



***ALL ABOARD
WITH BEETHOVEN***

23 November 2024
Discovery Space, PHIVE
Parramatta

PROGRAM

WELCOME TO RIVER CITY VOICES

Warami, welcome to River City Voices' first ever Kids Proms!

I am thrilled that River City Voices is continuing its mission to deliver to our community, in this instance to the younger members of our Western Sydney community. Engaging with choirs, orchestras and the performing arts from a young age broadens the horizons of children and their families, opens up opportunities to be involved and learn about music more generally and is a crucial aspect of education and development. It is also heaps of fun!

Until now, Western Sydney residents had to traipse across the Sydney metro area, and usually to the city, in order to offer these opportunities to their children. I know from experience that wrangling small people on a long journey is no easy task for parents and that is why I am super proud of our LOCAL program for 2024, All Aboard with Beethoven. A cultural journey in the heart of Parramatta’s thriving city is much easier for parents, grandparents and carers in Western Sydney, and we hope you experience the wonder, joy, and simple fun of our journey to the Coral Sea while soaking up great music and artistry, along the way.

Perhaps today’s attendees will be choristers with River City Voices or members of the wonderful Western Sydney Youth Orchestra in the future. If today’s performances open that opportunity to even one Western Sydney resident, we will be overjoyed. Thank you to WSYO, the wonderful Elias Wilson (aka Beethoven), Lights On Theatre, the RCV Chorister ensemble who brainstormed, choreographed, developed a story line and built props, including lead scriptwriter Lou Merrington. Behind every RCV production is the artistic vision of Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith and the determination of our general manager, Inara Molinari.

Special thanks to Walker Parramatta Square– their financial support has enabled River City Voices to perform here in PHIVE.



Catherine Dolle
Chair, Board of Directors

BOARD

Chair

Catherine Dolle

Director | Founder

Inara Molinari

Directors

Anthony Cannell

Schon G Condon, RFD

Timothy Dashwood

Emma Ringland

MANAGEMENT

Artistic Director

Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith

General Manager

Inara Molinari

Marketing Director

Vacant

Choir Coordinator

Olivia Sanders Robinson

ARTISTIC STAFF

Principal Conductor

Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith

Assistant Conductor

Oliver Cameron

Principal Pianist

Kevin Wang

Rehearsal Conductor/Pianist

Dr Philip Eames

ARTISTIC ADVISORY

COMMITTEE

Bina Bhattacharya

Cath Dadd

Robert Love AM

Amy Moon

Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith

Brett Weymark OAM

2024 CHORISTERS

SOPRANO

Jennifer Baker
Kirstie Barfoot
Catriona Champion
Josephine Chan
Theresa Cheung
Maria Costello
Tamara Craig
Susan Forss-Clarke*
Lyn Higgs
Wendy Hopley
Deborah Howitt
Iona Mathias
Christine Pendleton
Casey Poon
Tracy Samuel
Naomi von Senff
Nicole Senior
Karla Stewart-Sykes
Lynn Taye
Ingrid Turner
Daniella Verde
Eleni Waugh
Sarah Wielgosz

ALTO

Grace Bondoc
Clare Brown
Catherine Dolle
Sarah El-Khansa
Sally Glass
Danica Gluvakov
Belinda Huang
Rufina Ismail
Jane Jamieson
Laima Karklins
Linda Kemp
Lou Merrington
Liz Mulcare
Nancy Nicholls
Rina Pinto
Huong Tran
Isabelle Truong
Hiroko Uchihara
Helen Yiu
Fiona Yue

TENOR

Clive Arasaratnam-Smith
Tanja Frzop
Richard Heagren-Gibbs
Ian Jenson*
Brian Julien
Nathan Knight
Gabriel Newman
Isaac Powell
Yana Taylor
Spencer Thew

BASS

Jose Augusto
Steve Barnett
Don Church
Philip Gerber
Cameron Glass
Sam Huynh
Ivars Karklins
Geoff Kerr
Mark Nguyen
Collin Rozario
Lorence Tan
Michael West
Dominic Wong

*Chorister Representatives

SS SONATA CAST

BEETHOVEN

ELIAS WILSON

EELVIRA

LOUISE MERRINGTON

WISE OLD EEL

TRISTAN FOON (Voice)

OLIVIA SANDERS ROBINSON Shadow Puppeteer,
Lights on Theatre

CAPTAINS

SARAH PENICKA-SMITH - River City Voices

Dr SADAHARU MURAMATSU - Western Sydney Youth
Orchestra

FIRST MATE

INARA MOLINARI

CRUISE GUESTS

The Soprano

Naomi von Senff

The Alto

Liz Mulcare

The Tenor

Nathan Knight

The Bass

Don Church

Chatty Passengers

Deborah Howitt

Nicole Senior

Christine Pendleton

Michael West

Helen Yiu

Laima Karklins

Sam Huynh

Sally Glass

Eleni Waugh

Richard Heagren-Gibbs



Jennifer Baker | Catriona Champion | Josephine Chan | Teresa Cheung | Maria Costello | Tamara Craig
Susan Forss-Clarke | Lyn Higgs | Wendy Hopley | Iona Mathias | Casey Poon | Tracy Samuel | Lynn Taye
Ingrid Turner | Sarah Wielgosz

Grace Bondoc | Catherine Dolle | Sarah El-Khansa | Danica Gluvakov | Rufina Ismail | Jane Jamieson | Huong Tran

Clive Arasaratnam-Smith | Tanja Frzop | Ian Jenson | Brian Julien | Isaac Powell | Yana Taylor | Spencer Thew

Jose Augusto | Philip Gerber | Cameron Glass | Ivars Karklins | Collin Rozario | Lorence Tan | Dominic Wong

SS SONATA CREW

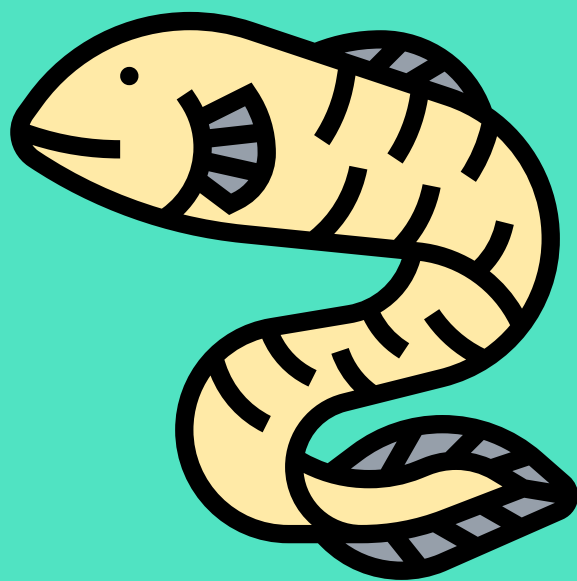
'ENGINE'

RCV Principal Pianist	<u>KEVIN WANG</u>
RCV Assistant Conductor	<u>OLIVER JOHN CAMERON</u> [^]
RCV Rehearsal Conductors	PHILIP EAMES OLIVER JOHN CAMERON ASHLEIGH LANE
Show Concept	SARAH PENICKA-SMITH
Lead Script Writer	LOUISE MERRINGTON
Script Development	Sarah Penicka-Smith Tristan Foon, Linda Kemp Inara Molinari Liz Mulcare Mel Penicka-Smith Olivia Sanders Robinson Yana Taylor Ingrid Turner Elias Wilson
Production Manager	INARA MOLINARI
Stage Manager	MEL PENICKA-SMITH
Movement Coordinator	YANA TAYLOR
Choir Coordinator	OLIVIA SANDERS ROBINSON
Cultural Consultant	<u>ELIZABETH SHEPPARD</u>
Props Making Team	Grace Bondoc Theresa Cheung Maria Costello Lyn Higgs Tristan Foon Sam Huynh Ian Jenson Louise Merrington Inara Molinari Liz Mulcare Olivia Sanders Robinson Karla Stewart-Sykes Huong Tran Ingrid Turner Dominic Wong Helen Yiu Wise Old Eel made by Olivia Sanders Robinson, Lights on Theatre

WESTERN SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

James Pensini | Head of Orchestral Training and Artistic Programming
Dr Sadaharu Muramatsu | Conductor
Iris Cho | Concertmaster

Violin	Ahin Cho Demeil Anokin David Xin Chen (Niki) He Angelina Filipovski Faye Lim Jesslyn Devika Lo Mira Nguyen Olivia Sekers Yuxi Wang Sophia Wong Leila Woods Alyssa Zhang
Viola	Scarlett Cho Emily Colbran Antonia Touma
Cello	Rowan Bleasel Linda Chi Gordon Guo Wenxin Wang Helena Zhang
Double Bass	Aiden Curran* Estelle Lee
Flute	Ryan Cai Thomas Koit
Oboe	Aanya Mathur Xinluyi Zhang
Clarinet	Freddie Chan Emma Shan
Bassoon	Eowyn Ransley Rose Hart
French Horn	Nahal Sherkachi Chloe Yu Kesitaike Nila#
Trumpet	Uri Choi Alexander Koit Liam Mccrae
Percussion	Jun Cho<



CONDUCTOR'S NOTE ON THE MUSIC

'Guten Tag! Willkommen! Hello! Welcome!'

Why did I say 'hello' in German? It's the language of our main character, the composer Ludwig van Beethoven, who was born in Vienna 254 years ago!

In fact, this concert, with **River City Voices** and **Western Sydney Youth Orchestra**, was originally supposed to happen four years ago, as a big birthday party for Beethoven. But that was in 2020, so poor Beethoven had to spend his 250th birthday in lockdown like the rest of us.

All Aboard With Beethoven is a concert to share how wonderful we think classical music is with all the young people in our community. Many of us first heard classical music at a concert like this, sometimes with a choir (a group of singers), or more likely with an orchestra (a group of people playing musical instruments). This concert is special because we have both!

The talented choir members of River City Voices have created a new story just for you, imagining what would happen if Beethoven worked as a tour guide on the Parramatta River. This is a **world premiere** - which means you are the first people to see this show!

Now, to be honest, Beethoven never came to Australia. He probably didn't know very much about it, and he'd probably never heard of the Burramattagal people, the traditional custodians of the land where we're telling this story. So that part of our story is all our imagination.

But some parts are based on fact. Here are five facts that helped us build our show:

1. Beethoven's song 'Meeres Stille und Glückliche Fahrt' uses a famous piece of poetry by Johann von Goethe which tells the story of a ship stuck at sea. Before boats had engines, they relied on sails and wind to move - which meant that a few days (or worse, weeks) of no wind could mean serious trouble for the sailors. They risked running out of water or food, or having illness spread through the boat. So while the music may sound beautiful, like the still water, you can also hear sad moments and moments of fear. When the wind starts up, it's a huge relief!
2. The name 'Parramatta' comes from the Burramattagal people, and means 'the place where eels lie down'. Eels migrate - they are born in the Coral Sea, travel all the way to Parramatta where they grow into adults, and then travel all the way home again. That's a 2,000 kilometre journey, one way! You can hear the story of the eels in Elizabeth Sheppard's piece 'Burradowi'. Unlike Beethoven, Elizabeth is NOT 250 years old - if you're lucky, she might come to the same concert as you today!
3. A famous piece by Beethoven (his Symphony No. 9) has won the ABC Classic Countdown 4 times!! 'The Ship Song', by Australian songwriter Nick Cave, has also been voted one of the top 30 Australian songs of all time. Could Nick Cave be Australia's Beethoven...?
4. 'Unter Donner und Blitz' is a famous polka (dance) by Austrian composer Johann Strauss Jr. The name means 'Thunder and Lightning', which you can hear in the percussion section with the bass drum (thunder) and cymbal (lightening).
5. Beethoven really did have serious tummy troubles throughout his life that frequently caused him to hiccup, burp, and you guessed it - fart!

And on that note... enjoy the show!

Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith
Artistic Director & Principal Conductor
River City Voices



The music you heard today was...

ALLEGRETTO (Sonata in C Major)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Arranged by W. Swingle

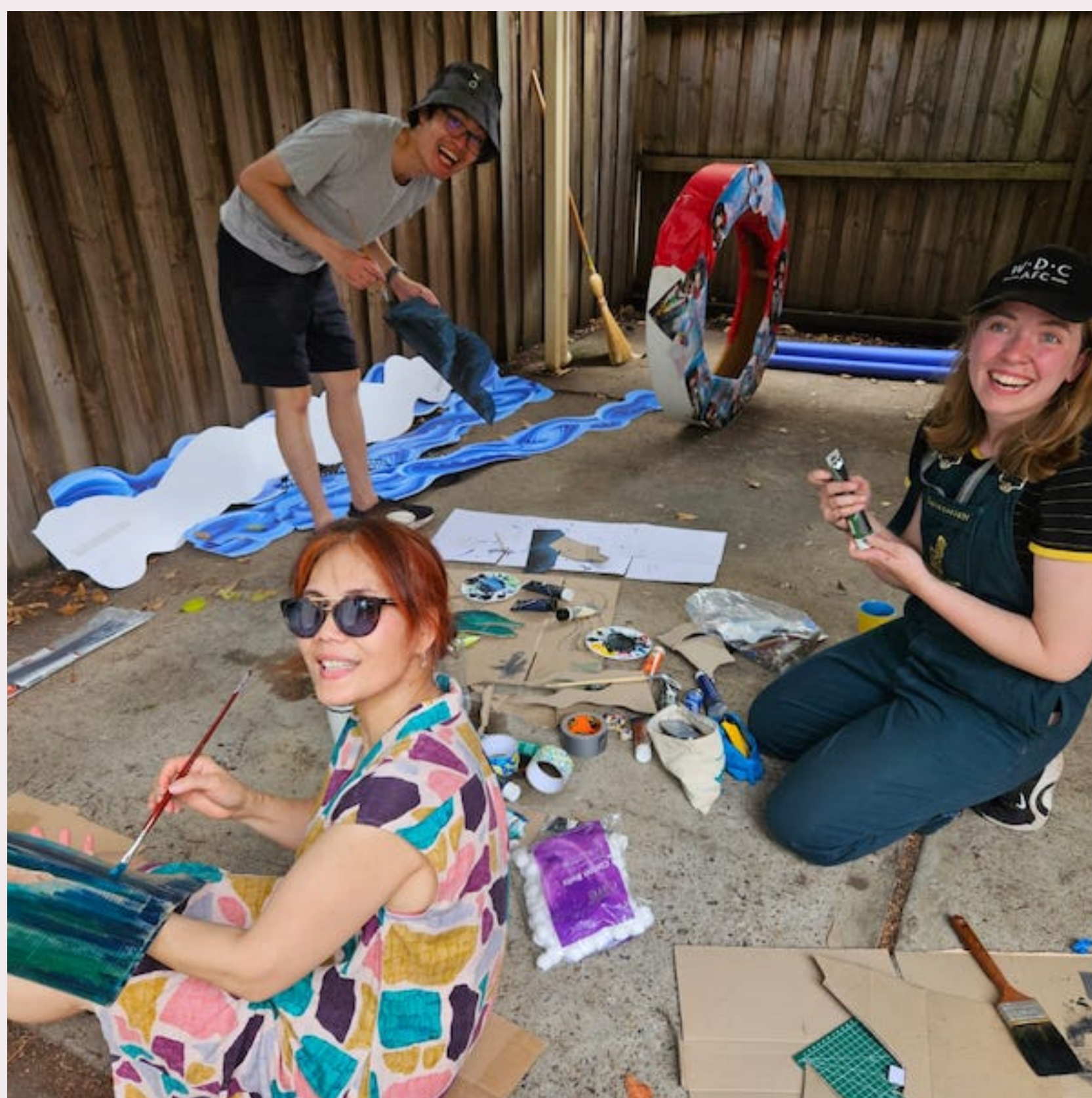
MEERES STILLE UND GLÜCKLICHE FAHRT
Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage
Ludwig van Beethoven

UNTER DONNER UND BLITZ, Op. 324
Thunder & Lightning Polka
Johann Strauss Jnr

BURRADOWI
(The Women's Song to the Eels)
Elizabeth Sheppard
Violin: Iris Cho; Clarinet: Freddie Chan; Piano: Kevin Wang

THE SHIP SONG
Nick Cave
Arranged by Sarah Penicka-Smith
and Andrew Howes





All Aboard with Beethoven Props Making Day photos, clockwise from top left:

Ian and Dom make seaweed; Maria and Grace tackle beans ; Ready to launch the boat with Seth , Inara, Helen, Lou, Karla, Lyn, Ingrid & Teresa ; Sam, Olivia & Huong make more underwater treats ; Lou, Tristan & Helen creating the row boat costume!

ANNOUNCING OUR FIRST PERFORMANCE FOR 2025!

Friday, 23 May
8pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta



Early bird tickets on sale now!
40 Tix for \$40 (Adult & Conc)
Offer ends Christmas Day or 'til they're gone.
Via [Humanitix](#)



RIVER CITY VOICES

River City Voices is Parramatta’s flagship, auditioned symphony choir. It was formed in 2018 to meet the community’s desire for large-scale and innovative cultural events that expand horizons closer to home.

Led by its exceptional Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith, the company’s vision is to become a permanent and relevant organisation, renowned for its vocal excellence, surprising collaborative artistic programs, and events that reflect and engage its diverse community, their talents, and stories.

In its brief history, River City Voices has engaged over 2,000 artists, arts workers and community members through its public performances, development programs and workshops. Performances have included curated programs, festivals, corporate and government gigs, and collaborative community events.

In its inaugural year, River City Voices sang in the Parramatta premiere performance of Carmina Burana; at the Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival alongside TaikOZ; as a featured choir for ABC Radio’s Sing Out Sydney at the City Recital Hall; and with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs for its performances of Handel's Messiah at the Sydney Opera House, and then in its own sold-out performance at St Patrick’s Cathedral, again with members of the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs accompanied by the Sydney Philharmonia Orchestra.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, River City Voices collaborated with the neurodiverse musicians of ACE’s Club Weld to record 'What the World Needs', bespoke choral arrangements of songs by the Club Weld musicians, which featured on theABC's Art Works.

In 2022, River City Voices premiered two works by Indigenous composers Elizabeth Sheppard and Troy Russell, performed with Willoughby Symphony (Riverside Theatres) and for its program at The Concourse. River City Voices was also featured on the Sydney Opera House steps for its opening 50th birthday celebrations event, and presented ‘Slam Messiah’, combining Handel’s Messiah with newly conceived slam poetry (Riverside Theatres). After appearances at the Blackheath Choir Festival, members of the choir featured as the "Crocs choir" in a quirky advertisement for Catch.com.au’s national campaign released in September '22 which is still running.

2023 projects included: Julian Day’s public participation work ‘Super Critical Mass’ at Parramatta Gaol, a workshop/performance event supported by a City of Parramatta Council Community Grant and Powerhouse Parramatta; Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna and Nocturnes described by one audience member as "A truly transcendent night"; its first ever fundraising gala event at PHIVE with the vivacious Monica Trapaga as MC and entertainer; featured choir in Sydney Philharmonia Choir's premiere performance at the Sydney Opera House of Elena Kats-Chernin's and Tamara-Anna Cislowska's "Human Waves", also broadcast on ABC Classic; appearing as the only choir entertaining thousands of people touring the Opera House for its closing 50th birthday celebratory "Open House Weekend". The year ended with a truly unique and authentic Australian Christmas Concert with a program featuring composers from the the Ngarra-burria First Peoples Composers program.

In 2024, River City Voices performed Mozart's Requiem with Western Sydney Philharmonic to a sold-out crowd, and then teamed up with students from Macarthur Girls High School to perform classical favourites and more with a contemporary twist as it explored cancel culture in "Cancel Choir" - ""Bold, thought-provoking but still light-hearted."

River City Voices continues to demonstrate its ability to break barriers, embrace diversity, and build a sustainable future for choral excellence in Parramatta.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA & WESTERN SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA - Sadaharu Muramatsu, James Pensini Andrew Howes, Mia Patoulios CEO, Daniel Placido, Sacha Walters and all the brilliant WSYO student musicians!

THE PHIVE TEAM - Mirjana Babamovski, Kate Evans, Paolo Forlini, Albert Gittany, Ryan Phillips

WALKER PARRAMATTA SQUARE- Emily Chuah, Mark Museth (former Manager)

PAUL CLARKE, from Alphabet Studio for the cover and publicity images

ROBERT GRIFFIN - Hal Leonard

KIERAN VELLA , Recording Engineer, for donating his services to record TRISTAN FOON so brilliantly!

ROSS AHERN - Recording Engineer & MARTIN FOX - Videographer for performance day recording

GRANT LESLIE, long-time official paparazzo for River City events and performances

KARLA STEWART-SYKES - Front-of-House vollie & SALLY GLASS for extra publicity footwork

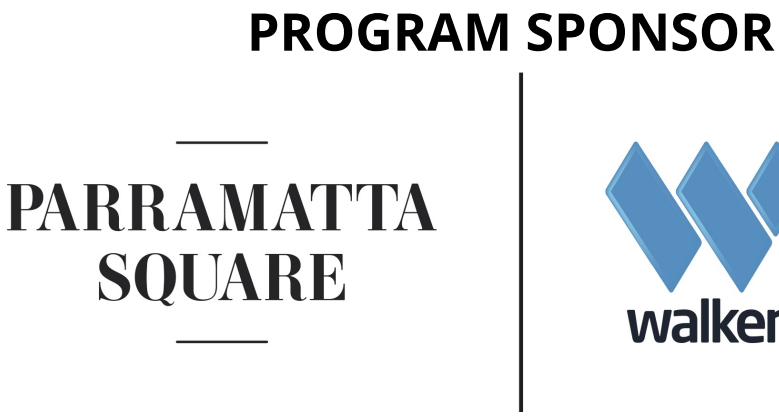
LISA FINN-POWELL - PR Assistant and soon-to-be new Marketing Manager !

SARAH MACDONALD - ABC Local Radio & SIMONE WHETTON, What's On, ABC Local Radio

MILI LEE and team from St Patrick's Cathedral - RCV's rehearsal home

Dr LIZ de RELAND and team from Leigh Memorial Church, and JANIS CECINS from Latvian House for assisting with additional audition/rehearsal spaces.

Our RCV BOARD MEMBERS, led by Chair and chorister CATHERINE DOLLE, who so generously donate their time and expertise, AND our wonderful RIVER CITY VOICES CHORISTERS (and significant others) - we can't do any of this without you!





Liz, Tamara & Huong dress the puppet theatre!

River City Voices is a registered charity with DGR status.
Your support ensures that RCV continues to deliver outstanding programs in western Sydney.
Please click [**HERE**](#) to make your tax deductible donation.

[**WWW.RIVERCITYVOICES.ORG.AU**](http://WWW.RIVERCITYVOICES.ORG.AU)

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