

Turn back the clock — where were you when...?

Where were you 59 years ago? Were you around when the Beatles toured Australia in 1964?



Beatles press conference Brisbane 1964. (Photo: News Corp)

Or what about 47 years ago? Did you watch the ABBA-in-Australia TV special, which apparently more of us watched than the 1969 moon landing. Or did you see the band live on their Australian tour a year later in 1977?

Amongst their adoring fans were an excited 9-year old Nicole Kidman, an equally excited 11-year old Deborah Cheetham, now a celebrated opera singer, who was heart-broken to miss out on seeing them in the flesh, and a star-struck 11-year old, Phoebe Fraser (daughter of PM Malcolm Fraser who, at the time, was preparing for the far more sedate visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



ABBA at the start of their Australian tour (Photo source: unknown)

Well, it's time to turn back the clock to this golden era of pop music, to an era when the church of Molly Meldrum provided Sunday night worship in front of the telly watching Countdown.

Noosa Chorale brings you a nostalgic selection of the great pop songs of the 60's and 70's, featuring along with The Beatles and ABBA, songs from the Mamas and the Papas, the Beach Boys, and Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

But that's not all! The line-up in the first half of the concert also includes some of the most well-known and well-loved choruses from operas by Verdi, Puccini, Purcell, Wagner, and Mascagni.

Tickets are on sale now!

“Popera” at The J Theatre
Friday 15th September at 7.00pm
Saturday 16th September at 2.00pm
Tickets \$42
BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!
www.thej.com.au

Noosa Chorale goes international by ANGIE OAKLEY

In addition to our French Canadian, multi lingual director, Guillaume Lemay-Yates, Noosa Chorale has welcomed some lovely new singers from around the world.

And despite their disparate origins and native tongues, all are fluent in the international language of music, learned from an early age in their families and careers.

IDA (pronounced like “eeda”)

Ida Brodd brings from her native Sweden considerable expertise to the altos. Having grown up in a musical family – her mother played the piano and sang in the church choir, and her father played the flute and guitar – it's

no surprise that Ida has followed the family tradition.

“My musical background is mainly in piano - I took weekly lessons from age



Ida Brodd

six to nineteen. I also played violin and the recorder for a few years as a kid, and have always loved singing.

“I’ve participated in youth choirs but also background singing in bands as well as some solo singing—mainly pop/rock music.”

Ida, a radiologist, and her family moved to Noosa from Oslo in October last year, and she is excited to be singing again.

“I haven’t sung in a choir for years but I’m very glad to have taken it up again. It’s so much fun to be a small part of something bigger and making the music come to life together.”

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ROSEMARY

Rosemary Howard has also come from afar. Her mother, a New Zealand trained nurse, met her father, an Australian radio officer in the merchant navy, in Fiji.

From there they moved to Papua New Guinea. Then, for Rosemary, boarding school in Armidale, followed by Sydney University, added Australia to the mix.

"When folk ask me where I am from, I usually respond by saying, 'I'm told I was begun in Fiji, born in New Zealand, brought up in PNG but I'm a proud Aussie citizen, who still barracks for the All Blacks!'"

Since graduating in Medicine, Rosemary has lived in West Africa, and Mackay in Queensland, before settling in Noosa, where she still pursues her love of music.

"I was introduced to music by my parents, both of whom loved listening to a wide variety of styles. I studied piano from a young age and loved it. I also learned clarinet for a time, but my first love was always singing."

KATHRYN

Kathryn Davis is no stranger to the musical stage. Originally from a small town called Turangi, south of Taupo in the middle of the North Island of New Zealand, she always belonged to Maori culture groups (Kapa Haka) and was taught how to harmonise at a very early age.

"I did the usual school musicals such as Toad of Toad Hall, and Joseph and his Technicolor Coat at secondary school. But my "debut" was as a six year old singing Bibbity, Bobbity Boo in Cinderella.

"I was a member of a group from Waikato University and Teachers College that was sponsored to tour Australia in 1977.

"We performed at schools and in public places such as the Darwin Botanical Gardens and downtown Alice Springs, joining First Nations groups wherever we visited.

"When I reflect on the places we stayed in, it is hard to believe how

No surprise there when we learn of her musical pedigree:



Rosemary Howard

"My maternal great grandmother was by all accounts a wonderful pianist. In 1902, when she and her husband returned to the United Kingdom from New Zealand by ship, apparently

Grandma Sarah entertained the passengers almost every evening with her beautiful piano playing.

"I understand she was one of the first women ever offered a place at Cambridge University in England but turned it down to study piano in Germany. I still have one of her piano books full of daunting scales!"

many towns, cities and communities we were invited to stay in. The tour culminated in our group performing along with other cultural groups at the Adelaide Festival Theatre.

Fast forward to 2011 when Kathryn moved from New Zealand to Darwin where she took up a position at Kormilda College in a special education role.

"We had stayed there in 1977 when it was a school for Indigenous students who came in from their communities to continue their education.

"When I joined the Darwin Chorale in 2017, I was thrown in at the deep end



Kathryn Davis

As well as having run a medical practice, Rosemary has carried on the musical tradition, successfully completing the AMEB 8th-Grade exam.

She has sung in various productions, including 'The Merry Widow' and 'Gianni Schicchi'. She also sang with the Mackay Choral Society for a time, and now sings in her church Music Ministry.

Needless to say, she is a most welcome addition to our choir.

"Music is central to my being! I listen to classical music most mornings and often other genres during the day.

"Music elicits all kinds of emotions and feelings—sometimes solemn and poignant, sometimes joyful and contagious, but always uplifting and inspiring.

"It is a great blessing in my life, and I am grateful every day for the privilege of being able to experience music in all its genres and expressions and to be able to share its beauty with other like-minded friends."

as they were in rehearsals for the production of Chess. I loved it and continued with them until we moved to the Sunshine Coast in February 2020.

"It is a challenge for me to learn new music for productions because I am unable to read music but I can hear whether I am in tune or not.

"I can be seen leaning into my fellow sopranos to hear the part that I need to be singing.

"It has been a learning curve to actually learn parts rather than go with where I think the harmony should go.

"I look forward to making the Noosa Chorale my happy music place and I am so grateful for the really warm welcome I have received since joining recently."

OLENA

Olena Kruta, one of our new tenors, has surely come the farthest of any of us to the Noosa Chorale – and not just in miles! I'll leave it to Olena to tell her remarkable story:

"My name is Olena Kruta. I was born in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, and have lived all my life in this beautiful city.



Olena Kruta

"My whole life is somehow connected with music.

"I started studying music at the age of six, when my parents brought me to a music school.

"In 1999 I graduated from the National Academy of Music of Ukraine (Conservatory) with a Masters Degree with Distinction, and subsequently worked as a musicologist and lecturer.

"For about six years I worked at the Conservatory's Folklore Laboratory, researching ancient examples of national musical culture.

"I went on numerous collecting expeditions, processed materials and compiled an archive of the oldest examples of national heritage, much of which has been passed on by word of mouth for more than a thousand years.

"In addition, I sang in a folklore ensemble performing on various stages in Ukraine, with the National Radio Orchestra, and in a jazz ensemble, as well as recording a CD in 2002.

"After the birth of my daughter, I decided to change my musical priorities and from 2006 became engaged in musical and pedagogical practice.

"I worked at the Children's Centre for Comprehensive Development with groups of children from three to twenty-one years old, working on various programs: general musical development, musical theory, solfeggio, and musical notation.

"One of the areas of work was the creation of a special author's program for learning English through music for children from five years of age."

"With children, we taught individual words, elementary lexical forms, and played pronouncing games, not by speaking the words, but by singing them.

"With older children, we no longer focused on vocabulary, but on intonation, performance, and music itself.

"February 24, 2022 dramatically changed our calm happy life. At half past five in the morning we woke up to explosions outside the window, opened the Internet and realized that a full-scale war had begun!

"After more than a month of moving shelters, a rocket hit our relatives' house where we were staying. Having endured air raids at night when the children forgot how to sleep in their own beds, we decided to leave the country.

"We were persuaded to come here, to join my sister, who has lived in Noosa for fifteen years. Therefore, since April last year, we have been trying to get used to a new life, which is extremely challenging!

"Up till now I have not been able to work in my specialty, so the only things that united me with music during this year were three solo performances at multicultural festivals and home instrumental projects with my daughter and nephews.

"Therefore, participation in the choir is a great opportunity to meet people who love music and are associated with music."

What a rich and varied set of cultural, linguistic, musical, and life experiences these four new Chorale members bring with them.

We hope to bring you more stories of our choir members in future issues.

Meantime, if you have ever thought about joining a choir, now might be just the right time to do it!



Do you love singing?
Do you sound really good singing in the shower?



Then joining Noosa Chorale could be just the outlet your musical soul needs. It's also a great way to make new friends and to feed your brain at the same time.

You don't need to audition, and you don't need to be able to read music—all you need is your voice, your love of singing, and your commitment to practice each week.

Just come along to the first rehearsal of our Christmas term on Tuesday 26 September to see if you like it!

We meet every Tuesday 7.00pm to 9.30pm at The J Theatre in Noosa Junction. See details and contact us via our website:

www.noosachorale.org.au

Pacific Chamber Players at Cooroy

by JIM FAGAN

A violin, cello and a piano yodelling at Cooroy? Hard to imagine but not when you have three outstanding musicians like Rory Smith (cello), Anna Moores (violin), and Janet Brewer (piano) of Pacific Chamber Players performing.

Their programme is called *Just Trios* and according to Janet the yodelling is part of Schubert's Piano Trio in B Flat, OP99.

"It is a lyrical, buoyant work, dance-like throughout with a hint of yodelling. Schubert wrote it in 1827, a year before his death. Perhaps he needed to write something light to take his mind of his illness.

"Rory Smith, Christy Dykes and I will combine to play the Brahms Trio in A



(from left) Christy Dykes (clarinet), Janet Brewer (piano), Anna Moores (violin)

Minor Op114, and then Anna Moores will take over from Rory Smith and the new trio will play the Khachaturian Trio in G Minor.

"It is a programme of contrasts. Schubert sets the scene with his lively work. The Brahms is gorgeously romantic with luscious sounds from all three instruments and the Khachaturian Trio is impulsive and passionate."

Pacific Chamber Players' *Just Trios*, Cooroy Memorial Hall, Sunday September 10 at 2.30pm. Tickets are available online or cash at the door. \$33 adults, \$30 concessions, \$10 school students. Further information please visit

www.pacificchamberplayers.com

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SUNSHINE COAST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A NIGHT AT THE PROMS:

Australia v England

In Albert Hall Proms tradition but with an Australian angle, the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra (SCSO) celebrates down under with an Australian first half of celebratory music and imagery, as well as British Proms favourites in the second.

Saturday 16 September at 7pm
The Events Centre, Caloundra

Bookings:

<https://theeventcentre.com.au/event/a-night-at-the-proms/>

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