



# Choral Festival Programme

St Mary's Church, Myrtleford  
2pm, Saturday, 15 May, 2010

## #1. Beechworth Singers

### Repertoire



"Fecit Potentiam" (He hath showed strength) and "Deposuit Potentes": (The mighty he hath put down) from "Magnificat" by Antonio Vivaldi

"Canzonetta" by Orazio Vecchi

"O let me look on thee" by Orlando di Lasso

"Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from "Nabucco" by Giuseppe Verdi

### About the choir

The Beechworth Singers have been presenting choral music in Beechworth and surrounding areas for over twenty five years. The Singers present several concerts during the year and regularly participate in local community events such as the Celtic Festival and the George Kerferd Oration in Beechworth. They also participate in the Three Choirs Festival, with the Wangaratta Choristers and the Murray Conservatorium Choir. Other performances have included Faure's "Requiem", Stainer's "Crucifixion", Gilbert and Sullivan's "Trial by Jury" & "Mikado", Purcell's "King Arthur", Vivaldi's "Gloria" and "Navidad Nuestra" by Ramirez.

### About their Director – Margaret Phillips

Margaret moved to Beechworth from Melbourne in 1989 and has directed the Beechworth Singers since 1991. She taught voice at the Murray Conservatorium for six years after several years of teaching in Melbourne, Beechworth and Wangaratta. She has been a soloist for the Wangaratta Choristers, the Murray Conservatorium Choir, the Chamber Choir and the St Matthew's Consort as well as giving solo and duet recitals. She also directs an occasional Ladies Ensemble and other small groups.



## #2. Coro Delle Montagne

### Repertoire



"Il Silenzio" (traditional)

Viva L'Amor by Paolo Bon

"Mi Rialzerai" (You raise me up) by Brendan Graham and Rolf Lovland.

"Valsugana" (traditional)

Stellutis Alpini by Zardini

"I Am Australian" by Bruce Woodley. Incorporating two new verses written for the Black Saturday Bushfires.

### About the choir

Coro Delle Montagne (Italian for Choir of the Mountains) is a small acapella choir that originated in the Ovens Valley town of Myrtleford over a decade ago. The unaccompanied singers, a mixture of ages and nationalities, perform the traditional songs of the mountains of Italy, handed down from generation to generation and taught to them by the region's many Italian migrants. Led by La Maestra, Monica Claney, Coro Delle Montagne has performed before audiences small and large, including over 8,000 people at Melbourne's Festa Della Repubblica. Proud of being part of Multicultural Australia, they sing with passion,

with laughter and one voice.

### **About their Director – Monica Claney**

Monica's love of all things Italian was entrenched in her background. Growing up in Myrtleford with a large population of Italian migrants meant being surrounded by the Italian culture at school, at home, with friends and in the town. So it was no surprise when the opportunity arose to form an Italian choir, Monica was pleased and privileged to be a part of it. She has been a secondary teacher for over twenty years, both in Myrtleford and in Albury. Although not formally trained in music, she has attended many singing workshops and festivals over the years, building a repertoire of techniques and songs. She has a passion for singing acapella style, for sharing her love of music and harmonies, and most of all for having fun!



### **#3 Wangaratta Choristers**

#### **Repertoire**



“Plainchant”: Magnificat

“Ninna-Nanna” (In thy mother's arms, Christmas Lullaby) by D. Livinio Virgili

“Contrapunto bestiale alla mente” by Adriano Banchieri

“Alma Redemptoris Mater” by Guillaume Du Fay

#### **About the choir**

The Wangaratta Choristers is a small classical music choir with a particular interest in performing rarely heard and neglected masterworks, and has become a strong cultural force throughout north east Victoria, Australia. Founded in 1985 by David Carolane OAM who in 1995 transferred his baton to John Rivers until 2000, the Choir is now Directed by Benedict Wilson. The Choir currently numbers around 20 members drawn from towns and farms of northeast Victoria surrounding the home city and southern NSW who aim to present concerts of quality choral music at a high standard of performance.

Perennial favourites such as Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's Motets and Cantatas, Charpentier's *Midnight Mass* and other gems by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Pergolesi, Rheinberger, Faure, Monteverdi, Du Caurroy are amongst some of the well loved works performed by the choir. Concerts also consist of a wide range of music drawn from the repertory of madrigals and folksongs for our Winter Winery Banquet Concerts as well as traditional Christmas carols and Australian contemporary music including works by local composers.

Many of the programmes incorporate other vocal and instrumental musicians. This sponsorship of mainly young people to gain further experiences in broader performance settings is viewed by the choir as an investment for the future of Classical music. In order to disseminate beautiful music more widely, the Choristers purchased a positiv pipe organ in September 2003, thus becoming the first choir in Australia to possess one. This instrument has provided stirring service for the Wangaratta Choristers in churches, town halls, schools and wine cellars.

#### **About their Director – Benedict Wilson**

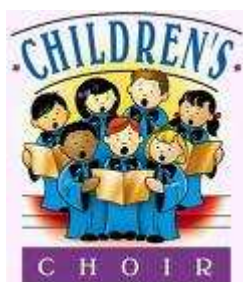
Following his initial music education at the Convent of Mercy in Albury, Benedict Wilson studied Piano and Organ at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music and Harpsichord at the Canberra School of Music. Throughout his career, he was associated with a large number of vocal and instrumental ensembles in south-eastern Australia, as conductor, singer or player of the piano, organ, harpsichord, cello, double-bass and bassoon. During the 1980's-90's he was a founding member of the Murray Conservatorium Choir

(Albury), the Canberra Chamber Singers and several baroque-music instrumental consorts. Since its inception in 1985 Benedict was a central figure within the Three Choirs Festival, a collaboration of choirs in Albury, Beechworth and Wangaratta. For a decade, he had been engaged to adjudicate choral festivals and music scholarships for school children in Wodonga and for longer periods, was the repetiteur for the Beechworth Singers and the Murray Conservatorium Choir. Since 2000, Benedict has been the Musical Director of the Wangaratta Choristers. He also teaches AMEB Music Theory and is responsible for the liturgical music of the Classical Roman Rite at St Patrick's Church, Albury. In 2007, Ursula Geneahr (Recorders) and Benedict (Spinnet and Organ) formed the ensemble *Non Modo Sed Etiam*, to perform music of the Renaissance, Baroque and Early Music periods. They are now preparing for their sixth concert series, "Hispania Illuminata", to be presented in Wodonga and Beechworth on the last weekend of June.



#### #4. St. Mary's Primary School Choir

##### Repertoire



##### **Junior Choir:**

"The Old Shoe Blues" by Susie Davies-Splitter and Phil Splitter

"Dance and Sing" by Murray Lennox

##### **Middle Choir:**

"Whispers In The Trees" by Madsen

"Seize The Day" by A. Menken and J. Feldman

##### **Senior Choir:**

"Love Of The Common People" by John Hurley and Ronnie Wilkins

"Rain" (Unknown)

##### **The choirs then combine with Coro Delle Montagne:**

Senior Choir/Coro Delle Montagne: "Ipharadisi" (Traditional South African)

Junior/Middle Choir/Coro Delle Montagne: "La Strada Ferrata"

##### **About the choir**

Music, as a regular school subject, was introduced at St. Mary's in 2008 in a bid to introduce arts to the primary curriculum in a more structured and progressive way. Mrs. Jenny Cope-Williams was hired to take music classes in the school and she was quick to establish a voluntary Choir within the school. To her delight, numbers have grown enough to warrant three Choirs this year; the Junior Choir taking children from Prep to Year Two, A Middle School Choir with years Three and Four and the Seniors consisting of Years Five and Six. With formalised music being so new within the school the Choirs were formed with an emphasis on enjoyment and for children to experience the warmth and sense of community group singing provides. Last year, on the students request, the Choirs were keen to enter in their first competitive Choral Festival. With great excitement our Seniors picked up First prize in Wodonga in a field of twelve Border and district Schools whilst the Juniors came home with Second Place in their section! The Choirs enjoy many outings in the local community and obviously enjoy the limelight!

##### **About their Director – Jenny Cope-Williams**

Jenny Cope-Williams has been teaching instrumental and classroom music for twenty three years both in and around Melbourne, and in the North East since moving here in 1999. Jenny graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Musicology under the guidance of noted musicologist, Mr. John Stinson in a combined course at Melbourne and La Trobe Universities. She also took in a European study trip with John and his wife, Medieval Music specialist and performer, Ruth Wilkinson. Later, she studied her Double

Music Dip Ed at Melbourne University under Doug Heywood who many might know as long time Choir Director of Carols by Candlelight at the Myer Music Bowl. She has worked and created various music programs in many, many schools, both Primary and Secondary and since living in the North East has held the position of Director of Music at Cathedral College in Wangaratta before starting the program at St Mary's.



The festival is expected to conclude at 4.15pm. The audience is then invited to afternoon tea in the Parish Centre. Cost \$5 per person.