

# BRISBANE CONCERT CHOIR

AT ST ANDREW'S

**DEBRA SHEARER-DIRIÉ**

**Musical Director**



## *Light and Gold*



with

**ROSS JELF**

**Guest Conductor**

and

**PHILLIP GEARING**

**Organist**

Friday, 12 September 2014  
St Andrew's Uniting Church

#### EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of fire or other emergency, walk promptly to the rear of the building and exit through the glass doors. Do not congregate in the café area, but continue walking up the footpath to ensure that the exits are not blocked.

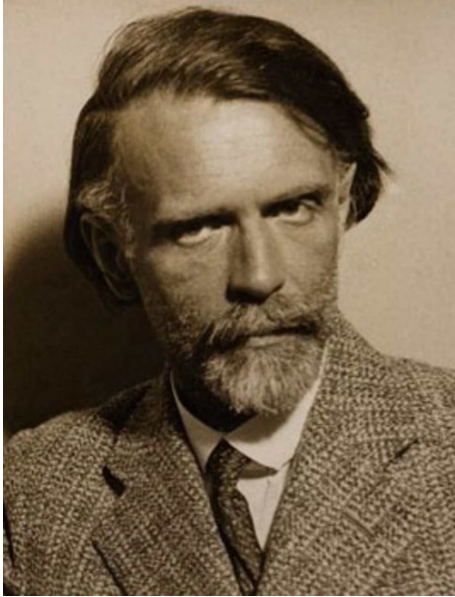
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Only if access to the main glass-door exit is blocked should you attempt to leave via the door to the right of the stage.

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## PROGRAMME

- SING JOYFULLY** William Byrd (1543-1623)  
text from Psalm 81, 1-4
- LIETO GODEA** Giovanni Gabrielli (c. 1555-1612)  
text: anon
- AMOR VITTORIOSO ('TUTTI VENITE ARMATI')** Giovanni Gastoldi (c. 1554-1609)  
text: anon
- 'DIEU! QU'IL LA FAIT BON REGARDER!'**  
(from 'Trois chansons de Charles d'Orléans') Claude Debussy (1862-1918)  
text by Charles d'Orleans (1394-1465)
- CANTABILE** César Franck (1822-90)
- GEISTLICHES LIED** Johannes Brahms (1833-97)  
text by Paul Flemming (1609-40)
- CHRISTUS FACTUS EST** Anton Bruckner (1824-96)
- THE BLUE BIRD** C. V. Stanford (1852-1924)  
text by Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)
- THREE AUSTRALIAN BUSH SONGS** Iain Grandage
- LUX AURUMQUE** Eric Whitacre (1970-)  
text by Edward Esch, trans. C. A. Silvestri
- *INTERVAL* —
- MISSA BREVIS** Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)
- ANTIPHON ('LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING')** R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



Zoltán Kodály

## INTRODUCTION

We start tonight's program with William Byrd's *Sing Joyfully*. Byrd composed during the late 1500s to early 1600s, a time when the English Reformation dictated that music ought to be austere in nature and avoid any improper ornamentation, so the existence of such a joyful piece as this owes much to Queen Elizabeth I's love of music – she eschewed the Puritanical elements of her Protestantism to encourage Byrd and other composers at court, and he composed many wonderfully expressive works.

A highlight of the programme, for which Phillip Gearing will join us on the organ, is Brahms's *Geistliches Lied* (Op. 30). This was Brahms' earliest accompanied choral work, completed at just 23 years of age, and shows an astonishing mastery of counterpoint and delicate harmonies.

Our programme in the first half is completed with a range of works from Vaughan Williams, Stanford, Gastoldi, Eric Whitacre and others, covering different languages and cultures, secular and spiritual works, music from the Renaissance right up to modern times.

The centrepiece of tonight's program is Zoltán Kodály's *Missa Brevis*. Kodály (1882 – 1967) is perhaps best known for his pedagogical philosophies that inspired the Kodály Method; a system

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of teaching music that is used widely in school music classrooms across the world. Along with his compatriot and close friend, Béla Bartók, Kodály scoured the remote villages of Hungary collecting and analysing his nation's folk songs. This was important archival work given folk music is predominantly an aural tradition — had it not been for their efforts in the early part of the 20th century, almost certainly many of the songs collected would simply not be known today. This repertoire also formed the basis for the Kodály Method, where students learn musical concepts through the singing of folk songs.

With such a towering influence in the field of music education, it is easy to overlook Kodály as musician and composer. Born into a musical family, Kodály learned to play violin as a child and sang in a cathedral choir. He studied composition at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest (where he later became teacher of theory and composition) as well as studying in Paris with the great organist and composer, Charles Widor. This French influence is certainly evident in Kodály's music, including elements of impressionism, but also fused with late Romanticism, and of course, Hungarian folk song material.

Kodály's *Missa Brevis* is not widely performed by community choirs but

must surely be one of the greatest mass settings of the 20th Century. It is a technically challenging work for both choir and organ, with its wide vocal range, modal harmonies and busy rhythmic passages. The *Missa Brevis* was originally written for organ, although with Kodály's masterful use of word painting in the re-worked choral version, it is hard to believe that Kodály did not conceive this mass as anything but a vocal work. Completed in early 1945, this mass was composed against a backdrop of savage bombing and fighting in Budapest, with Kodály's own home being partly destroyed during the war. Kodály and his first wife, Emma (to whom this work is dedicated) took shelter in the cellar of the Opera House and the work was first performed in a cloak room of the building. After the war, Kodály then orchestrated the work and it received its official premiere in 1948 at the Three Choirs' Festival in Worcester in the United Kingdom.

## **ROSS JELF**

Guest Conductor



## TRANSLATIONS

**Giovanni Gabrielli**

### LIETO GODEA

I sat happily enjoying  
the breeze that sweetly  
trembling April breathes;  
every hour every animal sighs  
with love.

With his mortal dart  
Love came flying and pierced my heart;  
and, alas, he escapes to my sorrow:  
and I shall die of it  
unless fate grants my happiness.

**Giovanni Gastoldi**

### AMOR VITTORIOSO

1. Come all ye, armed,  
My hardy soldiers!  
Fa la la  
I am Love indomitable,  
The righteous archer.  
Do not fear in the slightest,  
But in beautiful array,  
Follow me with ardor!  
Fa la la

2. They seem strong heroes,  
Those in front of you.  
Fa la la  
But from those who know how to  
wound,  
They will know not how to defend.  
Do not fear in the slightest,  
But, bold and strong,  
Be shrewd in battle!  
Fa la la

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**Claude Debussy**

**DIEU! QU'IL LA FAIT BON  
REGARDER!**

Lord! How fair she is to see –  
this gracious, good and beautiful lady;  
for all the great virtues which are in her  
everyone is ready to praise her.

Who could tire of her?

Her beauty always renews itself.

Lord! how fair she is to see –  
this gracious, good and beautiful lady!  
On neither side of the sea  
do I know any lady or maiden  
who is so perfect in all virtues.  
It is a dream even to think about her:  
Lord! how fair she is to see!

**Johannes Brahms**

**GEISTLICHES LIED  
(‘SACRED SONG’)**

Let no sad thought oppress thee,  
distress thee;

Fear nothing, trust God's own will,  
and be thou still, my spirit, my spirit.

Heed not with care and sorrow  
the morrow, the morrow:

our Father who all doth see  
shall give to thee,

shall give to thee

thy portion, thy portion.

From righteous paths then range not,  
and change not;

be steadfast, for God is just;

give him thy trust for ever, for ever.

Amen.



**Anton Bruckner**

**CHRISTUS FACTUS EST**

Christ became obedient unto death:  
Even death upon the cross.  
Wherefore God hath chosen him to be  
exalted;  
His name is of the Father, which is  
higher than all other.

**Eric Whitacre**

**LUX AURUMQUE**

Light,  
warm and heavy as pure gold  
and the angels sing softly  
to the new-born baby.

**Zoltán Kodály**

**MISSA BREVIS**

**1. Introitus**

**2. Kyrie**

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**3. Gloria**

Glory be to God on high. And on earth  
peace, good will towards men.

We praise Thee. We bless Thee.

We worship Thee. We glorify Thee.

We give thanks to Thee for Thy great  
glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the  
Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus  
Christ.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the  
Father.

Thou that takest away the sins of the  
world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the  
world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of  
God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy. Thou only art  
the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the  
Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory  
of God the Father.

Amen.



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## 4. Credo

I believe in one God, the Father  
Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-  
begotten Son of God. Begotten of his  
Father before all worlds.  
God of God, light of light, very God of  
very God.  
Begotten, not made, being of one  
substance with the Father: by whom all  
things were made.  
Who for us men, and for our salvation  
came down from heaven.  
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of  
the Virgin Mary; and was made man.  
And was crucified also for us; under  
Pontius Pilate, he suffered and was  
buried.  
On the third day He rose again,  
according to the Scriptures.  
And ascended into heaven; and sitteth  
on the right hand of the Father.  
And He shall come again with glory, to  
judge the living and the dead: Whose  
Kingdom shall have no end.  
And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and  
Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the  
Father and the Son.  
Who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshipped and glorified:  
who spake by the prophets.  
And in one holy, Catholic and Apostolic  
Church.  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the  
remission of sins.

And I look for the Resurrection of the  
dead.  
And the Life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## 5. Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth.  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## 6. Benedictus

Blessed is He  
who cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## 7. Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sins of the world,  
grant us Thy peace.

## 8. Ite, missa est



## **ROSS JELF** GUEST CONDUCTOR



Ross Jelf began conducting at 17 years of age and formally trained at University of Queensland, Australia graduating with a Bachelor of Music and Education. Ross also received a Graduate Certificate in Music Studies with Distinction from University of Queensland.

Before moving to the UK in 2009, Ross was heavily involved in choral music in Queensland, conducting the Buderim Male Choir, Sunshine Coast Choral Society, Sacred Music Ensemble and Strings n Things Chamber Orchestra.

In London, Ross graduated from the Royal Academy of Music with a Master of Arts in Choral Conducting. There, he studied with some of the UK's most prominent choral directors including Patrick Russill, Paul Brough, Jeremy Summerly, David Hill and James O'Donnell. During the Masters course, Ross was given the opportunity to conduct professional choirs such as the London Oratory Choir and the BBC Singers.

Ross continued his efforts in community music in London conducting the Dover House Singers, Sine Nomine Singers, North London Youth Music Centre Choir and many other community groups as guest conductor. Ross also founded and conducted the professional choir, Illumina.

As a singer, Ross sang professionally with the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Southwark Cathedral and the all-male Gregorian chant group, Schola Cantorum of Edington Music Festival. This led to many prominent performance experiences including tours throughout Europe and USA, television and radio broadcasts on the BBC, premiere performances including the launch of, 'The Choirbook for the Queen' and major services such as the George and Victoria Cross service singing in front of The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

Ross now resides in Brisbane where he sings as a Lay Clerk at St John's Cathedral and is currently conducting the Brisbane Concert Choir for their upcoming concert.

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## PHILLIP GEARING ORGAN



Phillip Gearing is a freelance musician with wide experience as an organist, chamber musician, Lieder accompanist, orchestral keyboardist and choral director. He was a Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba (1992-2014) and has performed throughout Australia and in Britain and Scandinavia, where he has been broadcast on radio.

Phillip has been organist of St George-the-Martyr, Queen Square London (1985), Director of Music, St Luke's Toowoomba (2007-12) and Acting Organist, St John's Cathedral Brisbane (2013-14). He is currently Director of Music at St Mary's, Kangaroo Point, Organist at St John's College, University of Queensland and an accompanist at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Phillip is also a director of the Organ Historical Trust of Australia, and continuo player with acclaimed chamber orchestra *Camerata of St John's*.

In 2007 Phillip released his CD *Celebrate* to mark the centenary of the organ at St Luke's Toowoomba — the only solo recording of a Queensland organ. He is currently recording a number of historic Queensland organs for release later in 2014. Phillip has enjoyed recent opportunities to devote more time to composition, mostly of sacred choral works.

## BRISBANE CONCERT CHOIR



The Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's is an auditioned adult mixed voice choir. Formed in 1996 by Dr Guy Jansen, the Choir has established an excellent reputation for its performances of diverse repertoire ranging from a cappella pieces to full symphonic works.

Performances have included appearances with The Queensland Orchestra, Queensland Pops Orchestra and in prestigious festivals such as Brisbane Cathedrals Week and the 4MBS Festival of Classics. The Choir toured the North Island of New Zealand in 1999 and in June 2002, following the release of its first CD, *Journey*, the Choir embarked on a very successful tour to north Queensland.

2008 saw the release of a second CD, *Radiance*, and a first European tour which visited Prague, Salzburg and Vienna. The Choir toured to Italy in September 2011, where it was very well received and in December of that year, the Choir released a CD of music for the festive season, entitled *Rejoice!*

The Choir has recorded performances for broadcast on ABC TV and 4MBS Classic-FM.

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## **SOPRANO**

Stephanye Bendell  
Susan Burrows Prilick  
Bronwyn Cox  
Jane Deighton  
Helen Fredericks  
Mary Gough  
Andrea Hall-Brown  
Jan Hungerford  
Amy Jelacic  
Stella Jenks  
Janet McKeon  
Suzana Milosevic  
Judy Neal  
Lucinda Thomson  
Elizabeth Yee

## **ALTO**

Jennifer Bendell  
Milly Blakeley  
Amanda Dee  
Amelia Fotheringham  
Sue Gray  
Grete Hindsberger  
Melissa Hutchinson  
Barb Lamb  
Barbara Levien  
Barbara Maenhaut  
Lynne Maurer  
Rosetta McGee  
Kristin Metzeling  
Joan Mooney  
Jane Oliver  
Judy Shepherd  
Ceri Takken  
Kathy Teakle

## **TENOR**

Simon Burgess  
Ian Clarkson  
Brett Gordon  
John Holmes  
David Jackson  
Paul Kennedy  
Stuart Szigeti  
Scott Woo

## **BASS**

Malcolm Alexander  
Robert Bray  
Bruce Campbell  
Michael Dalley  
Geoff Hines  
Charl Hung  
Ian Maurer  
Mark McKeon  
Jim McNicol  
Ross Salomon  
Chris Whight

## **MUSICAL**

**DIRECTOR**  
Debra Shearer-Dirié

**REHEARSAL  
ACCOMPANIST**  
John Woods

**MANAGEMENT**  
*Chairman*  
James McNicol

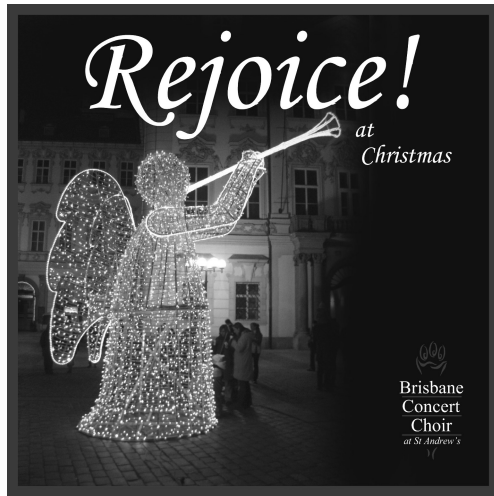
*Secretary*  
Stella Jenks

*Treasurer*  
Janet McKeon

*Committee*  
Bronwyn Cox  
Sue Gray  
Amy Jelacic  
Melissa Hutchinson

*Librarian*  
Melissa Hutchinson

*A sparkling selection of  
music for the festive season!*



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**CONCERT DIARY**  
**2014 SEASON**

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**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Sunday, 7 December 2014, 6.00pm**

a collaboration with the Brisbane Bells

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**



The Choir appreciates the ongoing generosity shown by St Andrew's Uniting Church and its congregation in providing a home for the Choir and allowing us to use their beautiful, heritage listed building.



**Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's Inc.**

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