

Transporting you to paradise

JIM FAGAN

“An evening of beautiful uplifting music”—that’s how reviewer Marguerite Webber described Gabriel Fauré’s *Requiem* fourteen years ago when Noosa Chorale, conducted by Adrian King, performed it at the Bicentennial Hall.

And Adrian is promising a repeat performance when the Chorale presents the Fauré *Requiem* again, along with Karl Jenkins’ inspiring *Stabat Mater* at the J Theatre in May.

Adrian has been bringing out the best in choirs for more than 50 years (he started when he was 19). His regard for Fauré’s music went back to when he was music master at St James’ Choir School at Grimsby in the U.K.

“I believe the *Requiem* is truly an inspirational work of art. Fauré wanted this piece to be different, not just another funeral song.

“His aim was to make it feel like a peaceful transition and he definitely succeeded as you can hear from the calm, lightness and serenity throughout the piece.

“Gabriel Fauré said he wrote this work purely ‘for the pleasure of it’ and unlike many Requiems, the work is imbued with a sense of warmth and optimism.

“Audiences will recognise the well-known “Hostias” and “Libera Me” for solo baritone, the transient purity of the much loved “Pie Jesu” soprano solo, and the memorable “In Paradisum”, with its magical accompaniment.

“Fauré’s setting seems gentle and unassuming, yet it is this very quality of understatement that contributes so eloquently to the work’s universal appeal, and it is impossible not to be moved by the ethereal beauty of this humble masterpiece.”

Asked about *Stabat Mater* by Karl Jennings, composer of *The Armed Man* and *Requiem*, each of which have thrilled Noosa audiences in recent years, Adrian said, “As a composer, Jenkins manages to combine very different styles of music from classical to pop and to draw on different cultures from around the globe.

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Book now

In Paradisum

CONDUCTED BY ADRIAN KING

FAURÉ REQUIEM

JENKINS STABAT MATER

FEATURING:

ANNIKA HINRICHS
TIMOTHY NEWTON
SHIRIN MAJDTEYMOURI
AND...

NOOSA CHORALE SINFONIA



27 MAY 7PM
28 MAY 2PM
THE J NOOSA
TICKETS : \$45
WWW.THEJ.COM.AU

Shirin “found herself with singing”

ANGIE OAKLEY

Opera, poetry, composing, producing, creating—all in the mix for the remarkable young Iranian soloist who will bring her wealth of cultural, vocal and life experience to perform the poignant and stirring Karl Jenkins’ *Stabat Mater* with the Noosa Chorale.

Shirin Majd describes herself as an Eastern woman, who has always wanted to sing in different languages and, while she has become an accomplished proponent of “Western” music, she is all about bringing the cultures together. Thus she will bring her own special sensibility to any work.

The Jenkins is a fine example, because her linguistic expertise in Aramaic, Arabic, Farsi and English—not to mention Latin—will enable her confidently to move through the piece, giving each element its due, and its special vocal quality.

A recent recital at St Andrews Uniting Church in Brisbane required her to perform seven songs, each in a different language—French, Italian, German, Czech, Russian and English!

Hers is—and continues to be—a truly remarkable story. Growing up in Iran, she discovered a love of music at an early age and by age ten, began training. It was life changing for her. She knew then, not just what she wanted to do, but who she was.

“I found myself with singing – when I sing, I’m alive”.

In order to pursue her dream, she was prepared to travel two hours each way for a half hour lesson. Her parents

At the age of seventeen she joined the renowned Tarbiat Moddares University choir and the Tehran Symphony Orchestra Choir, collaborating with such masters as Rohani, Rahabari, and Loris Tjeknavorian. So when she was singled out for her soloist potential she had difficult choices to make.

She has always had to find her own path—nothing was laid on for her. However she has had the good fortune to be schooled by many wonderful teachers and musicians, who clearly saw in her a talent and a spirit that proved irrepressible.

After her time in Iran she went on to study in Armenia with Hasmik Hasagorchian and later attended the summer courses at the prestigious Universitat Mozarteum Salzburg, studying with Professor Alessandra Althoff and Barbara Bonney.

In 2010, she went on to study operatic performance and music at the Johann-Joseph Fux Konservatorium in Graz, Austria. In 2011, she performed excerpts from Verdi & Puccini operas at Erfurt Hall and other venues throughout Iran and Austria.

Since moving to Australia, she has continued her education in classical singing with Margaret Schindler and Lisa Gasteen and graduated with a

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Mezzo soprano Shirin Majd
Photo: Forever Yours Photography

were always supportive and encouraged her in every way, but the regime in Iran forbade women to sing solo—only in a choir, or in private (underground) performances.

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“Not unlike *The Armed Man*, *Stabat Mater* text is drawn from many parts of the world and from diverse religions and cultures. In addition, the music too is cosmopolitan in its inspiration.”

In 2012 Noosa Chorale performed *The Armed Man* with video footage and images drawn from the military, social and political conflicts of the 20th century. It was repeated for the Anzac Centenary commemoration of the Gallipoli Landing concert in April 2015.

Adrian added: “We are also fortunate to have three outstanding soloists,

soprano Annika Hinrichs and baritone Timothy Newton who will sing the *Requiem* and mezzo soprano Shirin Majd for the *Stabat Mater*.”

Noosa Chorale, *In Paradisum*. The J Theatre Noosa Junction. Friday, May 27 at 7pm and Saturday, May 28 at 2pm. Tickets \$45. Book online at

www.thej.com.au



Soprano Annika Hinrichs



Mezzo soprano Shirin Majd



Baritone Timothy Newton

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Master of Music Performance and Master of Vocal Pedagogy at the Queensland Conservatorium. She continued her dedication to the art of operatic interpretation by attending the Lisa Gasteen National Opera School in 2012.

Always an active performer, she joined The Queensland Choir and the Brisbane Mahler Chorus. She was awarded best classical singer in BEMAC planet performances in 2012 where she won a scholarship to study music business.

But while highly accomplished in existing classical repertoire, Shirin is determined to “push the boundaries”, creating new works on the themes about which she is so passionate. To that end she is founder and artistic director of the Sweet Sound Ensemble which, with performances in Brisbane and around Australia, aspires to create a fusion of music from diverse cultures around the world.

And she has particular goals in mind. She is determined to collaborate between cultures, and to make new work aimed at bringing understanding and unity out of discord. This is most often created through the lens of her own experiences.

In 2015, she used the idea of moving to a new country—Australia—as the vocalist and Artistic Director of a work based on the poems of renowned Iranian poet, Forough Farrokhzad.

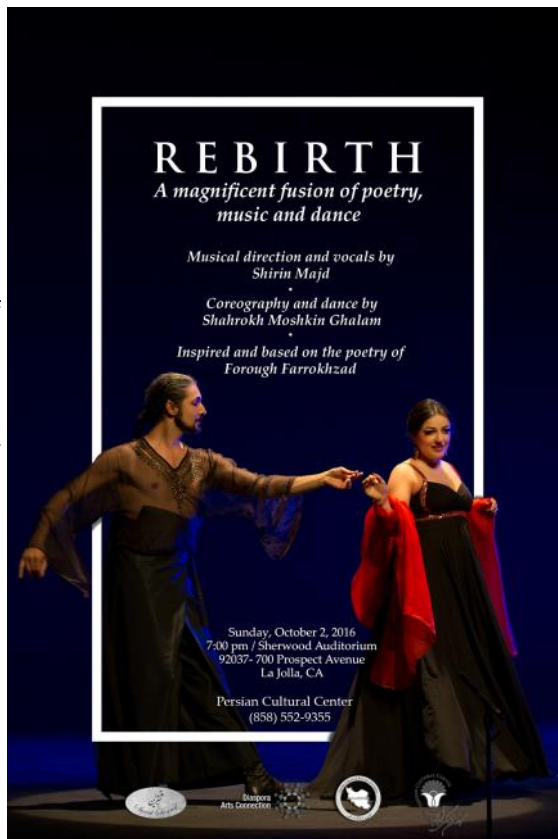
It is entitled “Rebirth”, and toured in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The work employs multiple art forms—music, song, dance, poetry. Narrated in English and Farsi, it explores the journey through hope, life, love, restriction, rebellion, and finally rebirth.



Sweet Sound Ensemble
Photo: Mana Salsali



Kooch—Songs of Migration—Brisbane
Photo: Forever Yours Photography



Poster for “Rebirth” performance
California USA

Then in 2017 Shirin collaborated with composer Paul Kopek to rework the traditional 1001 Arabian Nights for “Tales of Scheherazade”, a Persian opera in five acts, which had its debut at the Queensland Conservatorium.

2019 saw the international debut of her most recently created show, “Kooch—Songs of Migration”, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland and at SUNPAC in Brisbane, Australia.

The word “kooch” in Farsi means “migration” and was presented as an artistic performative and collaborative visual experience with composer Mastaneh Nazarian.

And it will come as no surprise that she is already bringing her creative talents to bear on one of today’s most relevant issues. She has gathered stories from women who have suffered abuse and neglect from all over the world. They are in a range of languages and styles, and while all are anonymous, her aim is to capture the particular cadences of each culture.

In order to put together this “Stolen Identity” project, she is currently sending the segments to poets from Iran, Australia and Austria, and to composers in Iran, Austria, Melbourne, and to Sydney University’s lecturer/composer Nicholas Ng in Sydney, and composer Basir Faghin Nasiri. When it comes together it will surely be a remarkable piece of work.

As a female artist, Shirin tells us, it can be hard to establish yourself as a middle-eastern woman: “People make assumptions, they want to put you in a box”.

But it seems to me that no box would be able to contain this young woman whose creative energy and drive is the embodiment of all that art and music and poetry and dance can do to bring cultures and languages together, to increase understanding and to bring joy.



Noosa Chorale presents *In Paradisum* showcasing two magnificent choral pieces. Audiences will be captivated by the sublime music of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* and the poignant and dramatic harmonies in Karl Jenkins' *Stabat Mater*. Jenkins composed this work in 2008, in which he cleverly blends traditional western music with the ethnic sounds of the Middle East. It is powerful music.

Three professional soloists – baritone Timothy Newton, soprano Annika Hinrichs and mezzo soprano Shirin Majd – will join the Chorale in this concert accompanied by the Noosa Chorale Sinfonia under the expert baton of Music Director Adrian King. As this will be Adrian King's final year as the Chorale's conductor, each concert is sure to deliver a special and memorable musical experience for all.

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here
to
book**

Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra celebrates 50 years

A Half Century of Sound

Favourites from our first 50 years

7pm Saturday 26 March, Venue 114, Bokarina

Symphony by the Sea

Orchestral music with water themes and favourites from the past

In collaboration with Coolum Development Watch

2pm, Saturday 7 May Coolum Civic Centre

The Power of Two

Two orchestras combine for massive symphonic power
Collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Youth Orchestra

2pm, Sunday 24 July, Venue 114, Bokarina



SUNSHINE COAST
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Symphony Under the Stars

Part of the Range of Life Festival

Friday 12 August, 7.30pm,

Russell Family Park, Montville – open air

Rhapsody and Carmina

Rhapsody in Blue and Carmina Burana

With Hannah Pike, Sunshine Coast Choral Society, and Noosa Chorale

Saturday 10 September, 2pm Venue 114, Bokarina

and Saturday 17 September, 2pm

St Andrew's Anglican College, Peregian Springs

A Night at the Proms

Saturday 3 Dec, 7pm Venue 114, Bokarina

Pacific Chamber Players concert – Romantic Illusions

Sunday 8 May [CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

(2pm pre-concert talk, 2:30pm concert)
Palmwoods Memorial Hall, 1 Maple Street

Sunday 15 May [CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

(2pm pre-concert talk, 2:30pm concert)
Cooroy Memorial Hall, 23 Maple Street

LALLIET	Terzetto for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Op 22
DOPPLER	Andante and Rondo for Two Flutes, Op 25
SAINT-SAËNS	Caprice for Wind and Piano Quartet, Op 79
SAINT-SAËNS	Bassoon Sonata in G, Op 168
SCHUMANN	Fantasy Pieces, Op 73
ELGAR	Six Promenades for Wind Quintet



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