

# Noosa Chorale Tune In

Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

Volume 17, Number 4, July 2023

## Opera rocks at The J this September

The Chorale's new guest conductor for the rest of 2023, Guillaume Lemay-Yates, has happily hit the ground running on the long and winding road leading up to the choir's September concert. (See page 2.)

Opening with a potpourri of best-loved opera choruses, the repertoire will take audiences on an emotional roller coaster ride: from the poignant strains of Puccini's "Humming Chorus" from *Madama Butterfly* and Verdi's "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves", to Purcell's heartbreaking "Dido's Lament" and final chorus, through to the sheer joy of Verdi's "Bridal Chorus", and the downright lusty thrill of the "Anvil Chorus", Verdi's celebration of camaraderie, hard physical work, and gypsy women.

Anyone who was around in the 60's and 70's cannot fail to find their toes tapping during the second half of the concert. Songs from The Beatles, Abba, the Mamas and the Papas, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons among others will plunge us back into these exciting two decades of groundbreaking and very popular classics of pop music. (See page 5.)

**"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](http://www.thej.com.au)**



Puccini  
*Madama Butterfly*



Cavalleria Rusticana  
Mascagni

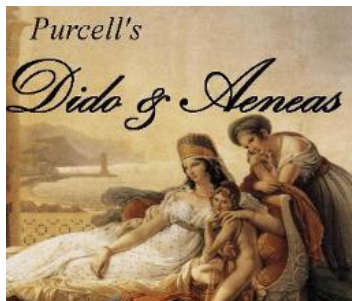


Bridal Chorus  
from Wagner's *Lohengrin*



VA PENSIERO  
Dall'Opera "NABUCCO"

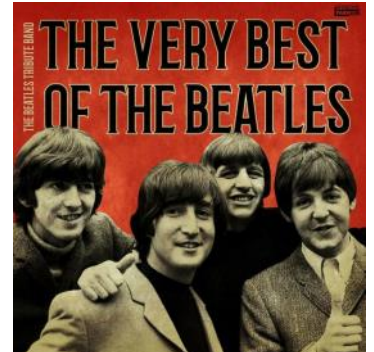
(Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves) VERDI



Purcell's  
*Dido & Aeneas*



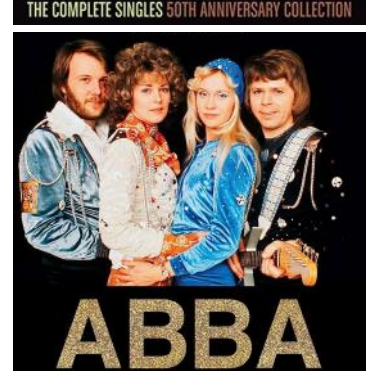
ANVIL CHORUS  
IL TROVATORE  
GIUSEPPE VERDI



THE VERY BEST OF THE BEATLES



THE MAMAS AND THE PAPAS



THE COMPLETE SINGLES 50TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION

ABBA

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons



Jersey Boys Compilation



SURFIN' U.S.A. SHUTDOWN

The Beach Boys

NOOSA CHORALE PRESENTS

# POPERA

CONDUCTED BY GUILLAUME LEMAY-YATES

**FAMOUS OPERA MELODIES AND**

**15<sup>TH</sup> at 7.00pm**  
SEPTEMBER

**16<sup>TH</sup> at 2.00pm**  
SEPTEMBER

**FAVOURITES FROM**

ABBA

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JERSEY BOYS

THE MAMAS & THE PAPAS

WITH A LIVE BAND

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# Guillaume's fun and games at practice

by JIM FAGAN

If you happen to be at The J any Tuesday night, you'll see a group of adults making whirring sounds, rubbing their cheeks with their knuckles and bending over and waving their arms. It's Noosa Chorale singers having fun as they warm up for their evening's practice.

Guest conductor Guillaume Lemay-Yates is bringing a new wave of enjoyment to the Chorale's Tuesdays and members are loving it.

Rehearsals through the years have always been a happy time but Guillaume believes that being a choirmaster is 90 per cent people management and 10 per cent music and he is taking it to a new level, particularly as he sees the choir's next offering "POPERA" as being "fun and light-hearted".

"It will be a wonderful experience for audiences," he told Tune In. "The pop music from the 60's and 70's will be a fun opportunity for the choir to sing lighter songs and showcase a different side of what choirs can do.

"It'll be exciting to show our versatility through this programme. We also have opera choruses and they are all quite different—from quiet, delicate ones like the Humming Chorus (Puccini) or Dido's Lament to the epic Easter Hymn (Mascagni) contrasted with ABBA and the Beatles."

Guillaume commutes from Brisbane for choir rehearsals and he conducts four other groups there.

He is music director for the Serenata Singers and the Brisbane Apollo Male Choir, acting music director for the Queensland University Musical Society and associate conductor for the Scmodo Voce Singers.

He is also studying for his Master of Music degree in conducting at the Queensland Conservatorium.

A Canadian, Guillaume (31) came to Australia in 2018 to study Environmental Management at the



Guillaume Lemay-Yates

University of Queensland. "I could have done it in Canada but I wanted a new experience."

Music has been in his life since he was very young. "The McGill Conservatorium in Montreal offered violin and flute lessons so I started there when I was three, playing the violin.

"I then went to Collège Notre-Dame for high school which had a sizeable music program centred around wind instruments.

"I studied saxophone as my main instrument but I picked up the clarinet, trumpet, trombone and French horn along the way (not that I'm good at any of them!). After high school, I had lessons in jazz piano and singing privately with a variety of teachers. I'm also self-taught on the guitar and harmonica."

**LAST NOTE:** For all you bass baritones, soapy sopranos and voices in between, here's some happy advice from Guillaume—singing in the shower is good for you!

It makes our naturally resonant voices richer than they are with the sound bouncing off smooth tiles and the glass door and steam causing higher inhalation and more blood to flow to the vocal folds.

After you with the back scrubber!



Guillaume leads off with a little head massaging at the Tuesday night rehearsal...



... followed by a good waving around of the arms...



... and then a full bend-over and more arm-waving...

## Chorale singers settling in for Popera

Singers were treated to a warm welcome at the beginning of the winter rehearsal term on 13 June in the lead-up to September's "Popera" concert. Acting President Donald Grant thanked Wilma Barnes, John Davies, and Ian Jobling for organising the welcome, and all the singers who supplied the yummy food.

While everyone socialised and feasted, unsung heroines Deputy Music Director Pam Sage and new Treasurer Babette Urban distributed the swathe of "Popera" music scores for the term.



Pam Sage (seated) and Babette Urban



(l to r) Marianne Seldon, Tan van Tongeren, Jenny Jackson, and Rose Brown



(l to r) John Davies, Jeremy Martin, Robyn Charlesworth and Donald Grant



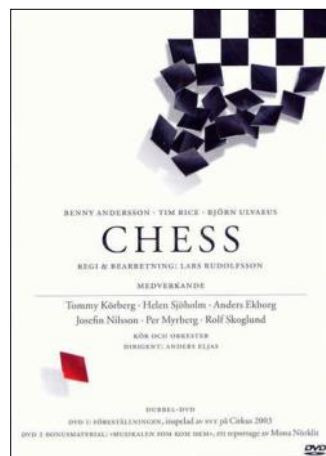
(l to r) Robyn Charlesworth, Marilyn Nicopopoulos, Dale Heidenreich and Sherelle Scott

## Pop music goes to the movies

Not satisfied with just listening to your favourite 60's and 70's pop music? Here are some suggestions of movies that feature many of the songs the Chorale will be singing in concert this September. If they're not available on streaming services, you might be lucky to pick up a reliable old DVD of them.



"Across the Universe: All You Need is Love"  
2007  
Director: Julie Taymor  
A charming and tender love story through which 30 Beatles hit songs are cleverly woven.



"Chess"  
2003  
Director: Lars Rudolphsson  
The film, in Swedish, of the musical whose score was written by the two chaps from ABBA (Benny and Bjorn) along with Tim Rice.



"Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again"  
2018  
Director: Ol Parker  
A jukebox musical romantic comedy starring a cast of hundreds including Meryl Streep, Colin Firth, Pierce Brosnan, Cher, and more.



"Jersey Boys"  
2014  
Director: Clint Eastwood  
Based on the 2004 stage play of the same name, the film includes 24 hit songs of Frankie Vallie and the Four Seasons.

# Tony's "Vinyl Dreams" come true by JIM FAGAN

Once Mayor of Noosa Shire and now rock star author Tony Wellington has already booked his seat for Noosa Chorale's next offering at The J – "POPERA." And it's not just because wife Judy Ditter is singing with the altos.

Tony has just celebrated the launch of his new book "Vinyl Dreams, How the 1970's Changed Music" –a sequel to his earlier book "Freak Out, How a Musical Revolution Rocked the World in the 60's."

Both books are studded with stories and little known details of stellar entertainers of the era. Stars like The Beatles, The Mamas and The Papas, ABBA, The Beach Boys and the Jersey Boys

And, coincidentally, the Chorale's concerts at the J on September 15 and 16 are packed with their songs...songs that have become folklore for Baby Boomers and all generations since.

Songs like "Dancing Queen," "Thank You for the Music," "California Dreaming," "Surfing USA," "Can't Buy Me Love," "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," and more.

Set against a backdrop of glam, shock rock, disco and punk "Vinyl Dreams" is filled with anecdotes:

Here's Tony on ABBA in 1974): *"Setting their sights yet again on the Eurovision Song Contest, they won over their native land and so performed 'Waterloo' at the international pop extravaganza.*

*"Wearing ridiculous knickerbockers and knee-high boots, lots of frills and glitter, and with the orchestra's conductor dressed as Napoleon, they scooped the pool.*

*"The song's lyrics were as absurd as the band's outfits, a clunky analogy*



Tony dreaming of Vinyl (self-portrait)

*between Napoleon's military surrender and falling in love, with the woman's submission a complete capitulation to the man.*

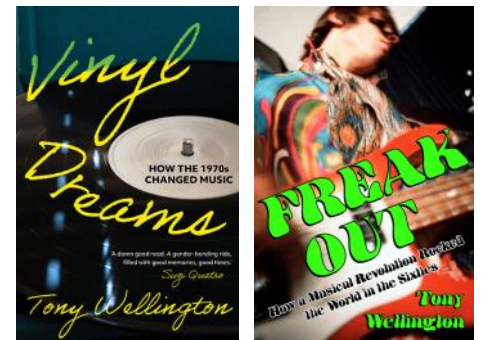
*"Women's movement—what women's movement? 'Waterloo' became a number one hit in nine countries and reached single digits in many others."*

The day after his career in local body politics ended in March four years ago Tony told me in an interview for Noosa Today, "Now I can get the creative juices flowing again."

Since then, the "juice" has been flowing in full flood.

"Freak Out" last year rapidly climbed the best seller charts and is a whopper of a book with 400 pages and 135,000 words. His new book "Vinyl Dreams" is an even bigger blockbuster of 453 pages and close on 450,000 words.

Now, back to the concerts in September. "POPERA," as the catchy name suggests, is a mix of pop and opera and lovers of rousing choruses are in for a treat.



"Vinyl Dreams: How the 70s changed music", 2003; and "Freak Out: How a musical revolution rocked the world in the 60s", 2001. Published by Monash University Publishing.

Celebrated music like "The Anvil Chorus" from "Il Trovatore," "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves," from "Nabucco" and "The Humming Chorus" from "Madama Butterfly" are just three of the operatic selection the Chorale will present.

So, if you like your rock cool and your opera incandescent, "POPERA" is for you!

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