



**Noosa
Chorale**

Tune In

Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

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Requiem a high note for soprano Judit

Hungarian-born soprano Judit Molnar says she has been given a gift by being invited to sing Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* at Noosa Chorale's 25th anniversary concert at the end of May.

Her soprano voice, which the Chorale's Adrian King enthuses as "lyric and dramatic," has been heard in solo and chamber concerts, festivals, oratorios and on opera stages across Europe, the U.K. Japan and her adopted country Australia.

She has had starring roles in operas like *La Boheme*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *L'elisir d'amore* but one "opera" she has never, not once, sung is the Verdi *Requiem*.

"I call it an 'opera' because I think it is an opera and Verdi is my favourite opera composer," she told Tune In.

"I am so grateful that I have been invited to sing it because, if you were to ask what is my dream role, I would say this is it."

Judit grew up in Miskolc in Hungary and studied piano, starting when she was eight. She was 16 when her piano teacher, an opera singer, suggested she might like to be a singer.

"She didn't give up and I didn't argue any more, even though I wanted to be a dentist!"



Judit Molnar stars as Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus* in a live TV broadcast in Hungary

She studied operatic singing at the world-famous Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest and graduated in 2008. During her studies, Judit became part of a professional chamber ensemble of 16

JIM FAGAN

singers. "We toured countries in Europe. I went so many times to Italy and France, I didn't even take my camera."

Operatic roles followed in main Hungarian and Austrian theatres and in 2006 she was invited to sing at a "big Hungarian festival" in Sydney.

"I returned to Australia a couple of times after that to sing at Hungarian and German societies and clubs around the country and in 2012 I decided, I would like to live here. I also had to learn English."

Judit auditioned for Opera Australia and was given a contract to appear in the Melbourne company's *The Merry Widow*.

By this time, she had applied for a visa and the Federal Government granted her the prestigious Distinguished Talent Visa as an internationally recognised artist with exceptional and outstanding contributions to the arts.

Brisbane based Judit, now an Australian citizen, has another reason for being keen to sing the Requiem as she has appeared on stage previously with fellow soloists baritone Jeffrey Black and tenor Andrew Pryor.

"The three of us have already had a practise with Adrian and Melissa (mezzo Melissa Gregory). I just know it's going to be superb."

**Book quickly to get
the last seats!**

**Verdi Requiem—
Noosa Leisure Centre
Sunday 26 May 2pm
Tickets: \$35 (students \$25)
Bookings: www.thej.com.au
Phone enquiries: 07 5329 6560**

NOOSA CHORALE SILVER ANNIVERSARY

VERDI REQUIEM

NOOSA CHORALE
SUNSHINE COAST CHORAL SOCIETY
THE REQUIEM ORCHESTRA
ADRIAN KING CONDUCTING
JUDIT MOLNAR – soprano
MELISSA GREGORY – mezzosoprano
ANDREW PRYOR – tenor
JEFFREY BLACK – baritone

SUNDAY 26 MAY 2019, 2.00pm
NOOSA LEISURE CENTRE
9 Wallace Drive, Noosaville
Live broadcast—Noosa FM 101.3
Tickets – \$35 (\$25 student)
Phone enquiries – 07 5329 6560
Bookings – www.thej.com.au

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Soloists team up for Verdi rehearsal

Judit Molnar—Soprano

Judit was born in Miskolc, Hungary and graduated from the world famous Liszt Academy of Music in 2008. She performs at solo and chamber concerts, festivals, oratorios and operas in Hungary and across Europe- Italy, Austria, Germany, Czech, Poland, Slovakia and UK- as well as in her adopted country Australia. During her time of study, she won several prizes for her singing, she made her operatic debut in the role of Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*.

Judit sang the role of Musetta (*La Boheme*), Lola (*Cavallerie rusticana*), Fáni (*Az igazmondó juhász*), Spirit and First Witch (*Dido and Aeneas*), and Serpina (*La serva padrona*). On the concert stage Judit has performed as soloist with the North-Hungarian Symphony Orchestra, the BBZI Symphony Orchestra, Interoperett, Lehar Festival Bad Ischl, Queensland Pop's Orchestra, Vienna Pop's Orchestra, Canberra Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in diverse repertoire ranging from Handel's oratorios to spectacular New Year's Eve Galas.

Judit is an active chamber musician: in addition to being a founding member of Fragments Ensemble, she is the soprano of the Artico Ensemble, the Arisoso Baroque Ensemble and Strauss in da Haus.

She is undertaking Doctoral Research through Griffith University and maintains an active private teaching studio. In addition to her onstage roles, Judit has recorded two albums, a Christmas special *O holy night* and *My beautiful homeland* featuring popular Hungarian songs and arias by Kodály, Erkel, Lehár and Strauss. Based in Brisbane, since 2012. Judit was granted a most prestigious Distinguished Talent Visa by the Australian Government as an internationally recognised artist with exceptional and outstanding contributions to the arts.

Melissa Gregory—Mezzo Soprano

Melissa is a Brisbane-based mezzo-soprano who graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Classical Voice) in Performance with First Class Honours in 2013 at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

Melissa has performed as a soloist with Opera Queensland, the Song Company, Voci Stupende, the Queensland Choir, the Noosa Chorale, Sunshine Coast Chorale Society and the Bach Society of Queensland. Her operatic roles include title role of Hansel in Humperdink's *Hansel und Gretel*, Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, *Dritte Dame* in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Florence Pike in Britten's *Albert Herring*, Dryad in R. Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* and most recently sung the role of Mrs Calloway (Cover) in the closing night performance of Paul Dean's World Premiere of *Dry River Run*, recorded for ABC broadcast.

In July 2018, Melissa also travelled to Germany to perform the role of Orlofsky in J. Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* as part of the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar Summer Program.

Melissa has been the winner of the Queensland Conservatorium's 2015 Elizabeth Muir



(l to r) Judit Molnar, Melissa Gregory, Jeffrey Black, Conductor Adrian King, and Andrew Pryor rehearsing in the studio of Sunshine Coast Choral Society's accompanist Natasha Koch.
Photo / Natasha Koch

Postgraduate Prize, the Linda Edith Allen Postgraduate Prize and the Lynette Casey-Brereton award at the 2016 National Liederfest competition. She was also runner up in the 2017 Patricia Fagan Operatic Aria and a finalist in the BlueScope Wollongong Operatic Aria and the RMP Aria competition.

Andrew Pryor—Tenor

As a performer for Opera Queensland, Andrew performed in numerous productions including *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La Forza Del Destino*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Otello*, *Carmen*, *Parsifal*, *Turandot*, *Falstaff* and *Faust*. Andrew has also performed with Opera Australia at the Sydney Opera House in their performances of *Madama Butterfly*, *the Barber of Seville* and *Billie Budd* amongst others. He has also performed with the State Opera of South Australia.

Andrew studied for five years at the Queensland Conservatorium, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Music, and a Graduate Diploma in Opera. During this time he performed as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the Infernal Spirit in the Queensland Conservatorium production of *Orfeo*, and in productions of *Elisir d'Amore*, *Elijah the Opera* and *The Bartered Bride*. Prior to this, he performed many different roles with the theatre companies including the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of South Australia and the Metropolitan Theatre Company of South Australia. Andrew has also performed as the tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Verdi's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Choral Symphony*.

In 1997, Andrew won a scholarship to study with the Australian Academy of Music and performed in their vocal program in 1998. That year, he also won the prestigious Westfield Scholarship in conjunction with the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

He is a founding member of the world renowned "The Ten Tenors" with whom he has performed throughout Australia and the world, and recorded several albums.

Jeffrey Black—Baritone

Jeffrey received his first Opera Contract in 1983 at the age of 20 from the Australian Opera. He made his debut with the National Opera Company the following year. He came to international prominence the year before in London as a finalist in the Inaugural Walther Gruener Lieder Competition.

Since making his international operatic debut at Glyndebourne in 1986 he has performed many of the prima cavalier lyric baritone roles in the major Opera Houses of the world including The Metropolitan Opera NY, Royal Opera House London, Opera Australia Sydney, Glyndebourne, Bastille Paris, Munich, Chicago, San Francisco and the Salzburg Festival.

He has interpreted the roles of Mozart & Rossini to great critical acclaim most notably, Count Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Don Giovanni, Figaro (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Dandini (*La Cenerentola*). Other roles include Eugene Onegin, Posa, Pere Germont, Ford and Wolfram moving more recently into the heavier repertoire roles of Rigoletto, Scarpia, Bocca Negra and Falstaff.

Since 2014 Jeffrey has returned to his *alma mater* and embraced his role as Director of Music at the Anglican Church of England Grammar School, (Churchie) in Brisbane, fostering the musical talent of young performers as well as working with young professional opera singers at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. His recent engagements have included *Carmina Burana* at QPAC and Schubert's *Die Winterreise* with Sharolyn Kimmorley and to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.

Surf, sand, and song for Chorale

JIM FAGAN

Early morning joggers on Noosa Beach missed a stride or two last week when 48 singers from Noosa Chorale turned up at the Coast Guard Tower at The Spit for a publicity photo shoot.

And they were given an impromptu concert when some of the choristers sang a chorus from the Verdi Requiem which they are performing on Sunday May 26 at the Noosa Leisure Centre.

The choir, dressed in their formal concert uniform, waved at photographer Cathy Finch's drone snapping them as they paddled in the surf.

They then posed for more photographs with a five-man team of lifesavers from Noosa Heads Surf Club, led by Patrol Captain Andrew Bock, who drove up to see the happenings on the northern end of their beach.

Chorale president Gai Ramsay agreed it was unusual for a choir, which specialises in great classical music, to select sea and sand as a location for publicity.

"People come to Noosa to enjoy our beaches and our national parks. Some come for a holiday and some to stay and we felt we should show them Noosa is more than a sub-tropical paradise. It is a place where the arts flourish and have for a long time.

"For example, the Chorale was founded in 1994 and we are celebrating our silver anniversary year with 185 singers and musicians performing the Verdi Requiem.

"We're converting the Leisure Centre into an auditorium and, in terms of numbers of performers, it will be the biggest ever indoor concert in Noosa.

"We're also combining with Noosa Radio FM101.3 which is broadcasting the concert live to their own listeners and streaming world-wide."

Gai said the choir was a newly minted member of Tourism Noosa. "We think we have something that adds to the diversity of what's available for people who come visiting Noosa.

"We asked Coast Guard Noosa for permission to include the tower and I would like to thank its volunteers as well as the Noosa Heads Surf Life Saving Club for sending the patrol and adding such colour to the shoot."



Photography / Cathy Finch
www.cathyfinchphotography.com/





The choir with Adrian King at Verrierdale (above) and Eumundi (below)



Choir talks to shoppers

Even long-serving choir members can't remember Noosa Chorale taking to the shopping centres to talk about an upcoming performance.

Usually, the choir relies on its supporter base and local media to promote its concerts at The J but this one, the Verdi Requiem, is on a scale like nothing the choir has had in all its 25 years.

"With 185 performers and the size of stage required, it is just too big for The J so we have had to go to the Noosa Leisure Centre at Wallace Park," Chorale president Gai Ramsay, said.

"It's also an expensive production so we had to change our usual marketing methods to attract a larger than usual audience and sell more tickets. As well as this, it's such a glorious musical work that

we wanted to make sure as many Noosa people as possible knew we were performing it."

Gai said the idea of going to the shopping centres came from soprano Jenny Jackson, one of the choir's marketing team.

"She had enthusiastic support from all sections of the choir in setting up the display stall and handing out flyers.... and excellent support from the management of Noosa Fair and Noosa Village Shopping Centres.

"And it's been a thrill to see and hear the wonderful response from the shoppers.

"It's certainly helped ticket sales. There are still some seats but we are expecting a "House Full" sign outside the Leisure Centre on Sunday week."

ANZAC Day— Chorale remembers

The dawn light broke over the jacarandas outside the Verrierdale Community Hall and Noosa Chorale sang *Amazing Grace* to start the Anzac Day Dawn Service on April 25.

It was the ninth year the singers had been taken part in the Observance at the invitation of the Verrierdale Community Group.

Led by music director Adrian King and accompanist Janet Brewer, the choir also sang the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems and "Abide With Me."

Later it took part in the Anzac Day ceremony at Eumundi singing "Waltzing Matilda" and at the end of the service were photographed in front of the newly dedicated "For You" sculpture which commemorates 100 years since The Armistice and end of WW1.



Alto Karen Wright is poised to tell shoppers at Noosa Fair about the concert.



Bass Jonathan Anstock indicates the size of the stage at Noosa Leisure Centre to a Noosa Village shopper while Tenor Ian Jobling looks on



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Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc.

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