

Jubilate Singers - A History

Written for the 30th Anniversary of Jubilate Singers, Holy Trinity Church, Dulwich Hill

Introduction

For thirty years Jubilate Singers has created community connection through music. The choir was first formed in 1995 by Susan Reppion-Brooke as St Clement's Singers based in Marrickville and then St George's, Earlwood, where the choir changed its name to Jubilate Singers. In 2002 the choir found a permanent home at Holy Trinity Church Dulwich Hill. The choir was established on strongly held principles that music is for everyone and everyone can sing. This developed a choir ethos where individuals can experience the joy that can be found in singing beautiful music, where community connection and acceptance can be achieved and, through collaborative practice, can experience the way that music has the potential to reach beyond our immediate lives and impact on our wider world.

Jubilate Singers was formed as, and still is, a non-audition choir open to anyone with a love of music. For over twenty years the choir was run on a volunteer basis, but in 2019 Jubilate Singers became incorporated as a community-based not-for-profit organisation, under its founding President Cheryl Fowler, and the choir is now funded through member contributions and fundraising concerts.

Jubilate Singers holds a deep sense of gratitude for the passion, generosity and inspiration of its founding Music Director Susan Reppion-Brooke, whose belief in the power of music to include, connect and enrich saw choir membership regularly include over a hundred choristers. Susan's dedication and commitment is reflected in the number of long-term choristers over the years, including some original members, Jonathan Fowler and Sharon Muir who are still actively involved and serve on the Choir Committee.

In 2012, Susan and Roger, her husband, moved to New Norfolk, Tasmania, where Susan established the St Matthew's Singers and where she has continued to transform communities through the power of music. Susan maintained her connection with Jubilate Singers through collaborating on a number of major performances with Jubilate Singers in Tasmania and when St Matthew's Singers joined Jubilate Singers at performances in Sydney.

From 2013 to 2014 Claire Patti-Chehade became Music Director of Jubilate Singers where she continued to bring to the choir her own love of beautiful music. This period also saw Claire change her career direction from music education to pursuing a career as an operatic soprano where she has since performed in both Australia and Europe to great acclaim.

In 2015 Joanna Brooke became Music Director of Jubilate Singers and, while maintaining the choir's commitment to classical repertoire, she also broadened the choir's musical experiences

through singing and performing a wide range of world music which included a collaboration with Suara Indonesia Dance. Joanna was also instrumental in establishing a collaborative relationship with Tracy Burjan and Symphonia Jubilate, a symphony orchestra organisation for music students from primary and high schools in the Strathfield area, whose mission is, 'to spread the gift of music through collaboration for the benefit of students in the wider community'. Joanna, with her energy and creative spirit, was able to maintain connection and cohesion within the choir during the time of Covid through using Zoom to continue weekly choir rehearsals. In 2022, after a much anticipated combined performance of Mozart's *Requiem* conducted by Susan Reppion-Brooke with Jubilate and St. Matthew's Singers, Joanna moved to Melbourne to live and work, and where she is currently Music Director of Monash University Choral Society.

Georgina Andrews became Music Director of Jubilate Singers in 2022 and she has continued a close association with Symphonia Jubilate and established a new collaborative relationship with Dr Sadaharu Muramatsu and Excelsia Chamber Orchestra and Excelsia Choir. Georgina's experience as a music educator, performer, creative director and conductor has brought her love of the timeless beauty of music to our repertoire, introducing us to the spirited charm of Renaissance madrigals, the classic romanticism of Schubert's Mass in G Major and the calming and serene lyricism of modern composers such as Ola Gjeilo and Eric Whitacre and, through the works of George Frideric Handel, the jubilation that lies at the very heart of music as it transcends time from the past to the present.

Our Music Directors and their Contribution to Jubilate Singers

Susan Reppion Brooke 1995-2012

About Susan Reppion Brooke OAM

As a young contralto, Susan performed as an oratorio soloist with orchestras such as the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Subsequently she was employed by Frankfurt Opera, and also freelanced as a contralto soloist in Germany and Switzerland. Since the 1990s she has become well known as a music educator, voice teacher and choral conductor, winning the ABC's Flame award for her school music education program, featuring in SBS's series *Inspiring Teachers*, and founding Jubilate Singers as a choir for all comers. From 2012, Susan has lived in Tasmania, where she continues her educational and musical activities transforming communities through the power of song. In 2023 Susan was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to music education.

A Reflection on Performances and Events

When Susan returned from Europe to Australia and settled in the Marrickville area she discovered that there were no venues available in which to sing and perform, and in 1995 established her first choir, St Clement's Singers, at her church in Marrickville. The choir initially included only the congregation but quickly developed into a community choir when friends and

students asked to join. The choir then moved to St George's Earlwood where it was renamed Jubilate Singers before finding a new home and permanent base at Holy Trinity Church, Dulwich Hill, in 2002 where the choir continues to rehearse.

Susan's drive to establish a community choir was not just about singing but grounded in a deep-seated commitment to music education:

My passion was particularly for persuading everyone that they could sing the classical repertoire and that it wasn't elitist but available to all. At its peak, we had 126 singers, around 50 of those were children that came from the local schools. When we started in 1995, there were no other non auditioned choirs around and the repertoire that we sang was uniquely classical unlike other non auditioned choirs, plus we welcomed a mixture of adults and children to join. Marrickville and Dulwich Hill were very different areas to the ones they are now and for many kids, our choir was the only way they could receive a rich music education singing this choral repertoire.

From its inception the choir was formed as an inclusive group which mainly sang Sacred Choral Music with the choir performing at Easter and Christmas services. A highlight quickly became its annual Christmas Concert, with Susan as Director utilising the talents of church parishioners to write highly engaging and original scripts such as, *The Christmas Revamp* and *A Christmas Drought* which featured a cast of talented young actors and a musical program of traditional Christmas Carols, excerpts from the Messiah and other sacred works.

Jubilate Singers' first concert, *Back to Baroque* was held in 1996 with Richard Gill as conductor and Susan performing as an alto soloist. This was followed by a collaboration with Jenny Duck-Chong to introduce classical music through fundraising concerts and, in 1998, the choir performed *A Celebration of Song* at Lidcombe Anglican Church and St Bede's, Drummoyne. A repeat performance was held at St Clement's, Marrickville in 1999 with fundraising dedicated to the church's new spire. Fundraising concerts were also held to support the work of Father Dave Smith at Holy Trinity Church and the Trinity Youth Centre in Dulwich Hill.

The year 2000 was an auspicious year for Sydney, hosting the Olympic Games, and for Jubilate Singers it marked its most ambitious projects to date. As part of the Sydney Olympics Arts Festival celebrations, under Susan's musical direction Jubilate Singers staged and performed Henry Purcell's operatic tale of love, power and fate, *Dido and Aeneas*, which was conducted by Richard Gill, with Susan performing the role of the Sorceress. Performances were held at St Andrew's Cathedral and at St Clement's at Marrickville with a repeat performance the following year at Willoughby Town Hall as part of Willoughby Symphony Orchestra's subscription series with Alan Foster as conductor. Also as part of the Olympic celebrations, Jubilate Singers performed as part of a massed choir in the *Songs of Praise Gala Concert* held at the Sydney Opera House and recorded for two episodes to be viewed in the United Kingdom where *Songs of Praise* is one of the longest running television programmes, watched by over five million people.

In 2002 Richard Gill encouraged Susan to conduct both choir and orchestra in a performance, and gave her conducting lessons for the next couple of years. Susan's first role as a conductor was in Jubilate Singers' first performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Susan continued to conduct the choir in 2003 with Fauré's *Requiem* and Bach Cantatas, in 2004 with Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Ceremony of Carols* by Britten, and in 2006 with the choir now featuring 126 singers in a performance of Mozart's *Requiem*. In 2009 a selection of Bach's most joyful and inspiring cantatas was performed in *Autumn Baroque*, which featured a Jubilate Motet and guest orchestra. At Easter 2010, in a performance of *St John's Passion*, singers, musicians and audiences, through the power and beauty of Bach's music, relived the events of Good Friday. Working on interesting collaborations which also have the ability to connect an audience to deeper social issues can be seen in the 2007 Remembrance Concert for Armistice Day, *Poetry of the Wars* with poetry narrated by David Baldwin, James Bean and Denise Kirby and an ad hoc choir conducted by Susan, performing Faure's *Requiem* and other sacred choral works.

Susan's final years with Jubilate Singers saw her rehearse and conduct the choir in two major concerts. In 2010 the choir was joined by St Bede Singers and soloists soprano Claire Patti-Chehade, mezzo soprano Jenny Duck-Chong, tenor Peter Hayward and bass Javier Vilarino in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. In 2011 Jubilate Singers presented an African Relief Concert where the choir performed Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* accompanied by organist Heather Moen-Boyd, as well as pieces by John Rutter and various spirituals and Inner West Youth Baroque Ensemble played Vivaldi, Bach and Arbeau. At the end of 2011 Susan and her husband Roger decided to move to New Norfolk in Tasmania where Susan continued her work in music education and community engagement through choral singing, establishing the St Matthew's Singers at her local church. In 2023, Susan was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to music education.

Claire Patti-Chehade 2013-2014

About Claire Patti-Chehade

'Claire Patti-Chehade is an Australian soprano garnering recognition for her commanding stage presence and vocal dynamism. Drawing upon her Italian and Lebanese heritage, Ms. Patti-Chehade has charmed audiences across Europe and Australia, performing Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Gilda (*Rigoletto*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*), Frasquita (*Carmen*), Clorinda (*La Cenerentola*), Rosina (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), and Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*). As a concert soloist, Ms. Patti-Chehade is sought after for her artistry in works like Bach's *Cantata BWV 51* and Handel's *Messiah*. Her engagements encompass regional touring with Opera Australia, national tours with Australian Global Entertainment, and featured television appearances, showcasing a breadth of experience and a dedication to every performance. Ms. Patti-Chehade holds a degree in Music Education and Classical Voice from the Sydney Conservatory of Music and is an alumna of the Pacific Opera Young Artist Program.'

Source: <https://www.operabase.com/claire-patti-chehade-a2151084/bio/en>

A Reflection on Performances and Events

Claire continued the choir's commitment to singing and performing classical and sacred music and on 8 September, 2013 conducted Jubilate Singers in *Sacred Vocal Music Through the Ages*, a fundraiser for the rebuild of the Holy Trinity Youth Centre. The concert repertoire included: *Kleine Orgelmesse (Little Organ Mass No 7 in B* by FJ Haydn, a selection of spiritual favourites, *Down to the River To Pray*, *Didn't My Lord*, *Deep River* and *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*, and two popular songs of ancient blessings by John Rutter, *A Gaelic Blessing* and *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*. Soloists Tisha Kelemen and Angela Smith performed a number of contemporary Christian songs and this was followed by a moving choral rendition of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* and Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Claire continued the tradition of Jubilate Singers joining Holy Trinity Church in their Christmas concerts, in 2013 and 2014 conducting the choir performing the *Sussex Carol*, *Christmas Lullaby* and from Handel's *Messiah*, *For Unto Us*, *Glory to God* and the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

A highlight for the choir was an invitation to sing at Claire's wedding to Sathya James at Campbell Street Presbyterian Church, Balmain where the choir performed Bach's *Wachet Auf (Sleepers Wake)*, John Rutter's songs of blessing and *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by JS Bach.

Claire's love of performance led her to change her career from Music Education to the world of opera where since 2015 she has performed both in Australia and Europe as a soprano soloist.

Joanna Brooke 2015-2022

About Joanna Brooke

Joanna Brooke is a choral conductor and soprano based in Melbourne. She has over 10 years experience leading adult, children's, community and auditioned choirs, including as the Artistic Director of Jubilate Singers from 2015-2022 and as a regular conductor with Gondwana Choirs and Queenwood School for Girls. In 2020, Joanna was the proud recipient of River City Voices' Assistant Conductor Fellowship, under the directorship of Dr. Sarah Penicka Smith, with whom she continued working as a regular guest conductor. A vibrant soprano, Joanna enjoys performing regularly in oratorio, with highlights including soprano soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria in D* in 2019 with the Hobart Orpheus Choir and in the Good Friday *Messiah* in 2021 and 2023 at Epping Baptist Church. Joanna's operatic highlights include the role of Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with St. Matthew's Singers' Motet in April 2022 and with the Hobart Orpheus Choir in November 2021 and she has enjoyed performing regularly with *The Cooperative* in Sydney (First Priestess in *Iphigénie en Tauride* and Shepherd in *Tosca*). In 2025, Joanna conducted Mozart's *Requiem in D Minor* with the Monash University Choral Society and accepted the role of Musical Director with Vocal Infusion. She also consults with Creativity Australia on their community choral program With One Voice and sings regularly with Polyphonic Voices. With training in social work, Joanna continues to research and practice trauma-informed interventions in creative practice. In 2021, Joanna presented at the University of Melbourne's Symposium: *Peace, Empathy and Conciliation through Music* featuring practice vignettes from

Jubilate. In 2024, she led the closing plenary session at the international conference 'Big Trauma/Big Change: Building Tomorrow Today' at the University of New South Wales. Joanna is currently undertaking a PhD at the Melbourne Conservatorium titled, *Singing as Collective Care*. Source: <https://www.monucs.org.au/about/creative-staff>

A Reflection on Performances and Events

Music has always been a part of Joanna's life:

I was one of the many children who grew up singing in Jubilate. It was a part of my childhood, Monday nights were choir nights and everyone I knew was involved in the wonderful gift that Mum had created in our local community. As soon as I was old enough, I was in the sopranos singing my socks off! What a gift to grow up with choral singing being like a second language! There are so many of us who can name Jubilate as the reason we fell in love with community music-making and I can thank my mother for this - who volunteered her time and gave her whole heart to creating a joyous, inclusive musical space for so many of us to benefit from.

In 2015 when the choir needed a new Music Director Joanna embraced the opportunity as she explains:

When I took over the choir in 2015, I wanted to honour her (Susan's) legacy and keep breathing new energy, ideas and love into this important group that she had formed with such care and passion.

Joanna instinctively knew how belonging to a community choir can bring joy and social connection to all involved. Many of her initiatives with the choir reflected this such as her approach to rehearsals where she;

...always aimed to end rehearsals with something that left everyone feeling "good", so that choristers could go home feeling a little more relaxed and a little more connected to their bodies than when they came to rehearsal. Sometimes we would walk around the church singing a round, sometimes we'd sing in a big circle against the walls of the building and invite individual members to sit in the centre of the sound with their eyes shut to feel 'immersed'.

The effect this had was profound:

I felt so humbled whenever a chorister came up to me after a rehearsal reflecting something like, 'I had a horrible day and I wasn't going to come tonight, but I'm glad I did - I feel lighter' - and those comments would come quite regularly.

Joanna introduced choir beers night where, once a month, rehearsals would end a little bit earlier and the choir would gather at the Gladstone Hotel, sharing stories of family and friends

and travels and adventures, often deciding to spontaneously break into song, “*Because when you can sing in four-part harmony, why wouldn't you?*”

Celebrating Christmas in song has always been a highlight for Jubilate Singers but Joanna gave this a new direction by bringing the joy of Christmas carols to the local community and from 2016, instead of holding a Christmas concert in the church, held the Dulwich Hill Street Carols where the choir walked through the main strip of Dulwich Hill singing joyously and ended up at the Gladstone for a tipple and a few more songs!

In the many choir events that Joanna led it's not just the memory of the music but the times spent with friends that stand out such as:

Wintry weekends singing carols together in Katoomba as part of Yulefest, with special workshops from Susan (Mum) and Rose Saunders, as well as nature walks, communal crosswords, carpooling singalongs and delicious meals together by the fire at the Youth Hostel and singing carols at Canteen's Christmas in July Party, organised by our dear chorister and friend Emily, who passed away 6 months later where some of us had the honour of singing at her funeral, while others watched the live stream as Covid restrictions were still in place.

While continuing to include classical and sacred music in the choir's repertoire Joanna brought a wider world to the choir through music which also enriched the choir's musical versatility and enabled the choir to reach new audiences as Joanna wanted to share the choir's incredible gifts, sound and spirit in new interesting and exciting performance opportunities. From singing, *Hlonolofatsa* in the Sethotho language from the Soweto Gospel Choir, *O-re-mi*, a Nigerian Highlife Song, *Hamba Lulu*, a Zulu Wedding Song or *Mangwani M'pule*, a Sotho children's song, the choir quickly mastered the nuances of singing in a variety of languages. In 2016, the choir was invited to the Belvoir Theatre to join in a performance of *The Events*, a play about a choir community disrupted by a shooting, exploring the themes of rage, fear and how we live in a moment of chaos. While the choir's acting role was an easy one - the choir had to act as a choir in rehearsal singing an original musical score - Jubilate Singers was also asked to perform one song and Joanna chose, *The Norwegian Coffee Song* which the choir sang in fluent Norwegian. The choir was also privileged to be asked to sing at ABC Radio's *Sing Out Sydney*, an event that celebrates the joy of singing, with 21 diverse choirs from around Sydney, and in 2019 Jubilate Singers joined 560 choristers to sing in Kalaw Kawaw Ya language of the north-western islands of the Torres Strait to perform Christine Anu's beautiful *Kulba Yaday*. In 2018, Joanna collaborated with Suara Indonesia Dance where the choir not only sang but added movement, body percussion and costumes singing the songs of Aceh in Acehnese in performances at ASYIK Indonesia Festival and at ABC Radio's *Sing Out Sydney*.

Jubilate Singers continued its tradition of fundraising through concert performances. In 2017 Joanna coordinated *By Our Choirs Combined*, a benefit concert for The House of Welcome where Jubilate Singers performed with choirs, Songs from Next Door, Spanish Speaking Community Choir, Cook Island Christian Church Choir and Sydney Harmony, with the finale

featuring 120 choristers singing the *Hallelujah Chorus*. In 2018 Jubilate Singers joined with St Matthew's Singers to present *Vivaldi's Gloria in D* and works by Gibbons, Bach and Holbourne as a fundraiser for people seeking asylum, and refugees through the House of Welcome.

In 2019 Joanna formed a collaborative relationship with Tracy Burjan, Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Symphonia Jubilate, a symphony orchestra organisation for music students from public primary and high schools in the Strathfield area. Jubilate Singers regularly perform at Symphonia Jubilate concerts and also provide performance opportunities for young musicians at our concerts. Tracy and Paul Burjan have joined our choir bringing with them, "*a fantastic gift as between them they brought composing, arranging and recording skills*". Performing original arrangements by Tracy is always a highlight for the choir. The Burjans are generous in their support of Jubilate Singers. Paul's collaboration with the choir's Music Directors to produce high quality and easily accessible practice tapes, the most recent being the Scottish folk song *Aiken Drum* and Handel's *O Praise the Lord with One Consent*, has enabled the choir to master technically difficult pieces of music.

Until 2019 Jubilate Singers had been run on a volunteer basis and Joanna as Music Director was aware that this organisational model was not sustainable in the long term. She advocated for the conductor position to be financially supported and for a committee to be established to lead the governance and operations of the choir. In 2019 Jubilate Singers became a community based incorporated organisation with a choir committee elected and Cheryl Fowler as inaugural President, a role that Cheryl fulfilled for the next six years.

The beginning of 2020 saw the spread of Covid as it quickly became a worldwide pandemic and unfortunately for Jubilate Singers singing in a choir was considered a dangerous activity and choirs were among the first groups to face restrictions and the last to be given freedoms. Joanna, with her resilience, creativity and belief that, "*where there's a will, there's a way to sing together*", quickly moved to using Zoom as a platform to keep the choir connected. In rehearsals she aimed to keep activities fun with games like 'guess the baby chorister', and she also started rehearsing Mozart's *Requiem*. Once restrictions slowly started to lift she worked with groups of 5, then 10 indoors, rotating across sections, and also held some outdoor rehearsals. In 2022 with all Covid restrictions finally lifted and the choir operational again, Jubilate Singers was joined by St Matthew's Singers with Susan Reppion-Brooke as conductor and Joanna as a soloist for a triumphant performance of Mozart's *Requiem* at Holy Trinity Church.

Shortly after this performance Joanna decided to move to Melbourne to live. With training in social work, Joanna continues to research and practice trauma-informed interventions in creative practice. Joanna has also continued to practise her love of singing and choral music and she is currently Music Director of Monash University Choral Society. Joanna's time with Jubilate Singers is a reflection of her belief in the power and healing that singing can bring to our lives:

Singing together has that effect on us, we are made to sing and choirs are a wonderful way to remind ourselves of this! It feels like coming home. And that's what Jubilate has been for me for the last 30 years - a second home.

Georgina Andrews 2022- current

About Marguerite Georgina Andrews

Georgina started singing at her family's church when she was five years old, having played violin since she was two-and-a-half. From the happiness it brought, it was evident Georgina would be a lover and sharer of music.

After completing her BMus in Viola Performance and Graduate Diploma in Music Education at Sydney University, she studied at The Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague, and The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Georgina has designed, produced and performed her own productions in Sydney and Europe.

Georgina has sung with Sydney Chamber Choir, Sydney Contemporary Singers, Sydney Philharmonic Motet Choir, St James King Street Choir, and Cantillation. She has performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on many occasions, and has recorded for numerous movie soundtracks at Trackdown Fox Studios, Sydney.

Georgina loves to sing, and to teach others as well. As a natural harmoniser from a young age, she particularly loves ensemble singing, and training others to reap the enormous benefits of this skill. She directs the Jubilate Singers, and has previously directed Sea Naturals Choir in Cronulla, and co-directed the Friends of Symphonia Jubilate Chorale in Strathfield. She also conducts for the Department of Education *Our Spectacular* (Sydney Opera House) and *Create East* (NIDA) annually.

A Reflection on Performances and Events

Georgina's creative and artistic flair and love of beautiful music is demonstrated in her choice of repertoire for the choir's major concerts. In May 2023 Georgina conducted Jubilate Singers in a unique performance of *Renaissance Resounds*, featuring madrigals and other Renaissance pieces where the choir was joined by friends from Coro Innominata, soprano soloist Alice Dawson-Damer, theorbo player Shaun Ng, and Susan Sukkar and the Symphonia Jubilate Recorder Consort. The choir's major concert for 2024 featured the beautiful music of *Schubert's Mass in G* where we were fortunate to have the renowned organist, David Drury, accompany the choir. David's solo performance brought the church organ to life. Accompanist, the talented Anna Tomasyshyn, gave an outstanding performance of Lieder with soloists Eden Shironi, Michael Kaufmann, and Aidan O'Donnell. For our 30th Anniversary concert Georgina has selected a variety of works by George Frideric Handel which include the *Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne*, *Zadok the Priest* and *O Praise the Lord with One Consent*. The choir will be joined

by soloists countertenor Michael Burden, soprano Charlotte Crowe and bass Jack Fletcher, with special guests, Excelsia Chamber Orchestra.

Under Georgina's direction Jubilate Singers has continued to work in collaboration with Symphonia Jubilate. In June 2023 the choir reprised its concert performance of Renaissance madrigals at Symphonia Jubilate's Concert, *Time Signatures*. Jubilate Singers joined with Sing Warren to perform an arrangement by Tracy Burjan of *Be Still My Soul* by Jean Sibelius, as well as *The Lake Isle* by Ola Gjeilo at Symphonia Jubilate's 10th anniversary concert.

Further collaborations have been with Dr Sadaharu Muramatsu, conductor of Strathfield Symphony Orchestra and Excelsia Choir in 2022, performing the *Fauré Requiem* accompanied by soloists Joanna Brooke and Ian Fisher and again in September 2023, where Jubilate Singers joined with Excelsia Choir in a collaboration with Strathfield Symphony Orchestra's concert, *Scored*. Excelsia Choir had chosen music from film scores including blockbuster music from Lucas/Williams, *The Phantom Menace* by Spielberg/Williams, *Hymn to the Fallen* from *Saving Private Ryan* and Hans Zimmer's *The Lion King Suite*.

Jubilate Singers has continued to perform at the Blackheath Choir Festival, which provides the choir with time to share in the joy of singing over three days of choral events. In 2024 the choir performed *O Magnum Mysterium* by Tomas Luis de Victoria, *Ave Verum Corpus* by Mozart, Schubert's *Kyrie* and *Ubi Caritas* by Ola Gjeilo. and in 2025 the choir demonstrated its versatility by performing an arrangement by John Knox of the Scottish folk song *Aiken Drum*, *The Seal Lullaby* by Eric Whitacre and Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. Jubilate Singers also enjoy joining with Holy Trinity Church for its annual Christmas Carol service.

Jubilate Singers has continued to connect and collaborate with other choirs to raise awareness of significant events and social issues. In 2022 Jubilate Singers joined River City Voices and others for an outdoor performance *From the Steps*, as part of the Sydney Opera House 50th birthday celebrations. In December 2023, a small group of choir members dressed in green to join with other choirs to record *For All Earthkind*, which was played at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28.

Our Accompanists

Over the years Jubilate Singers has been supported by a range of highly talented musicians who have been our accompanists and have shared with us their own passion for musical excellence. Jubilate Singers extends its thanks to:

Dr Philip Eames

'Dr Philip Eames is one of Sydney's most in-demand choral conductors, as well as an active composer, pianist, and researcher.

Hailing from Brisbane, Philip Eames studied piano with Dr Max Olding and Dr Stephen Savage at the Queensland Conservatorium, where he was a category finalist in the ABC Young

Performers Awards. After further study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, he completed his doctorate in 2017 at the Sydney Conservatorium. Currently, Philip is a Research Associate at Spencer-Bennett NeuroMusic Collaborative, and he serves as the Classical Convenor at the Australian Institute of Music.

Philip maintains a diverse professional career as a conductor, pianist, academic and composer. He was appointed principal conductor of the Macquarie Singers in 2023, and in 2025 he took up the same role with Coro Innominata, while also a long-term associate conductor with the River City Voices. He most recently conducted operatic seasons of Menotti's *The Medium* and Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins*. As a composer, Philip's music has frequently been commissioned and performed throughout Australia by artists including the Australian Voices, Queensland Ballet, the Black Square and Flinders Quartets, and the Australian National Piano Award.

As a composer, Philip's music has frequently been commissioned and performed throughout Australia by artists including the Australian Voices, the Flinders Quartet, and Queensland Ballet. He was announced the winner of the 2020 Willgoss Choral Composition Prize, the Tagore and ASKM Composition Competitions. Notably, in 2019 he collaborated with the Black Square Quartet and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation to create a large-scale choreographed string quartet "Minjerribah Dreaming" based on the stories of Oodgeroo Noonuccal.'

Source: <https://aim.edu.au/lecturers/dr-philip-eames/>

Margaret Hayes

Margaret Hayes was the inaugural rehearsal organist and accompanist for Jubilate Singers, a role she fulfilled for many years. Margaret studied the organ with Reginald Pitt-Owen. She has been church organist at St George's Earlwood, St Thomas' Rozelle and at St Clement's Marrickville. She has also played as guest organist at services and functions throughout the Inner West.

Gayoon Jung

Gayoon is a pianist, composer and piano tutor based in Sydney. She teaches piano and accompanies school choirs at MLC School and Santa Sabina College. A graduate with a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Korea, Gayoon has extensive experience supporting choirs, instrumental ensembles, and accompanying students for exams. She loves helping musicians bring their best to every performance with energy, warmth, and musical sensitivity.

Ruth McCall

Ruth McCall has supported Jubilate Singers in many ways over the years as a Music Director, composer and accompanist.

Ruth McCall graduated with First Class Honours in Voice from the Elder Conservatorium of Music in Adelaide where she also completed an Associate Diploma in piano performance. She joined *The Song Company* in 1996 as first soprano until 2010. In that role she toured over 17 countries, in Europe, China, the USA and Asia. Ruth has performed in all the major classical

arts festivals in Australia, as well as collaborated with performing artists of other disciplines. Through *The Song Company* she has featured in many recordings, ABC broadcasts and music theatre productions.

Ruth has performed in hundreds of concerts for primary school children with *Musica Viva In Schools*. She currently composes, teaches piano and voice, as well as conducts with the *Sydney Children's Choir*, where she was composer in residence in 2011.

In September 2018 Ruth launched a new music publishing website called *Sing Score* which sells downloadable choral sheet music written by Australian composers.

Anna Tomasyshyn

Anna was born in Kyiv, Ukraine. After graduating from Kyiv Specialised Secondary Boarding School, majoring in Piano studies, she continued her studies in the Piano Faculty of the National Music Academy of Ukraine. Since 2005 Anna has taught piano and performed at the highest level, including regular performances in the musical evenings of the National Sanctuary, 'Sophia of Kyiv'. She is the founder and artistic director of the first Ukrainian Festival Competition, Con Amore Festum, and was employed as Concertmaster for the string department of Kyiv Conservatorium. Anna's piano students are winners of national and international competitions and have continued their education in schools in Kyiv, London, Paris and Toronto. Anna fled Ukraine soon after the Russian invasion in February 2022, seeking a safe place for herself and her 6-year-old son. She has found refuge in Sydney for now, and we hope she will remain and continue to live and work here.

Priscilla Yuen - no biography supplied

In conclusion, the music continues.....

Collated and Written by:

Georgina Andrews

Joanna Brooke

Amanda Miller

Susan Reppion - Brooke

Christine Urbanski

(2025)

.....

Appendix - Jubilate Singers Timeline

Susan Reppion Brooke OAM Music Director 1994-2012

1994

- St Clement's Singers was formed to introduce classical music to St Clement's and to provide a venue where classical and sacred music could be performed. Initially just including congregation members, it quickly became a community choir after friends and students asked to join.
- The Christmas Celebration used the children from the congregation to be part of the nativity scenes directed by Clare Heuston.

1995

- St Clement's Singers officially began with members of the church deciding the choir would sing mainly sacred choral music and be an inclusive community group that encouraged anyone interested to join.
- Easter concert
- Christmas Lessons and Carols with nativity

1996

- First concert with Richard Gill conducting and Susan being Alto soloist - program, *Back to Baroque*

1997

- Viva Vivaldi with Alan Foster conducting, Susan as Alto soloist.
- Christmas: Play written by Roslyn Isles with the choir singing

1998

- A Celebration of Song at Lidcombe Anglican Church and Drummoyne Church St Bedes. Jenny Duck-Chong the music coordinator and fine mezzo, worked collaboratively with Susan and the choir to introduce classical music through fundraising concerts
- Christmas Concert- A play, *A Christmas Drought*, written for the choir by Ben Thurley plus Christmas music sung by the choir.

1999

- Repeat performance of *A Celebration of Song* at St Clement's fund raising for the spire.
- Rehearsals during 1999 for the opera *Dido and Aeneas* and then performance at St Clement's Church

2000

- St Clement's moved to St George's Earlwood and became the Jubilate Singers.
- *Dido and Aeneas* performed at St Andrew's Cathedral as part of the Olympic Arts Festival. Richard Gill conducted both performances.

2001

- *Dido and Aeneas* at Chatswood conducted by Alan Foster.
- Christmas Concert – A Christmas Drought with Sam Morgan-Grahame joining us to act in play.

2002

- Jubilate Singers finds a new home at Holy Trinity Church Dulwich Hill
- Richard Gill persuaded Susan to take over the conducting of the choir when using an orchestra. He gave her conducting lessons for a couple of years.
- The choir performed its first Messiah with Susan conducting.

2003

- *Fauré Requiem* with Bach Cantatas
- Combined Choirs for Dulwich Hill Carols in the Park, concluding with the Hallelujah Chorus and fireworks

2004

- Vivaldi *Gloria* and *Ceremony of Carols* by Britten

2005

- Christmas Concert at Holy Trinity Church

2006

- *Mozart Requiem* with our choir which now had 126 singers!
- Jubilate went into recess for a few weeks and the choir restarted without so many children and we regrouped as the Ad Hoc Choir for the remainder of 2006
- Christmas performance, Christmas Revamp play with choir music at St Lukes Enmore and Holy Trinity Church

2007

- A Palm Sunday Concert with sacred choral music and instrumental interludes
- Poetry of the Wars, A Remembrance Concert for Armistice Day with poetry and sacred music narrated by David Baldwin, James Bean and Denise Kirby

2008

- Christmas Carol concert with the choir performing *Wolcum Yole*, *Carol of the Birds*, *For Unto Us*, *This Little Babe* and the *Hallelujah Chorus*

2009

- *Autumn Baroque*, a selection of Bach's most joyful and inspired cantatas with the Jubilate Motet and guest orchestra

2010

- *St John Passion* by JS Bach at Easter
- Handel's *Messiah* at Holy Trinity Church and St Bede's Church

2011

- African Relief Concert, Jubilate Singers sing Benjamin Britten, Rejoice in the Lamb with organist Heather Moen-Boyd, John Rutter and various spirituals and Inner West Youth Baroque Ensemble perform Vivaldi, Bach and Arbeau. This was followed by a supper of traditional African food prepared by our sisters from Sierra Leone.

Claire Patti - Chehade 2013-2014

2013

- Jubilate Singers Concert - Sacred Vocal Music Through the Ages, a fundraiser for the rebuild of the Holy Trinity Youth Centre. The concert repertoire included: *Kleine Orgelmesse* (*Little Organ Mass No 7 in B* by FJ Haydn a selection of spiritual favourites, *Down In the River To Pray*, *Didn't My Lord*, *Deep River* and *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* and two popular songs of ancient blessings by John Rutter, *A Gaelic Blessing* and *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*. Soloists Tisha Kelemen and Angela Smith performed a number of contemporary Christian Songs and this was followed with a moving choral rendition of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* and Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.
- Christmas Concert - Holy Trinity Church

2014

- Jubilate Singers sang at Claire's wedding to Sathya James at Campbell Street Presbyterian Church Balmain where the choir performed Bach's *Wachet Auf Sleepers Wake*, John Rutter's songs of blessing and *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by JS Bach.
- Christmas Concert - Holy Trinity Church

Joanna Brooke 2015-2022

2015

- Christmas concert at Holy Trinity with narrator David Baldwin

2016

- *The Events* at Belvoir Theatre
- Dulwich Hill Village Fair
- Blackheath Choir Festival
- Dulwich Hill Street Carols Commence

2017

- Palm Sunday Performance at Holy Trinity
- *By Our Choirs Combined* - A benefit concert for the House of Welcome
- Jesuit Refugee Service Christmas Party
- Dulwich Hill Street Carols

2018

- ASYIK Indonesian Festival
- Blue Mountains *Yulefest*
- *Sing Out Sydney* Feature Choir
- Vivaldi *Gloria in D* - combined with St Matthew's Singers - A Fundraiser for People Seeking Asylum and Refugees Through the House of Welcome
- Dulwich Hill Street Carols

2019

- Choir Committee established and Jubilate is Incorporated
- Symphonia Jubilate Partnership Begins
- Blue Mountains *Yulefest*
- *Sing Out Sydney* Feature Choir

- Symphonia Jubilate Showcase
- Dulwich Hill Village Fair - performance
- Dulwich Hill Street Carols

2020

- Zoom Choir, Social Distanced Sectionals, Outdoor Choir Rehearsals
- Canteen's Christmas in July Party (organised by dear chorister Emily Church)
- *A Very Socky Christmas* features as Part of Carols By Kindie Light

2021

- With choir singing still restricted Jubilate takes a break in Term 1, commencing again in Term 2
- Small ensemble sang at Emily Church's funeral
- Online rehearsals recommence during second lockdown
- Carols Concert at Holy Trinity Church

2022

- Symphonia Jubilate Showcase
- Mozart's *Requiem* Concert combined with St. Matthew's Singers conducted by Susan Reppion-Brooke

Georgina Andrews 2022- current

2022

- Collaboration with Dr Sadaharu Muramatsu, conductor of Strathfield Symphony Orchestra and Excelsia Choir in 2022 performing the Fauré *Requiem* accompanied by soloists Joanna Brooke and Ian Fisher.
- Christmas Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church

2023

- *Renaissance Resounds* concert, featuring madrigals and other Renaissance pieces joined by friends from Coro Innominata, soprano soloist Alice Dawson-Damer, theorbo player Shaun Ng, and Susan Sukkar and the Symphonia Jubilate Recorder Consort.
- Jubilate Singers joined with Excelsia Choir in a collaboration with Strathfield Symphony Orchestra's concert, *Scored*. Excelsia Choir had chosen music from film scores including blockbuster music from Lucas/Williams, *The Phantom Menace*; Spielberg/Williams, Hymn to the Fallen from *Saving Private Ryan* and Hans Zimmer *The Lion King Suite*.
- Symphonia Jubilate's Concert, *Time Signatures* - performed Renaissance madrigals Symphonia Jubilate's 10 year anniversary concert where Jubilate Singers joined with Sing Warren - performed *Be Still My Soul* by Jean Sibelius (arrangement Tracy Burjan) and *The Lake Isle* by Ola Gjeilo.
- Blackheath Choir Festival - performed Renaissance madrigals
- A small group of Jubilate Singers dressed in green to join with other choirs to record *For All Earthkind*, which was to be played at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28.

- Christmas Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church

2024

- Schubert's *Mass in G* concert with organist David Drury, including a performance of Lieder with soloists Eden Shironi, Michael Kaufmann, and Aidan O'Donnell.
- Symphonia Jubilate Concert - Joined choirs Singing Health Choir RPA Hospital, With One Voice Chatswood and Glebe Community Singers and Primo Orchestra and Members of the SSO - performed Beethoven Symphony No 9 Final Movement. LV Beethoven (arrangement Matthew Owen) and *What a Wonderful World* by Thiele & Weiss.
- Blackheath Choir Festival - performed *O Magnum Mysterium* by Tomas Luis de Victoria, *Ave Verum Corpus* by Mozart, Schubert's *Kyrie* and *Ubi Caritas* by Ola Gjeilo
- Christmas Carol concert at Holy Trinity Church

2025

- Symphonia Jubilate Concert - *Felix, Fingal's Cave and Fun* - performed Scottish folk song *Aiken Drum* and *The Seal Lullaby* by Eric Whitacre
- Choir Workshop with Eric Whitacre at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- Blackheath Choir Festival - Scottish folk song *Aiken Drum* (arrangement John Knox), *The Seal Lullaby* by Eric Whitacre and Handel's *Zadok the Priest*.
- *Jubilation: A concert to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Jubilate Singers* featuring works by George Frideric Handel including the *Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne*, *Zadok the Priest* and *O Praise the Lord with One Consent* and joined by soloists countertenor Michael Burden, soprano Charlotte Crowe and bass Jack Fletcher with special guests Excelsia Chamber Orchestra.
- Christmas Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church

.....