

CHOIRS AND PERFORMERS



*Yugambeh Youth Choir
Conductor: Candace
Kruger*

The **Yugambeh Youth Choir** was founded in 2014 by *yarrabilginngunn* (songwoman) Candace Kruger. The choir aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (age 5-25) in South East Queensland to engage with culture and language. Using a combination of Aboriginal language, instruments, and movement, the Yugambeh Youth Choir weaves culture and stories of the Yugambeh region together, performing both old and new compositions at a wide range of events, from modest local gatherings to major national and international events. Members of the choir benefit from cultivating a sense of confidence, belonging and social cohesion as they develop their cultural identities and engage with community. Encouraged by the work they do with the choir, many of our members have taken on cultural leadership roles in the wider community.

Simon Loveless is an accompanist, choral conductor and singer based in Victoria. He currently directs Casey Choir, accompanies and assists direction of Melbourne Youth Chorale, sings with Gippsland Chamber Singers, accompanies choirs at Beaconhills and Haileybury colleges, and serves on the Vic/Tas chapter of the Australian National Choral Association. Past directing positions include Da Capo Singers, West Gippsland Chorale, Latrobe Chorale and RMIT Concert Choir; past accompanying positions include Yarra Ranges Children's Choir, Melbourne Women's Choir, Australian Welsh Male Choir, Cranbourne Chorale and Gippsland Opera; past singing involvements include Melbourne Chamber Choir and Gloriana.

Simon began his choral life as a member of Berwick Children's Choir (now Melbourne Youth Chorale) in the 1980s, and credits the inspired Kodaly-based teaching of Jean Heriot for everything that's happened since.



*Simon Loveless
Conference Accompanist*



*QiQi
Guzheng*

Melbourne-based artist **QiQi** is a versatile multi-instrumentalist who blends Chinese cultural themes with classical and contemporary styles. Classically trained in guzheng and double bass, QiQi's performances captivate audiences by merging traditional and modern sounds. As Music Director for the Hong De Lion and Dragon Association, QiQi leads their multi-instrumental ensemble. QiQi enjoys collaborating with diverse artists. This year, QiQi's original composition was featured in a permanent user-interactive museum installation. Upcoming projects include a collaboration with a jazz composer for the Melbourne Fringe in October and a debut album set for release in 2025. QiQi is super excited to be playing 'Anchored by a Heart' with Juliana Kay and the Conference Choir.

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*Bel Canto, Ivanhoe Girls
Grammar School
Conductor:
Christopher Cox
Accompanist:
Gina Gataveckaite*

The combined **IGGS Chamber Choir** (Years 10-12) and **Bel Canto Choir** (Years 7-9) marks the first collaboration between these two auditioned ensembles, brought together in preparation for this conference. With many students away on holiday, this joint effort provided a unique opportunity for our younger singers to perform alongside their older peers. Together, they are presenting a mix of repertoires from both choirs, showcasing the pieces they have been diligently preparing for concerts throughout the year. This collaboration highlights the unity and shared passion for choral music across the school. At Ivanhoe Girls', we proudly encourage the inclusion of works by female composers and poets in our repertoire. For this performance, our set features compositions by Sarah Quartel and Tracy Wong, as well as the writings of Hildegard von Bingen. This selection reflects our commitment to celebrating the contributions of women in the arts and serves as an inspiration for our young musicians, fostering a deep appreciation for the diversity and richness of the choral tradition.

A fully-auditioned, 35-voice mixed choir, **Choristry** is dedicated to performing a diverse range of choral music to the highest standard. Established by Trevor Jones in 2008, the ensemble performed from 2015 to early 2018 under the artistic direction of conductor, composer and singer Dan Walker, and with Dr Calvin Bowman in 2019. Daniel Brinsmead was appointed as our Musical Director in 2020. Our choristers come from a range of choral backgrounds and enjoy presenting adventurous, themed programs with a varied repertoire spanning early music to contemporary, Australian and international, and both a cappella and accompanied works.



*Choristry
Conductor:
Daniel Brinsmead*



*Exaudi
Conductors: Juliana Kay
and Mark O'Leary OAM*

Exaudi is a choir of young adult singers (aged 18 – 30) from Melbourne, Australia, and is one of the six choirs of the Young Voices of Melbourne organisation. The singers are students and young professionals in a range of disciplines united by their love of singing fine music at a high level. Exaudi tours regularly within Australia and has toured internationally to Singapore-Malaysia (2016), Scotland-Ireland (2019), Italy-Spain (2023) and New Zealand (2024). Exaudi's last CD, *With Waiting Breath*, was released in December 2018. young musicians, fostering a deep appreciation for the diversity and richness of the choral tradition.

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The Yarra Voices
Conductor: Renee Heron
Accompanist:
Simon Loveless

The **Yarra Voices**, led by artistic director Renee Heron, offers a nurturing and enriching environment for young singers in Melbourne. The choir emphasises strong vocal technique training and the development of performance expression while integrating ear training, music reading and music literacy through the lens of the Kodály music education philosophy. Aiming to develop both the musical and personal potential of each child, the choir performs regularly at major Melbourne events and regularly collaborates with contemporary artists like The Avalanches. Currently, The Yarra Voices are in the concept stages of a contemporary dance performance with Stephanie Lake Company for Rising Festival 2025. The Yarra Voices vision is to provide quality music education and choral experiences for children, fostering a lifelong love of music

Founded by Mark O’Leary OAM in 1990, the **Young Voices of Melbourne** exists to create choral music of a high standard and to foster excellence in music education in the community. Young Voices of Melbourne runs six choirs catering for singers aged 6 – 30, regularly appearing in concerts, festivals and special events at home and abroad. At this year’s conference are members of the **Beginning Training Choir (children in Grades 1 and 2)** and **Junior Training Choir (Grades 3 and 4)**. These groups rehearse for an hour each week with a strong focus on developing musical literacy and a love of singing.



Young Voices of Melbourne -
Training Choirs
Conductors: Marion Stafford
and Elizabeth O’Leary