

Darwin  
Chorale

*presents*



# amahl and the night visitors

a christmas story for children

by **carlo menotti**  
with the **arafura ensemble**

artistic director: **merrilee mills**  
musical director: **nora lewis**

charles darwin university theatre

## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**MERRILEE MILLS**

Merrilee holds a degree in music from the NSW Conservatorium and in education from Newcastle University. She has had extensive post-graduate training and experience in performing arts-related fields, including acting, maskwork, voicework and psychodrama. Since her arrival in the Northern Territory in 1990, she has worked for all the Territory's professional arts bodies in capacities ranging from actor and director to musical director, composer, writer and designer. She is currently working on the Music Advisory Support Team for the Northern Territory Music School.

## **MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

**NORA LEWIS**

Nora was born in India and began piano tuition at boarding school there. After migrating to New Zealand she continued music studies at Auckland University where she was invited to audition for the 50-Voice New Zealand Dorian Choir, conducted by Professor Peter Godfrey. She sang with the choir for 10 years, touring twice to England and Europe for international choral festivals.

In Darwin since 1978, Nora has been heavily involved in music in schools and the community. She is now the Principal for the Northern Territory Music School and is Musical Director of "The Beat". In 2001 Nora was Musical Director of *Les Misérables* for Superstar Productions, and in March 2001 received the Chief Minister's "Women's Achievement Award" for services to music in the community.

Nora was appointed Musical Director of the Darwin Chorale in 2001 and has led the Darwin Chorale through many musical genres amongst which are the highly successful *African Sanctus*, *Romancero Gitano* with internationally acclaimed guitarist Craig Ogden and more recently Handel's *Messiah*.

## **AM AHL**

## **IAN MORIARTY**

Ian's first experience with music, at age 2, was dancing to "Knees Up Mother Brown" while participating in the Centre for Youth Music's Junior Music programme in 1994. He is a long-standing member of Musically Brilliant, working with Annie Richards, and has performed in the Beat and in both voice and clarinet sections of the North Australian Eisteddfod.

Ian joined the Centre for Youth Music Boys' Choir in 2001, playing the Baker and Gad in the musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and a sleepwalking rat in *Rats – the Musical*. Ian's current role, as Amahl – a likeable but sometimes difficult and often mischievous boy – suits his character perfectly.

Ian has been invited to the Junior Gondwana Choral Camp in January 2004 and is looking forward to spending time with lots of other boys who are interested in singing and having a good time away from their parents.

## **MOTHER**

## **VIVIENNE TOOMS**

Vivienne began her musical career in Northumberland, England. She played violin with the Northern Schools Symphonia and the Blyth Operatic Society. In 1988 she moved to Horsham, Victoria where she formed, directed and sang/played with Wimmeracappella, The Horsham City Choir and The Horsham Recorder Consort. She also taught violin and music theory.

In 1995 she moved to Darwin and undertook a Bachelor of Music in voice at the Northern Territory University School of Music, studying with Kathleen Banks. Vivienne graduated and was awarded a BMus (Hons). She is musical director of the Charles Darwin University (CDU) Chamber Choir, Co-ordinator of the Centre for Youth Music (CYM) vocal development programme (Pandanus Performers) and the Integrated Music Performance Skills programme (IMPS). She is also a voice and violin tutor with the CYM and the adult non-award programme. Most recently she has taken on the role of concert coordinator within the CYM.

Not only does Vivienne perform but she also directs. Last year she co-directed the CYM boys' choir's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. This year she was artistic director for the new NT based operatic performance group OperatuNITY's production of *Trial By Jury* and most recently was musical director for the CYM Pandanus Performer's production of *Rats -The Musical*.

## **KASPAR**

## **REG PRASAD**

Reg turns 75 during the run of this show. Born in Fiji and educated in New Zealand where he studied for his Degree in Medicine, he moved to Australia in 1962 where he practiced as a medical practitioner until his eventual retirement to Darwin in 1996.

Reg enjoys his singing and his first experience in singing was in the Methodist Church choirs in Fiji, where he learned to harmonise. Prior to joining the Darwin Chorale in 1997 Reg enjoyed singing in Barbershop choirs. Reg feels fortunate to have discovered the Darwin Chorale and appreciates the challenges and friendships it offers him in his retirement.

## **MELCHIOR**

## **MARK PEARCE**

Mark was born and raised in Perth and from a young age developed a passion for musical theatre. In his teenage years Mark performed a lot with church youth singing groups and was often a guest soloist. At Claremont Teachers College, he acted in the lead role in two productions Jack the Ripper and the Apple Tree. Whilst completing his Teaching Diploma he also passed his Australian Trinity College of London exam in speech and drama.

Mark is a teacher at Anula Primary School and appeared for Superstar Productions as John Valjean in *Les Misérables* and Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

## **BALTHAZAR**

## **NEVILLE QUIGLEY**

Neville enjoys being on stage. He is a regular member of the Darwin Chorale and has enjoyed taking up the challenge as a soloist in this production.

Neville hopes you enjoy tonight's performance.

## **PAGE**

## **STEPHEN DE GABRIELLE**

Stephen performs regularly with the Darwin Chorale and Superstar Productions. He relishes the opportunity to portray comical moments on stage. It is hoped that this will not be Stephen's only solo performance with the Darwin Chorale.

## CHORUS

Francoise Barr  
Liz Burford  
Danny Carleton  
Glenys Chambers  
Jane Ford  
Pam Hibberd  
David Hibbert  
Valerie Hristova  
Paia Ingram

Dianne Jackson  
Paul Lassemillante  
David Lee  
Jenny Margus  
Tony Mount  
Karin Mulligan  
Patricia Myers  
John Phillips  
Rory Presnell

## DARWIN CHORALE

Amanda Roberts  
Josie Roberts  
Jenny Scott  
Janine Sutter  
Lorina Trayte  
Andrew Tupper  
Bev Turnbull  
Kate Verus  
Mary Verus  
Emma Williams

## PUPPETEERS

Rory Presnell  
Mary Verus

Emma Williams

Merrilee Mills

## DANCERS

Kristy Rickert

Jessica Rosewarne

## ORCHESTRA

### Violin 1

Penny Reiss  
Haibai Feng  
Syd Selva

### Violin 2

Anna Ingram  
Angelina Duan

### Viola

Judith Harris  
Sophia Dodds

### Cello

Bronwyn Myers  
Chrissie Berryman

### Bass

Ben Bates

### Flute

Ranu James

### Oboe

Julie-Ann Watson  
Kim Faehse

### Clarinet

Natalie Chin  
Stephen Peveley

### Percussion

Malcolm Johnston-Leek

## ARAFURA ENSEMBLE

### Basoon

Susanna McDonald

### French Horn

Anita Kains

### Trumpet

Matthew White

### Harp

Erna Jarvis

### Piano

Linda Triplett

# **Amahl and the Night Visitors**

*Composer Gian Carlo Menotti*

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

Artistic Director	Merrilee Mills
Musical Director	Nora Lewis
Choreographer	Shauna Ricardo
Lighting (Design and Plot)	James Forrest
Costumes – Concept	Merrilee Mills
Costumes	Jill Thompson
Puppet Construction	Merrilee Mills, Tania Lieman, Barby Barclay
Set Concept	Merrilee Mills
Photography	Yoris Wilson
Poster Design	Claire Pallant
Production Manager	Jenny Scott
Stage Manager	Rachel Fox
Back Stage	Jill Thompson
Front of House	Geoff Gillman, Graham Cheater Marion Gordon, Jayne McIntyre David Skelton

### **Special Thanks**

Tania Lieman, Malcolm Beattie - Darwin Theatre Company  
Martin Jarvis - Darwin Symphony Orchestra  
Claire Kilgariff  
Yoris Wilson  
Graeme, Nathan and Andrew Lewis  
Rehab NT  
School of Music CDU  
Northern Territory Music School (NTDEET)  
Dale Moriarty  
Jane Ford  
David Hibbert  
John Phillips  
David McMicken, Tim Newth - TRACKS  
Chris Osborne  
Judy Weepers