, the children enjoyed a performance by Bangarra Dance Theatre of a work specially commissioned for the project.



Performance

RHYTHM & VOICE

When Gondwana Choirs learned that we would no longer receive multi-year funding from the Australia Council, we were overwhelmed with support received from the arts community, the most public being at *Rhythm & Voice* fundraising concert held on 13 June at City Recital Hall and shared with our friends at Synergy and Taikoz.

The presence of so many of Sydney's most wonderful musicians who generously performed in support of Synergy/Taikoz and Gondwana Choirs made the concert a truly memorable occasion. To get such a large audience on the afternoon of a public holiday was a real achievement and was made possible by such outstanding performers. Almost \$40,000 was raised and 100% of ticket sales went directly to both organisations.

"It is impossible to imagine the Australian music landscape without Gondwana Choirs."

Sincere thanks to the members of the following companies who performed alongside Sydney Children's Choir, members of Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, Synergy and Taikoz:

- Sydney Symphony Orchestra
- Australian Chamber Orchestra
- Australia Ensemble
- The Song Company
- Lingalayam Dance Company
- Riley Lee

The concert would not have been possible without the generosity of City Recital Hall management, led by CEO Elaine Chia, and board, led by Renata Kaldor AO. City Recital Hall offered their beautiful venue free of charge, including front-of-house, back stage and ticketing staff.

Elaine Chia writes, "It is impossible to imagine the Australian music landscape without Gondwana Choirs. When we heard of their setback, the team at City Recital Hall immediately leapt at the opportunity to offer our venue in support. We are very proud to have hosted *Rhythm and Voice*."



BURSARIES

One of Gondwana Choirs' core values is Accessibility and we strive to keep the costs of our programs to a minimum. The Gondwana Choirs Bursary Fund makes it possible for young musicians in financial hardship to have access to our inspiring Sydney Children's Choir and National Choral School programs. Each year, the number of families applying for financial support increases. Gifts received via personal giving and through support from trusts and foundations enable talented young people to have the opportunity to take part in an exceptional music and educational program that would otherwise be out of their reach.

Over the past decade, Gondwana choirs has been fortunate to receive NCS Bursary funding for seven years from the **James Kirby Foundation**. The Foundation distributes grants throughout Australia in areas such as health, education and the arts, with the goal of assisting young Australians achieve their highest standards. Gondwana Choirs is grateful for the Foundation's support and the positive impact it has had on making National Choral School an achievable program for so many participants.

100% percent of the contributions from the James Kirby Foundation and our individual donors to the Bursary Fund are distributed each year. In 2016, more than \$17,000 was given to National Choral School participants and a further \$14,000 to Sydney Children's Choir members.

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

*" [Our son] has come back ...
inspired and driven, aspiring to
grow as a musician and singer
because of the wonderful people
who shared their time, expertise
and friendship with him."*

**Parent of 2016 NCS
Bursary Recipient**



PHILANTHROPY REPORT

The 2016 cuts to core funding of arts companies by the Federal Government highlights the need for organisations such as Gondwana Choirs to become less reliant on these traditional sources of funding. When we engage with existing and potential supporters, we have the opportunity to communicate our passion for creating new work and enabling young Australians to excel in their passion for singing.

Across the three arms of our organisation, Artistic Director Lyn Williams has touched the lives of hundreds of young Australians who have been part of the journey of original and exciting projects. When news of government cuts reached our members, Gondwana Choirs experienced a flood of unprecedented support and recognition from Sydney's music community and from the public. This has given us a renewed confidence in the value of our work as an organisation, our contribution to the artistic landscape of the country and to the enrichment of the lives of hundreds of young people.

Typical of messages of support for Lyn and Gondwana Choirs is this statement from a Sydney Children's Choir parent and donor, "I would like to give this gift to celebrate the remarkable opportunity to reach the heights of artistic pleasure and achievement that you have given to so many young people. As a parent, I am so privileged to be entertained several times a year by the angelic voices of your superb choristers and appreciate the level of accomplishment you have reached with the young singers. It has given our son a place where he feels comfortable to excel in music with a group of children who have become his chosen friendship group. Thank you Lyn and your team."

"I would like to give this gift to celebrate the .. heights of artistic pleasure and achievement"

Gondwana Choirs received more than 180 individual donations in 2016 that were given to four primary areas: Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir; Sydney Children's Choirs and Gondwana National Choirs Bursary Funds; Innovations Patrons (General Giving); and Special Projects.

Gondwana Choirs sincerely thanks its donors and supporters. Because of you, we are able to continue collaborating with our distinguished colleagues across the country; we will add to the list of over 200 works we have commissioned and premiered; we will tell our magnificent stories through song; and we will continue to nurture young Australian voices.

SPONSORSHIP REPORT

RIO TINTO

Gondwana Choirs' relationship with Rio Tinto continues to flourish as it enters into its fifth year. Rio Tinto has been the Principal Partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir since 2012 and its ongoing support has enabled the program to grow and thrive, providing extraordinary opportunities for young Indigenous people throughout Australia.

Rio Tinto's sponsorship allows core activities of the GICC program to take place: rehearsals, workshops and performances in the choral hubs in Cairns, Western Sydney and Inner Sydney. In the first half of 2016, Gondwana Choirs provided audition opportunities, workshops, camps and weekly classes to young Indigenous in Cairns, Campbelltown, Mt Druitt and our newly formed Inner Sydney Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir (ISGICC) in Alexandria.

Artistic Director Lyn Williams travelled to Cairns weekly for more than half of the school year to lead rehearsals. Chris Burcin and Lauren Hannay completed the artistic team for the Cairns hub, leading the choir with their extensive musical and performance experience.

Lyn also directed weekly with the newly-formed Inner Sydney choir, supported by pianist and Assistant Conductor Jem Harding.

Associate Conductor Liz Vierboom had responsibility for both the Campbelltown hub and the pilot Mt Druitt Program, which was run in Terms 1 and 2 in conjunction with Jarara (Indigenous Education Unit) through the Captivate Schools Program within the Parramatta Catholic Schools Diocese.

Behind the scenes, administrative support was provided by Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir Manager Erica Byrne, Indigenous Children's Choir Coordinator Sani Townson and Cairns-based Administrator Alice Neldner.

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, including a major new collaboration with the Vienna Boys Choir in 2017.

"The Choir's work in supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth ... is truly inspiring."

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."



"Gondwana is an enormous part of our lives; it fills our home with song and our hearts with pride and joy."

2016 Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir Parent

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kate Lidbetter is Chief Executive Officer of Symphony Services International. Previous positions have included Director of Music at the Australia Council for the Arts, Artist Development Manager of Symphony Australia, Artistic Administrator of the Australian Youth Orchestra and General Manager of Sydney Children's Choir. Kate is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a Director of Accessible Arts and ADHD Australia. She regularly participates on panels, committees and juries for various arts organisations.



Lyn Williams is Australia's leading director of choirs for young people. For 26 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. 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.



As a young girl, **Tessa Boyd-Caine** joined a small choir under the musical direction of Lyn Williams. Months later, that choir became Sydney Children's Choir and Tessa was one of its founding choristers. Tessa is CEO of Health Justice Australia and has worked in the areas of human rights, mental health law and criminal justice, both domestically and internationally. Tessa was the inaugural Fulbright Professional Scholar in Non-Profit Leadership; has a PhD from the London School of Economics; and has completed the Company Directors course run by the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Nicholas James has 30 years of global experience in investment banking, investment management and finance. He was CEO and CFO of Transfield Holdings, during which time he was also a member of the Transfield Holdings Advisory Board. Previous positions include at Campus Living Funds Management, Deutsche Bank, London; Macquarie Bank, Sydney, London and New York; and Westpac, Sydney. Nicholas' interest in Gondwana Choirs was through his son, a former chorister. He 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.



Karen Mundine is a proud Bundjalung woman from northern NSW. She is Deputy CEO of Reconciliation Australia and has over 20 years' experience in public advocacy, communications and social marketing working across the community, corporate and government sectors. Karen has worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, then Federal Department of Communications, IT and the Arts, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Technology, Sydney



David Longmuir is a qualified engineer, business manager and finance practitioner. David's involvement with Gondwana Choirs has been as a parent, supervisor, billet host, audience member and Director. Sophie and Henrietta, David and Libby's daughters, have sung with Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices and Gondwana Chorale. By being part of the Gondwana community, they have developed lifelong friendships and gained advanced musical skills. As a Director, David enjoys guiding Gondwana's growth and supporting the wonderful people delivering Gondwana's exciting programs and projects.



Caroline Sharpen runs the cultural sector strategic advisory firm Sharpen CIC. A musician by training, Caroline's career made an early transition from music practice to arts management where she held senior positions in Australian performing arts organisations over 17 years. In 2014 she established Sharpen CIC to provide management consulting services to the arts and creative industries sector.

GONDWANA CHOIRS SUPPORTERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

RioTinto

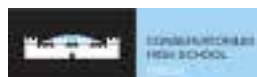
MAJOR PARTNERS



OnePoint



SUPPORTING PARTNERS



CLAYTON UTZ



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Collier Charitable Fund
Crown Resorts Foundation
Crown Resorts Limited
James N. Kirby Foundation
Packer Family Foundation
Magnolia Foundation
St George Foundation
Sydney Community Foundation
Todd Family Foundation
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
Westpac Community Grants

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Cairns State High School
Conservatorium High School
UNSW
Alexandria Park Community School
NSW Government Family & Community Services

Thank you to those who have supported Gondwana Choirs in 2016:

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE Gifts of \$20,000 +

Vicki Olsson Shaw Family
Samway Family Kim Williams & Catherine Dovey

INNOVATIONS PATRONS PLATINUM Gifts of \$5,000-\$20,000

Christine Bishop Peter & Michelle Goes Todd Family Foundation
Larry Boyd & Barbara Caine Clare & Tom Herschell Anonymous (4)
Daryl & Kate Dixon Magnolia Foundation

INNOVATIONS PATRONS GOLD Gifts of \$2,000 – \$5,000

Helen & Matthew Allchurch Kate Lidbetter & Peter Kerin Ray Wilson OAM
America Family Catherine Playoust & Elliott Gyger Resonance of Birralee
Grimshaw Family Helen Williams Zonta Sydney East
Jem Harding Lyn Williams OAM Anonymous (1)

INNOVATIONS PATRONS SILVER Gifts of \$500 – \$2,000

Ms A C Beck Steven & Meredith Huntingford Robert & Jenny Rowland
Rosemary Curtin & Alex Wonhas Genevieve Lang Huppert David & Caterina Spiteri
Steven Davidson Kains Family WGCDCR Michael Stuart-Watt
Mat Flynn David & Libby Longmuir Penny & Imogen Sturrock
Richard & Jane Freudenstein Lyonswood Investigations & Forensic Group Gabrielle Utian
Gorbatov Family Elisabeth McDonald Jenny van Proctor & Tony Mandl
Green Family Robyn Martin-Weber Voices of Biralee
Michael & Sue Gregg Annette Millroy Roewen Wishart & Madeleine Scott
Hadfield Family Miller Cohen Family, in memory of Leora Anthony & Annie Whealy
Gaye Headlam Ogden Family Alan Yap & Michele Tjeuw
Sue Hewitt Elizabeth Penington Mark & Anna Yates
Dr & Mrs Hodgkinson Christophe Renaud & Sylvie Renaud-Calmel Anonymous (6)
Dorothy Holland Vanessa & Mark Rohanna

INNOVATIONS PATRONS BRONZE Gifts to \$500

Andrew & Nicole Allan Deb Garrett Kathy Merrick
Carole Baker Sally Greenaway & Warwick Benson Antonia & Keith Milner
Sue Barnsley Grill'd Healthy Burgers World Square Todd & Paula Montgomerie
Ellena Baroni Daniela Hartman Moser Family
Sandy Belford Mark Hayler Richard Paoloni & Lisa Horvath
Laura Bernay Mary Heath Mark & Sally Pierce
Mr James Bierer Philip & Anna Herald Tony Pooley
Camilla Block & Johan Gabrielsson Fenella & Philip Heuzenroeder Maurenn Qureshi
Rosemary Block Sarah McNaughton Kate Reid
Hani Botha Prof. John Horvath AO & Prof. Diana Tami Rex & Roger Clark
MJ & SE Braham Horvath AO Elizabeth Sakker
Karin Brown Nicholas Horn Ricardo Sarmiento
Jane & Christopher Brew Katherine Howard Elisabeth Shaw
Mark Brusasco Andrea & Michael Huelin David & Sabine Simmonds
Alex Burjan Helen Johnson Hywel Sims
Steve Burns & Louisa O'Toole Sandra Johnson Dr Louise Sparrow
James Fraser & Alexandra Cameron-Fraser Sally Josh Heather Stone
Sonya Bajenov Jennifer Kaldor Juliet & Mark Taylor
Juliette Bryan Michelle Katz Dr Clara Teniswood
Elaine Chia Leta Keens John Tucker & Tina Jowett
Roger Clarke & Tami Rex Paul & Elena Krivoshev Rod & Melinda Unmack
Dr Richard & Mrs Gertraud Cohen Lenie & Khundry Kumulia David van Reyk
Tracie & Franco Cordeiro Helen & William Langdon Mrs Katuska Varela
John & Elizabeth Curtin Mrs Connie Wong Lee Michael Walpole
Jillian Deere Kate & Grant Lester Melanie Walters
Esudero-Genc Family Norman Long Geoffrey Wells
Karen & Richard Enthoven Ms Maree Lucas Frances & Gary Whatling
Shirley Goldrei Louise Mahon Andrew & Leanne Whittle
Walter Fergus Paul & Jacqueline Massey David Wiggins & Katie Yuill
Sam Fox Bryan & Amy Massey Ben Wu
Jared Furtado Mr Greg Massingham Anonymous (15)
Rebecca Gallegos in memory of Kaye Mundine Rachel McCallum & Gavin Morrison
Geoff & Suzanne Gardiner Margaret McKenna



GONDWANA CHOIRS

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR ARTISTS 2016

Lyn Williams Artistic Director
 Elizabeth Vierboom Associate Conductor
 Sally Whitwell Principal Pianist
 Amandine Petit Head of Training Choirs

Conductors Sam Allchurch, Erica Byrne,
 Naomi Cooper, Owen Elsley,
 Jem Harding, Ruth McCall,
 Atalya Masi, Amandine Petit,
 Elizabeth Vierboom, Lyn Williams,
 Hester Wright

Pianists Chris Cartner, Jem Harding,
 Estella Roche, Sally Whitwell

Composer in Residence Alice Chance

NATIONAL CHOIRS ARTISTS 2016

Lyn Williams Artistic Director
 Graeme Morton Conducting Academy Program Director
 Katy Abbott Composer School Program Director

Conductors Kate Albury, Christie Anderson,
 Brady Allred, Carl Crossin,
 Paul Jarman, Rowan Johnston,
 Mark O'Leary, Elizabeth Scott,
 Elizabeth Vierboom, Lyn Williams

Pianists Andrew Basile, Luke Byrne,
 Alice Hanna, Lauren Hannay,
 Jem Harding, Sally Whitwell

Spinifex Gum Creative Team Felix Riebl, Ollie McGill,
 Sani Townson

INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR ARTISTS 2016

Lyn Williams Artistic Director

Conductors Chris Burcin, Jem Harding,
 Elizabeth Vierboom, Lyn Williams

Pianists Lauren Hannay, Brendan O'Mahony

ADMINISTRATION 2017

Lyn Williams OAM Founder & Artistic Director
 Bernie Heard General Manager

Sam Allchurch Artistic Administrator
 Emma Barnett Sydney Children's Choir Manager
 Erica Byrne Indigenous Children's Choir Manager
 Emma Carson National Choirs Manager
 Wendy Cundy Accounts Administrator
 Steph Dillon Sydney Children's Choir Assistant Manager
 Owen Elsley Operations Assistant
 Francis Greep Development & Communications Manager
 Susan Hart Finance Manager
 Allison Tyra Marketing Manager

Gondwana Choirs would like to thank Majeda Beatty, Aimee Palfreeman and Sani Townson for their contributions in 2016.

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 2016.

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 2016, Gondwana Choirs' comprehensive program continued to grow in scope and reputation, providing leadership in choral training and performance. In 2016, 936 young people participated in the core intensive programs – the Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana National Choirs and the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. Significantly, in January 2016 the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir attended National Choral School, made possible through extensive fundraising, and culminating in the world premiere performance of *Spinifex Gum* - a song cycle by Felix Riebl. Gondwana Choirs presented 16 world premiere performances of new work by Australian composers, unique programs to develop emerging conductors and composers, and 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. In 2016 our ensembles performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, presenting the Australian premiere of *The Pied Piper* (Sydney Children's Choir); The Australia Ensemble as guest artists for a subscription series concert (Sydney Children's Choir); for Kaldor Public Art Projects' *barrangal dyara (skin and bones)* (Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Sydney Children's

Choir); and commenced on a new collaboration with Opera Australia, preparing the Children's Chorus for two programs performed in early 2017 (Sydney Children's Choir).

In addition to numerous commercial recordings, 2016 saw Gondwana Choirs realise several significant independent recording projects. *Hooray for Song!* is a collection of songs for young people, performed by young people. Featuring music entirely by Australian composers, this recording models the best choral singing for young voices and is accompanied by a beautifully presented illustrated booklet. One review of the recording stated, "Crystal clear in tone, a seamless blend ... unerring in pitch and secure in rhythm and their sense of ensemble." Gondwana Chorale's debut CD, *Soar* was released also in 2016. It includes a range of Australian and international repertoire, and received a warm response for "the inimitable sound of the ensemble which reflects expert musicianship, great versatility and sophistication".

The company reported a pleasing surplus result due to careful controls on expenditure, and significant fundraising in 2016. There was a strong community response to the announcement regarding the discontinuation of multi-year Federal Government funding from the Australia Council, including an immediate fundraising result with greatly increased donations towards the End of Financial Year campaign.

The company has stable management, and prioritises investment in developing skills and encouraging talent within the team. 2016 demonstrates continued strong results for self-presented performances, increased membership for the Sydney Children's Choir training program, and increased applications nationally for the Gondwana National Choirs.

Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income

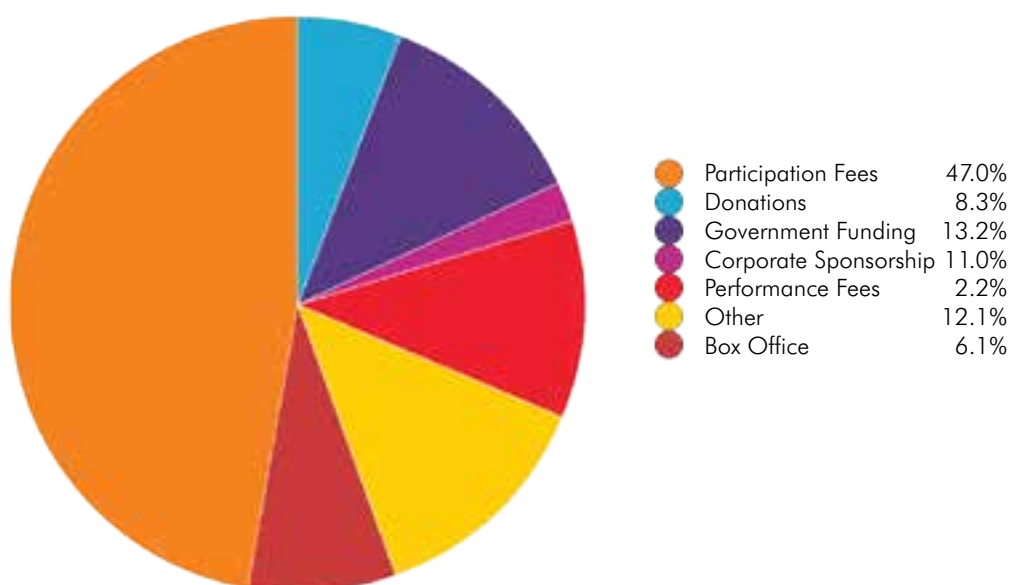
For the year ended 31 December 2016

Gondwana Choirs Ltd

	Note Sch	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue	4	2,372,161	2,624,215
Other income	4	20,792	9,401
Administration expenses	Sch 2	(227,776)	(211,789)
Amortisation expenses	11	(12,405)	(9,722)
Depreciation expenses	10	(4,240)	(11,177)
Employee benefits expense	13	(1,175,612)	(1,164,150)
Marketing expenses		(70,589)	(36,613)
Merchandising expenses		(28,829)	(47,925)
Production expenses		(747,077)	(1,007,415)
Surplus before income tax		126,425	144,825
Income tax expense	3.9	-	-
Surplus for the year		126,425	144,825
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		126,425	144,825

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

2016 INCOME



Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 December 2016

Gondwana Choirs Ltd

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,978,920	1,101,030
Trade and other receivables	6	162,037	599,975
Inventories	7	95,417	41,120
Other current assets	9	307,517	79,911
Current assets		2,543,891	1,822,036
Non-current			
Plant and equipment	10	12,748	8,432
Intangible assets	11	15,274	27,679
Non-current assets		28,022	36,111
Total assets		2,571,913	1,858,147
Liabilities			
Current			
Trade and other payables	12	90,700	124,885
Employee provisions	13	131,098	112,028
Other current liabilities	14	1,370,700	772,738
Current liabilities		1,592,498	1,009,651
Non-current			
Employee provisions	13	7,956	3,462
Non-current liabilities		7,956	3,462
Total liabilities		1,600,454	1,013,113
Net assets		971,459	845,034
Equity			
Unrestricted funds		971,459	845,034
Total equity		971,459	845,034

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 2016

Gondwana Choirs Ltd

	Note	Unrestricted funds \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2015		700,209	700,209
Surplus for the year		144,825	144,825
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		144,825	144,825
Balance at 31 December 2015		845,034	845,034

	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

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2016

Gondwana Choirs Ltd

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Operating activities			
Receipts from:			
• Client contributions		2,453,186	1,972,821
• Donations received		309,411	267,269
• Government grants		397,620	232,392
• Interest income		13,998	20,631
• Sponsorships received		386,562	250,461
Payments to clients, suppliers and employees		(2,674,331)	(2,819,455)
Net cash provided by operating activities		886,446	(75,881)
Investing activities			
Purchases of plant and equipment	10	(8,556)	(5,988)
Purchases of intangible assets	11	-	(37,124)
Net cash used in investing activities		(8,556)	(43,112)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		877,890	(118,993)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		1,101,030	1,220,023
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year		1,978,920	1,101,030

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

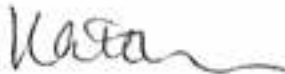
Directors' Declaration

For the year ended 31 December 2016
Gondwana Choirs Ltd

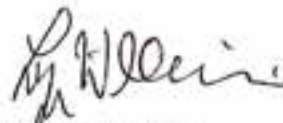
In the opinion of the Directors of the Gondwana Choirs Limited:

- (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 2016 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 19/5/17



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 2016, 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 2016 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 2016, 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:

- the financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year;
- the accounting and associated records have been properly kept during the year in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Regulations;
- 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
- 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

STEVEN J MILLER & CO
Chartered Accountants

S J Miller

S J MILLER
Registered Company
Auditor No 4286

Sydney

Dated 19, 5, 17

IMAGE CREDITS

Ben Symons	1, 2, 4, 5, 8 - 9, 11, 15, 17, 23, 27, 29
Diabolique	34
Peter Greig	24
Lyn Williams	20, 26

