

Annual Report 2024 - 2025



**Jubilate Singers Inc.
INC 1900858 NSW**

President Report

Our last AGM was held on Monday 11 November 2024 and after six years in the role Cheryl Fowler retired as President of Jubilate Singers. Cheryl was the choir's founding President and has overseen the choir's development from 2019 to 2024 as it has continued to grow and flourish as a community based choir. At the choir's Christmas drinks function Cheryl was enthusiastically thanked for her all her dedication to the choir over these years. Cheryl has continued to remain on the choir committee in the role of Vice President. Christine Urbanski was elected President for 2024-2025. Chris Bell also stepped down from his role as Public Officer, a position that he held from 2019 as a foundation committee member. Chris has made a valuable contribution to the choir in establishing its website and while he is no longer able to attend choir as he has moved to Bowral in the Southern Highlands, he is still willing to give advice on IT issues or lend a helping hand when needed. Andrew Silk has taken on the role of Public Officer. In February we also farewelled our accompanist Anna Tomasyshyn. We are grateful to have had Anna as our accompanists with her extraordinary talent, vivacious wit and her encouragement for us to practise! We welcomed Gayoon Jung on board as our accompanist.



Georgina Andrews is now in her third year as Music Director of Jubilate Singers and has continued to guide the choir in developing its confidence singing a broad range of classical repertoire that is both traditional and contemporary. At the Blackheath Choir Festival in August Jubilate Singers performed Schubert's *Kyrie*, *Ave Verum Corpus* by W. A. Mozart, *O Magnum Mysterium* by T. L. de Victoria and a contemporary piece by Ola Gjeilo, *Ubi Caritas*, which we sang unaccompanied. Many of the choir take the opportunity to spend a weekend in the mountains while enjoying the choir festival and visit the local market at the Fire Station or catch up with other choir friends at one of Blackheath's many cafes. On Saturday night the choir gathered at the Bistro at Gardners Inn to relax over dinner, a time to relax and unwind after our performance.



On Saturday 23 November Jubilate Singers joined Symphonia Jubilate for their second major concert for the year. The choir performed *What a Wonderful World*, words and music by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele (arranged by Mark Hayes). This was followed by a joyous and rapturous performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No 9 Final Movement* (arranged by Matthew Owen) where we joined with other choirs: Singing Health Choir, RPA Hospital, With One Voice, Chatswood and Glebe Community Singers with music performed by Primo Orchestra and Members of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.



Performing at Holy Trinity's Christmas Concert has become a Jubilate Singers' tradition. This year we joined again with Ruth McCall as Concert Director and welcomed church members to join the choir for rehearsals. Ruth McCall created a stimulating programme of carols, readings and videos. The choir performed a traditional carol, *Personent Hodie*, which had been arranged by Ruth McCall and was sung in Latin, and M. Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*. This was followed by a choir dinner at The Gladstone Hotel where we were able to officially thank Cheryl for all her hard work as Choir President.



Planning for Jubilate Singers' 30th Anniversary Concert commenced in October 2024 with Handel's *Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne* and other anthems by Handel to be the focus of concert repertoire. The date for the concert was set for the following October and scores were quickly ordered to be ready to start rehearsals in the new year. Concert planning has been a focus for the choir and choir committee throughout the year. On Saturday, 29 March a workshop was held to discuss concert planning and was well attended by choir members. The workshop focused mainly on promotional strategies. Ideas were also generated on how to reflect the choir's anniversary in the performance. It was decided to invite past Music Directors as Special Guests for the concert, contact past choir members and to collate a choir history which would be acknowledged at the beginning of the concert. The meeting was very helpful in framing concert organisation.

Our second concert with Symphonia Jubilate was on 14 June and with its theme, *Felix, Fingal's Cave and Fun*, the choir performed a Scottish Folk song, *Aiken Drum* (arranged by John Knox) and *The Seal Lullaby* by Eric Whitacre. Both these songs initially appeared to be deceptively simple - how hard can a Scottish folk song be? The reality at rehearsals proved that this was not the case and we were finding that both songs had their challenges. This led to Paul Burjan and Georgina making wonderful SATB and full choir practice tracks that were then loaded onto a choir WhatsApp group to provide easy and portable access to practice tools - all we need is our phones! This did really make a difference and we are very thankful to Paul and Georgina for creating these practice tracks for us.



A highlight for the choir was attending the Eric Whitacre Workshop held in the Verbrugghen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Eric Whitacre is an American composer and conductor best known for choral music. On Monday 23 June, we joined 300 Sydney Choristers where Eric in his extremely personable and charismatic style led us in performing three of his compositions, *Little Man in a Hurry*, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* and *Sing Gently*. At the end of the rehearsal *Sing Gently* was filmed and uploaded onto his Instagram site. It was a truly memorable and uplifting evening of song.

Staging a concert can accrue a range of costs, and one of the strategies to help alleviate this was to look at seeking funding through applying for an Inner West Council Arts Grant Application. Writing a grant funding application is a time consuming process and I'm very thankful to everyone who contributed to this process. In preparing the funding application I was guided by a long discussion I had with Naomi Bower, Council's Cultural Planning and Policy Leader who advised on how the concert budget was to be developed. One of the things she advised was to identify the cost of volunteer roles and include this in the budget. The grant application was submitted by the due date 6 June and, while in the final outcome we were unsuccessful, on reflection, going through this process does highlight the enormous role that volunteers play in making a concert such as ours not only possible but accessible to all in our community.

Finally a thank you to our hardworking Committee, Cheryl Fowler (Vice President), Amanda Miller (Secretary and Music Librarian), Stretch Fowler (Treasurer), Gaby Aitkin (Assistant Treasurer), Adrienne Richardson (Membership Coordinator), Deirdre O Sullivan (Promotions Officer), Sharon Muir and Andrew Silk as Public Officer. The choir committee works behind the scenes to make sure that the choir is managed efficiently and effectively. These are just some of the things committee members have worked on this year. Adrienne has trialed a new membership form and is focusing on welcoming and transitioning our new members into the choir. Deidre has brought years of experience to her role as Promotions Officer, working on concert promotion. Amanda in addition to her regular roles, has worked on developing our

Friends of Jubilate concept and developed a draft of Roles and Responsibilities for Committee members. Stretch and Gaby in addition to their financial vigilance have overseen a review of our Music Director's contract consulting with Monique Hennessy from Connected Legal in Summer Hill and have reported that all is in order with our employment compliance. Gaby has also developed the Humanitix website for our concert.

The Financial Year has ended well with the choir in a sound position looking forward to the Blackheath Choir Festival in August and our 30th anniversary concert in October.

Finally, a big thank you to all our choir members for your commitment and enthusiasm and for everything that you do to make our choir a joyous and welcoming place for us all.

Christine Urbanski
President Jubilate Singers Inc
10 November 2025

Music Director Report

One of the choir's favourite performance opportunities each year is the Blackheath Choir Festival. We were excited to perform a sacred choral program of Mozart's "Ave Verum corpus", Schubert's Kyrie from the Mass in G, and finally contemporary Gjielo's beautiful "Ubi Caritas" on the Saturday afternoon. We carried on our artistic adventures in the Renaissance Period from 2023 by also learning and performing "O Magnum Mysterium" by Spanish Renaissance composer Tomas Louis de Victoria. This was a challenge to bring together due to the polyphonic texture characteristic of this period and style of sacred music.

By October 2024, planning around what music we would present to celebrate the choir's 30th anniversary in 2025 was in full swing. Various thoughts were suggested, mostly centering around the Baroque period. The focal piece of the concert was secured as the Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne. This cantata was chosen for its bright celebratory character, and beautiful moments of artistic collaboration between choir, soloists and orchestra.

As occurs annually, Jubilate Singers took part in Holy Trinity Dulwich Hill's Advent Service in mid December, and enjoyed singing repertoire by our friend Ruth McCall. "Personent Hodie" proved a great celebratory song, coupled with the pensive "O Magnum Mysterium", this time by contemporary American composer Morten Lauridsen. The perfect coupling to bring in Christmas - exciting, and also peacefully satisfied!

From February, we started learning notes for the repertoire in our 30th anniversary concert mainly focusing on the polyphonic sections of the cantata. Polyphony became one of the choral skills we worked hard on throughout 2025, and very effectively achieved by the time we performed the 30th anniversary concert.

We were again invited to sing at the Symphonia Jubilata mid year concert in June 2025. The title of the concert was "Felix, Fingal's Cave and Fun" focusing on Felix Mendelssohn's most iconic orchestral works, "Fingal's Cave". With the setting being Scotland, we were asked to sing two choral works that tied into this theme. An arrangement of the Scottish folk song Aiken Drum was decided upon, and the work began. This piece proved to stretch the choir's skills in the areas of memory, articulation, harmonic skills, and ensemble singing. It was a rewarding challenge! Our performance was praised for its beauty (we were accompanied by the brass ensemble of Symphonia Jubilata with an arrangement of the piano accompaniment by Tracy Burjan) and musically complex playfulness. This piece was coupled with the calm "Seal Lullaby" by Eric Whitacre. Following straight on from our performance of this work, members of the choir were fortunate to attend a choral workshop with Eric Whitacre organised by the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. These choristers came back inspired to continue with more works by Whitacre. Maybe this has sown a seed!

Georgina Andrews
Music Director
10 November 2025

Statement of Activity
Jubilate Singers Inc. (INC 1900858)
 July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
30001 Uncategorised Income	96.71
30051 Membership Fees	98.00
30054 Rehearsal Fees	16,231.00
30077 PayPal Income	7.88
30083 Sheet Music Sales	1,656.00
Total for Income	A\$18,089.59
Cost of Sales	
Gross Profit	A\$18,089.59
Other Income	
Expenses	
30005 Accounting and bookkeeping	332.00
30007 Bank charges and fees	7.02
30013 Insurance	281.51
30016 Printing, stationery & supplies	53.40
30025 Contractor Expenses (non salary)	200.00
30060 Legal Fees	330.00
30061 Membership and Subscription Fees	100.00
30065 Professional Fees	12,700.00
30068 Sheet music purchase	2,616.47
30078 PayPal Fees	169.09
Total for Expenses	A\$16,789.49
Other Expenses	
Net earnings	A\$1,300.10

Statement of Financial Position

Jubilate Singers Inc. (INC 1900858)

As of June 30, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	
30076 Money in Transit	2,507.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	A\$2,507.00
10775733 CBA Society Cheque Account	11,614.99
30003 Uncategorized Asset	95.00
30026 Undeposited funds	0.00
30044 Cash On Hand	0.00
30080 PayPal Australia	284.98
Total for Current Assets	A\$14,501.97
Long-term assets	
Total for Assets	A\$14,501.97
Liabilities and Shareholder's Equity	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Total for Current Liabilities	
Non-current Liabilities	
Shareholder's Equity	
30024 Opening balance equity	6,007.37
30004 Retained Earnings	7,194.50
Net Income	1,300.10
Total for Shareholder's Equity	A\$14,501.97
Total for Liabilities and Shareholder's Equity	A\$14,501.97