

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!



**Darwin
Chorale Inc.**

in association with Southern Cross Television presents

AN EASTER CONCERT

with the **Darwin Symphony Orchestra**
and **Darwin Youth Choir**

Music by Bach McCartney Routley
Verdi and Wagner

Conductor: **Nicholas Routley**

8.00pm Good Friday 10 April 2009
Darwin Entertainment Centre



Foreword from Nora Lewis
Musical Director of the Darwin Chorale

The simultaneous celebration of the Darwin Chorale's 25th Anniversary and the Darwin Symphony Orchestra's 20th feels like an auspicious alignment of the planets, and our collaborative performances this year in that light are most gratifying! It seems like only yesterday that Martin Jarvis and I were sitting together with two other colleagues on the occasion of his arrival in Darwin exploring his possible contribution to the Darwin music scene. How much has flowed under the bridge since then!

The Chorale is always excited by and appreciative of opportunities to perform with the DSO. So many concerts spring to the memory, such as Brahms' Requiem, Beethoven's Choral Symphony and the Missa Solemnis, Borodin's Polovetsian Dances, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture and Carl Orff's Carmina Burana - some of these under the baton of tonight's guest conductor. Members of the Chorale enjoy and value the relationship we have developed with Mr. Routley and look forward to furthering it through more wonderful music. We are also excited by the participation of singers from the Darwin Youth Choir tonight. Graduation of these young choristers into the Chorale would augur well for its future.

An EASTER Concert

Conductor – Nicholas Routley
Soprano – Belinda Montgomery

With the
Darwin Chorale, Darwin Symphony Orchestra, Darwin Youth Choir

Stabat Mater	<i>Giuseppe Verdi</i>
Good Friday Music from <i>Parsifal</i>	<i>Richard Wagner</i>
Aria & Funeral March from <i>Mahabharata</i>	<i>Nicholas Routley</i>
<i>Interval</i>	
Ecce Cor Meum Spiritus Gratia and Lament Ecce Cor Meum	<i>Sir Paul McCartney</i>
Donna Nobis Pacem from <i>Mass in B minor</i>	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>

Programme Notes:

Stabat Mater - Giuseppe Verdi born in Le Roncole, Italy (1813 - 1901) is famous for his operas, but he also wrote some sacred music, the Requiem and the *Quattro Pezzi Sacri* (four holy pieces), consisting of *Stabat Mater*, *Ave Maria*, *Te Deum* and *Laudi alla Vergine Maria*. The *Stabat Mater* and *Te Deum* were the last works Verdi wrote. The *Stabat Mater* (literally 'The mother standing by the cross') was composed in 1898 for mixed choir and orchestra. During the nineteenth century, the popularity of the *Stabat Mater*'s text is evident by its place in the work of other composers including Rossini, Schubert, and Dvorak.

Verdi's setting is described as a mixture of the purity and simplicity of the sixteenth century version of Palestrina, with the drama and pathos of *Il Trovatore*. The composition moves through the text without any repetition. There is a typically Verdian outburst in stanza 7 where Jesus is flogged, and in contrast, the subtle slipping away of Jesus' spirit in stanza 8, accompanied by distant shrouded drums.

Good Friday Music from *Parsifal* - The Good Friday Music (Karfreitagmusik) comes from Act III of Wagner's *Parsifal*. In this Act, the hero Parsifal looks about and comments on the beauty of the meadow. Gurnemanz explains that today is Good Friday, when the world is renewed. Parsifal now baptizes the weeping Kundry. Tolling bells are heard afar off; Gurnemanz says Midday: the hour has come. My lord, permit your servant to guide you and all three set off for the castle of the Grail. A dark orchestral interlude (Good Friday Music) leads into the solemn gathering of the knights in Scene Two. Wagner's own accounts of the composition of this work vary.

According to Wagner's account in *Mein Leben*, he conceived *Parsifal* on Good Friday morning, April 1857, in a small cottage on Otto von Wesendonck's estate in Zürich, which Wesendonck - a wealthy silk merchant and generous patron of the arts - had placed at Wagner's disposal. The composer and his first wife Minna had moved into the cottage on 28 April: "... on Good Friday I awoke to find the sun shining brightly for the first time in this house: the little garden was radiant with green, the birds sang, and at last I could sit on the roof and enjoy the long-yearned-for peace with its message of promise. Full of this sentiment, I suddenly remembered that the day was Good Friday, and I called to mind the significance this omen had already once assumed for me when I was reading Wolfram's *Parzival*. Since the sojourn in Marienbad [in the summer of

Darwin Chorale Inc.

Chorus preparation Nora Lewis and Digby Barrow

Soprano

Apple Craufurd
Bev Turnbull
Caroline Sibson
Jenny Scott
Jenny Young
Joanna Best
Lesley Hart
Lyla Wills
Meriel Corbett-Weir
Pam Tibbits
Sarah Martin
Vivienne Tooms

Alto

Annette Gore
Elizabeth Close
Francoise Barr
Janine Sutter
Jenny Ashton
Josie Roberts
Katherine Wilkin
Kelly Carne
Lisa Clarke
Marion Gordon
Pam Hibberd
Pam Smith
Sheila Delahay
Val Hristova

Bass

Grant Keetley
Martin Gore
Michael Foley
Mike Ashton
Richard Chapman

Tenors

Alastair Burns
Andrew Telfer
Darryel Binns
David Hibbert
Reg Prasad
Tony Mount
James Walcott

Darwin Youth Choir

Amelia Wardle, Breanna Dyer, Casey Glennon, Erin Fritz, Heather Kerley, Iona Watson, Kate Huntingford, Lana Kains, Paris Hilton, Rachel Tolliday Henderson, Rebekah Ainslie, Rochelle Cadbury, Siobhan Casey.

Many members of the Darwin Youth Choir grew up musically in the Darwin Youth and Children's Choir formed in 1994 under the Directorship of Mrs. Emma Tantengco. At the end of 2005 Mrs. Tantengco retired to Perth and the choir was reconvened as the Territory Proud Youth Choir which then auditioned for the ABC FM Choir of the Year competition in 2006. The Choir was successful in reaching the final of the SA/NT group, and was placed second after a great performance in the final at the Adelaide Town Hall.

After this competition, the choir lost some of its seniors to year 12 and tertiary studies interstate, but kept an experienced core. It auditioned for new members and reformed as the Darwin Youth Choir in early 2007, and is now under the direction of Nora Lewis, with assistant conductor Merrilyn Watson.

The Choir has 16 members who love singing together. Excursions interstate and overseas include:

- 2003 Sing Out Festival in Narrogin, WA,
- 2004 National Choral Fest, Adelaide
- 2005 Commonwealth Torch Relay Ceremony, Brunei
- 2006 ABS Classic FM final in Adelaide

Locally, the choir enhances corporate and community functions such as Carols by Candlelight and national conferences.

Darwin Chorale Inc. Acknowledgements

Uniforms:	Kelly Carne, Annette Gore
Refreshments:	Darryel Binns, Trish & Stan Chin
Artwork:	Claire Pallant
Programme:	CDUniprint,
Photocopying Assistance:	– Paul Henderson MLA: Michael Gunner MLA
Production:	Stage Manager – Nick Manley Production Assistant – Chelsea Diprose Gary Ferguson and the crew from the Darwin Entertainment Centre. Martin Jarvis, Nora Lewis, Digby Barrow
Publicity:	Emma di Muzio, Tony Mount, Jenny Scott
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Darwin Chorale Inc.

Patron – His Honour, The Administrator Mr. Tom Pauling AO, QC

Musical Director – Nora Lewis

Assistant Musical Director – Digby Barrow

Conductor Emeritus – Dean Patterson

Chairperson – Jenny Scott

Vice Chairperson – Grant Keetley

Secretary – Adelle Perkins

Asst. Secretary – Pam Hibberd

Treasurer – Paul Lassemillante

Asst. Treasurer – Vacant

Librarian – Tony Mount:

Asst. Librarian – Pam Smith

Public Officer – Jenny Atkinson

Committee: Darryel Binns (Registrar) Kelly Carne (Uniforms)

For further information call 0439457577

Website <http://www.darwinchorale.org.au>

Support for the 2009 Darwin Chorale Quiz Night was received from:

Air North, Alfreds, Apple Craufurd, Birch Carrol & Coyle, Crowne Plaza Darwin, Cool Spot, Caf' Parap, Casuarina Sports and Social Club, Darryel Binns, Karen Brown Gallery, Jenny's Orchid Garden, Jenny Scott

What's on Next in 2009:

Sydney Pilgrim Singers	Christ Church Anglican Cathedral	25 May
HMS Pinafore	Darwin Entertainment Centre	6 - 9 August
Brunswick Womens Choir	Church of the Good Shepherd, Freds Pass	5 September
Carmina Burana	With the Darwin Symphony Orchestra Darwin Entertainment Centre	14 November
Carmina Burana	Araluen Centre, Alice Springs	21 November