

Opera, Pop rocks The J by JIM FAGAN

An exciting mix of opera and pop music had a rapt audience demanding encores at Noosa Chorale's "POPERA" at the J last Friday and Saturday.

And one of the most enthusiastic was 12-year-old Ukrainian schoolgirl Olya Kruta whose mum Olena joined the choir this year. We featured Olena in our August issue of Tune In.



Olya Kruta

Olena Kruta

Photo: Ann Milland

Olya's family fled Ukraine and the full scale war there in April last year after a rocket hit the relatives' house where they were staying. They are now in Noosa where Olena's sister has lived for 15 years.

Opera favourites like the "Anvil Chorus" (Il Trovatore) and the "Humming Chorus" (Madama Butterfly) and medleys from ABBA, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Jersey Boys, and the Mamas and Papas were on offer and had both packed houses singing along.

Guest conductor Guillaume Lemay-Yates was thrilled with the Chorale's performance which he said was reflected in the audience response and their vocal demands for an encore at both performances.

He is also looking forward to the Christmas concerts which for Chorale enthusiasts is the official start of the festive season.



Soprano Jenny Jackson sings "SOS" from the ABBA medley



Alto Karen Wright in the foreground



Conductor Guillaume Lemay-Yates





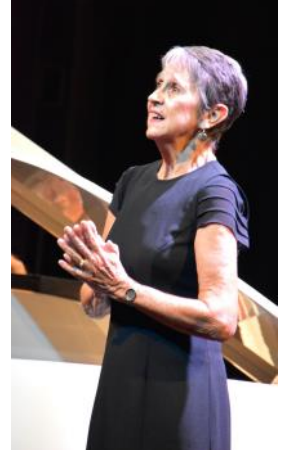
Adrian Alexander on electric guitar



Janet Brewer on keyboard and Warren Brewer on bass guitar

Other instrumentalists and soloists not pictured were Simon Renfrey on drums, mezzo soprano Debra Schneider singing "Dido's Lament" by Purcell, and bass Colin Brown singing "Let it Be" from The Beatles medley.

Event photos this page and next by Ann Milland.



Soprano Fran Wilson sings the part of Santuzza from the Easter Chorus



Soprano Belinda Griffiths and alto Ida Brodd sing "Ticket to Ride"



Joan Murray, member of Noosa Chorale since its founding in 1994



Basses (from left) Jeremy Martin, Phil Elliott, Colin Brown, Jim Fagan, David Rudkin, John Davies, and Peter Wright



Paul Ritchie, MC



Glen Jones, Allan and Anne Downie



Nicky and Fred Austin



Bill Kelly and Carolyn Winkler



Maggie Gardiner and Corrie Avens



Charles Tons and Colinn Hugh



Jacqui Hunt and Laurel Scharla



Chris and John Barker



Lorraine Esbensen and Ginny Ellis



FROM NOOSA CHORALE PRESIDENT, FRAN WILSON

Our Popera Concert was a great success and a very happy occasion for audiences and performers alike. Guest conductor Guillaume Lemay-Yates is firing up again to lead rehearsals for our next concert, the Christmas concert that's always such a hit with audiences. We hope that you will join us to share in the spirit of Christmas with the choir, enjoying carols from different countries and cultural traditions, and singing along with some of the well-known favourites.

The two performances are on Friday 15 December at 7pm and Saturday 16 December at 2pm at The J Theatre. Tickets will go on sale in October.



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