

A memorable concert in disturbing times

When Noosa Chorale selected the repertoire for its upcoming May concert, we could not have known the huge and tragic turmoil that was to come with the war in Ukraine, nor how resonant the music would prove to be.

The *Stabat Mater*, composed by Sir Karl Jenkins, world-renowned composer of an extraordinary diversity of musical styles, reflects on the anguish of the mother in the face of her child's death.

Based on a 13th century poem that meditates on the sorrow of Mary at the crucifixion of her son Jesus Christ, Jenkins' work adds several ancient and modern texts with words in Aramaic, Arabic, Hebrew, Latin, Greek, and English. The musical composition incorporates both traditional western and middle eastern styles adding to its power and "other-worldliness".

The text of the fourth movement, Lament, written in English for this work by Jenkins'

wife Carol Barratt, is especially poignant in these troubled times:

Feeling all the grief and sorrow, we live life with shadows in our hearts and minds. With tears that wait to fall when sorrow in the world is more than we can truly bear.

We hear the cries of children, we see death cast shadows on their hearts and minds, as mothers in their grief stand crying, weeping, weeping, crying, crying, weeping, weeping for this world.

The companion piece serene *Requiem in D Minor* by Gabriel Fauré, provides a sense of peaceful calm with its focus on eternal rest and consolation. The exquisitely sweet strains of the sopranos achieving paradise—oh dear, now I've gone too far!!!

Chorale President Fran Wilson says, "One cannot help but be moved by the power, beauty and poignancy of the Fauré Requiem and Sir Karl Jenkins' Stabat Mater. It is a joy to perform these marvellous

works by two great composers. The music is full of hope and spirit in a world turned upside down."

For Fran, the words of Leonard Bernstein capture the sentiment shared within the choir as we prepare for this concert:

This is our reply to violence, to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than before.

In Paradisum

Friday 27 May 7pm, and Saturday 28 May 2pm, at The J Theatre.

Tickets \$45

Bookings: www.thej.com.au

In solidarity with the people of Ukraine, we pay tribute, through this concert, to the strength and courage of the human spirit in the face of the fiercest adversity.

Baritone Oliver makes his Fauré Requiem debut

Oliver Heuzenroeder is looking forward to singing the bass solo part in Fauré's Requiem at the Chorale's "In Paradisum" concert on 27 and 28 May.

Having sung with Opera Australia and touring internationally with Gondwana Chorale, one of the nation's premier choirs, he has established his stage credentials after beginning his musical journey at a young age.

On the stage, he has performed many operatic roles such as Marcello (*La Bohème*), Claudio (*Béatrice et Bénédicte*)



and Il Conte (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) under many esteemed conductors.

With a Bachelor of Music Honours in Classical Voice, and as a recipient of the Joyce Campbell-Lloyd Scholarship for Overseas Study, he continues to build his repertoire and is preparing for auditions and further studies overseas in 2023.

Oliver Heuzenroeder plays Marcello (*La Bohème*), at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 2021.



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noosachorale@gmail.com



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Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc.

Editor: Cal Webb—callyannwebb@gmail.com

Regular contributors: Jim Fagan, Angie Oakley, Ian Jobling