

River City **Voices**

Annual Report



2019



RIVER CITY VOICES LTD

T 0409 776 577

E manager@rivercityvoices.org.au

W www.rivercityvoices.org.au

Facebook River City Voices

Twitter @RiverVoicesAU

Instagram @rivercityvoices

ABN 79 627 858 315

BOARD

Chair Leonie Cambage

Director | Founder Inara Molinari

Director William Soper

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Robert Love AM, Director, Riverside Theatres

Brett Weymark, Artistic & Musical Director

Sydney Philharmonia Choirs

Cath Dadd, Executive Producer, The Joan

A/Prof Diana Blom, Music

Western Sydney University

Dr Paul Smith, Senior Lecturer Music

University of New England, Parramatta

MANAGEMENT

Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith

General Manager

Inara Molinari

Accountant

William Soper, CPA

Administrative Volunteer

Marie Hotschilt

ARTISTIC STAFF

Assistant Conductor

Development Program*

Alexandria Stavelly Siegers

Dr Philip Eames

Repetiteur

Su Choung

CHORISTERS

SOPRANO

Jennifer Baker

Klara Bruveris

Maria Costello

Deborah Howitt

Kate Mannix

Maria Oei

Nicole Senior

Tilly South

Lynn Taye

Naomi von Senff

ALTO

Catherine Carr

Catherine Dolle-Samuel

Danica Gluvakov

Laima Karklins

Catherine Lyons

Nancy Nicholls

Marcia Ruff

Karla Stewart-Sykes

Sarah White

Helen Yiu

TENOR

Richard Heagren-Gibbs

Amisone Lele

Joshua Lenehan

Gabriel Newman

Peter Nguyen

BASS

Philip Gerber

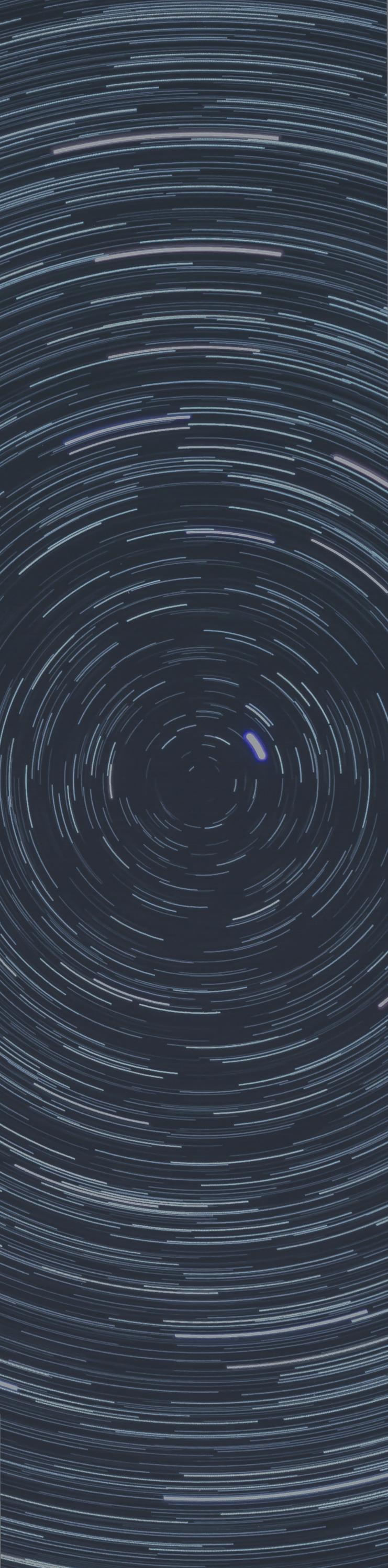
Geoff Kerr

Kris Morgan

TiMi Thomas

Michael West

Guest Chorister: Frank Maio



Contents

04 ABOUT RCV

06 CHAIR'S REPORT

07 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

08 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

09 2019 SNAPSHOT

10 ARTISTIC PROGRAM

16 EXTRA GIGS

19 ACCESS PROGRAMS

20 DEVELOPMENT

22 DIRECTORS' REPORT

24 FINANCIAL REPORT

ABOUT River City Voices

RIVER CITY VOICES

WESTERN SYDNEY.CHORAL.EXCELLENCE

choir rehearsing **NOW**

**Come inside,
Have a listen !**



Join us on the Journey |

0409 776 577

rivercityvoices.org.au

#voices

creative
partnerships
australia



Granville Town Hall

"I expected it to just be a fun diversion once a week, but the professionalism of the staff and the quality of the choir that's been assembled has surpassed my expectations."

2019 Chorister, 6 month survey.

Western Sydney.Choral.Excellence

River City Voices' 2019 inaugural operational year commenced with a community "Sight Singing 101 Workshop" held at the Berala Community Centre. Led by RCV Artistic Director Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith, our very first event as an unknown, untested organisation attracted 24 participants! This January pilot program was developed in line with RCV's objective to strengthen community engagement in choral music, through providing expert tuition in sight reading skills so that participants gained increased confidence to read musical notation and/or audition for RCV or other community choirs.

Formal choir rehearsals commenced on the 7th February with **22** enthusiastic new choristers hailing from all over greater Western Sydney selected from a field of 54 auditionees. After further auditions and addition of "graduates" from RCV's pilot Associate Chorister program, numbers grew to **30** by year's end.

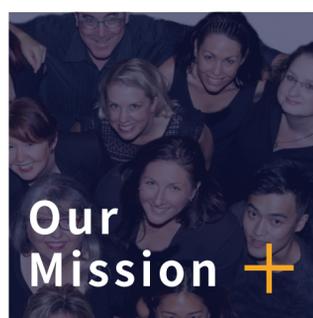
When we advertised for new singers this is how we pitched it:

River City Voices choristers are passionate and committed vocalists who love to be challenged and who strive for excellence. They enjoy the thrill of uniting and blending with many voices. They don't necessarily have classical training, ability to sight read music or have perfect pitch, but they do have a good ear, can harmonise, hold their part and navigate their way around a choral score. Our singers are willing and able to meet the demands of whatever choral works are thrown their way, sometimes in a hurry! Above all, River City Voices choristers are enthusiastic, fun-loving and generous performers, keen to share the power, immediacy and intimacy of choral singing with western Sydney audiences, wherever and however!

What was so intriguing, relieving and thrilling was that from that very first rehearsal, it was evident that this group of strangers had the makings of not only a great choir but a unique new community; one comprised of like-minded, yet wonderfully diverse and culturally rich people -Millenials to Boomers- all of whom share a passion for enriching others' lives through singing.



To become a permanent, vibrant and relevant player in the artistic and cultural landscape of western Sydney.



To meet community demand for cultural organisations and performance events that expand horizons closer to home.



- Diversity - we champion equal opportunities for our artists and audience
- Excellence - we create learning environments in which people can excel
- Community - we build our own and contribute to others'
- Synergy - we flourish through collaboration
- Integrity - we act ethically, transparently and consistently



Leonie Cambage, RCV Launch, Riverside Theatres, 7 December 2018
Photo: Grant Leslie

"River City Voice's inaugural year of operations has been made possible through generous funding from the NSW Government..."

– funding which recognises the readiness of western Sydney to welcome a new, symphonic choir for its singers, artists and communities.

In this vital foundational year, much has been achieved, with the choir's performances at venues in the heart of western Sydney enthusiastically received by audiences and reviewers alike.

Sarah Penicka-Smith as Artistic Director has clearly articulated a vision which entertains and challenges audiences, actively invites collaboration with established artists, and encourages emerging artists through the Assistant Conductor development program. Her inspirational leadership has led to the swift establishment of our symphonic choir of 30 singers, and successful collaborations with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, composer Dr Paul Smith, percussion ensemble Taikoz, and the young singers of Our Lady of Mercy College's Senior Chorale.

I warmly acknowledge the invaluable guidance of the board of directors during this critical first year. This, combined with the dedication of founder and General Manager Inara Molinari, the Artistic Director, Advisory Committee, staff and volunteers, has achieved a secure base for the organisation's sustainable growth in future years.

The NSW Government's support is augmented by generous contributions by Visionary Foundation Partner Condon Advisory Group, Ars Musica Australia, Sydney Mutual Bank, the City of Parramatta, a number of corporate sponsors, and many individual donors through Creative Partnerships Australia and Plus 1.

I look forward to engaging with you all as River City Voices continues to grow in size, repertoire and reach, energetically embracing its mission of bringing choral excellence to western Sydney.

LEONIE CAMBAGE
Chair, Founding Director

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S Report

*"The beginning of a new choir -
focused on classical repertoire,
striving for excellence in performance,
open to community collaboration
- is always a thrill".*

When it happens in western Sydney, where the assumption has long stood that classical music lacks appeal, the challenge and the excitement are magnified. There was no guarantee that River City Voices would thrive, despite a choir such as this for Western Sydney being long overdue. This makes the monumental successes of its first year tremendously significant.

That trifecta of classical repertoire, performance excellence, and community collaboration, united in all the choir's performances in its first year. In May, the Come & Sing Carmina Burana, in collaboration with Our Lady Of Mercy College, Parramatta, gave both local school children and members of the wider community a chance to sing core repertoire, hosted and supported by the new choir.

In August, the grounds of the Auburn Botanic Gardens were packed with visitors vying for a piece of grass from which to experience River City Voices performing new arrangements of anime and game music accompanied by Taikoz.

In December, River City Voices members debuted at the Sydney Opera House as part of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs' biennial Messiah. The collaboration continued in Parramatta at St Patrick's Cathedral, before a capacity crowd.

And these were just the major performances to feature River City Voices. The choir also made its debut at ABC Radio Sydney's annual 'Sing Out Sydney' at the City Recital Hall, including radio broadcast, and undertook a number of community and corporate performances with professionalism and to warm receptions.

In addition, the artistic team started the year with a sight-singing workshop, and ran a number of auditions which saw the choir approach the size of a symphony chorus within its first year of operation. Our approach to accepting choristers has the twin focus of development and excellence; auditions attract experienced singers looking for a local home, but we have also chosen to include a number of people who are either good musicians seeking to develop choral singing as a skill, or people with good voices and aural skills seeking singing training. This has led to a choir that is significantly diverse.

We have worked with two Assistant Conductors, generously supported by Ars Musica Australis: Phillip Eames and Alexandria Stavely Siegers. Both worked closely with the choir throughout the year, and led performances and rehearsals, as well as receiving lessons in conducting technique.

We have an extraordinarily dedicated team at River City Voices, most especially in our General Manager, Inara Molinari, who both conceived the choir and works generously behind the scenes to make sure it continues. Our accompanist, Su Chuong, contributes to the choir's musical development with consistent dedication.



Photo: Grant Leslie

For a fledgling organisation such as ours, it's worth mentioning the high standard of established musicians with whom we've also been privileged to work, including soloists and instrumentalists, some of whom have graced some of the most hallowed international stages. Likewise, it was a significant vote of confidence in our singers for Sydney Philharmonia Choirs to invite us to work with them so early in our development, and I'm especially grateful for the support they have offered River City Voices as well as the amazing opportunities granted to our choristers. Our future holds plans to establish a regular Come and Sing event, commissions from Indigenous composers, a project with the Western Sydney Youth Orchestra, and participation in local singing festivals. Our program will remain diverse and collaborative, reflective of the demographic among which we operate, and the community of which we're a part. I look forward to an exciting future for River City Voices, its new members and collaborators, and its visionary founding members, board and staff.

SARAH PENICKA-SMITH
Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

GENERAL MANAGER'S Report

"River City Voices was a mere "thought bubble" in March 2018, one that emerged in response to a perceived gap in the cultural infrastructure of greater Parramatta."

In taking River City Voices from "bubble" to reality, a firm decision was made from the outset that this organisation had to be community supported buoyed by a clear foundational plan for building a self-sustaining entity or it wouldn't happen.

The absence of a large, auditioned, professionally run classical choir in Parramatta was evident, but did that matter? At the same time this question was being explored, a major opportunity arose when Create NSW offered three targeted western Sydney grants.

Through the application process for all three, I engaged with a number of local industry experts and a common sentiment expressed was that such a choir for Parramatta was an "exciting and welcome" initiative "long overdue". It was wonderfully encouraging to receive this kind of feedback from well respected arts practitioners.

I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Robert Love and the team at Riverside Theatres, Brett Weymark and Hannah Mason, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Cath Dadd, The Joan, Dr Paul Smith, University of New England, A/Prof Diana Blom, Western Sydney University and Michael Brown, Manager Culture and Activation, Cumberland Council whose enthusiasm in those early meetings and discussions, propelled the choir's successful grant application and ultimate establishment.

I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the early contribution and support of Bill Soper and Leonie Cambage, who together provided important financial and governance advice, and who spearheaded the company's incorporation agreeing to join me as the choir's initial directors on the board. Both have continued to be generous supporters and advisors throughout 2018-19.

Not only is it motivating to receive support from within the arts industry, it's also affirming to receive positive responses and engagement from the local business community. I'd like to extend my thanks to two key people in this regard: Gary Carter and Schon Condon from the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce.

Gary's enthusiasm has paved the way for a number of introductions within Parramatta for the choir. Schon has been an early champion, and demonstrated his belief in what we are trying to build as part of Parramatta's infrastructure and identity, by stepping up as the choir's Visionary Foundation Sponsor. It's never an easy thing asking for money, and fundraising can be a very long-term and intensive process. So when someone asks to meet you out of the blue, and then offers a substantial unexpected sponsorship on the spot, it's an incredible day! And this is true for all of our supporters who rallied and responded to our Plus1 fundraising campaign. We can't thank you enough.

"The unique aspect of this company is its mission to bridge the gap between community and professional level choral activity."

This is reflected in the governance structure of the choir, and its ambitious goals for presenting large-scale performance opportunities for amateur singers delivered by professional musicians equitably remunerated. This is not a hobby project - it is the beginning of what I hope will be a permanent professional organisation that outlives its original founders.

To this end, bringing together a committed artistic team that supports and actively works towards that vision was crucial.

I first collaborated with Sarah Penicka-Smith back in 2013 when she thankfully stepped in to conduct Ondine Productions' semi-staged, unique adaptation of Philip Glass's *Akhnaten* one week prior to the performance - no mean feat! She quickly galvanised musicians and singers and it was clear that here was a person of immense talent and passion, who was a skilled communicator and who exhibited a genuine joy sharing her knowledge.

It was a no-brainer therefore that she was the first choice for this new venture and the choir and choristers are already reaping the benefits of her acceptance as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor and the cachet that she brings to the role. That she's also a western Sydney resident is a wonderful bonus!

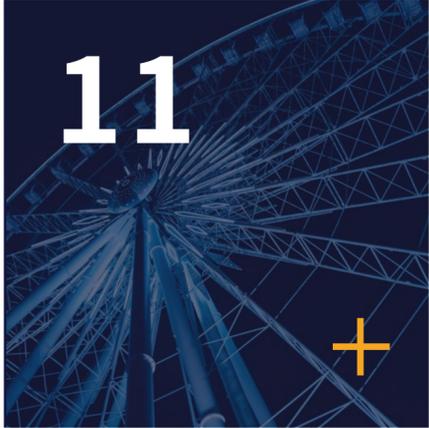
Our inaugural repetiteur, Su Choung, was "discovered" through an audition process and her talent, engaging personality, eagerness to learn and professionalism makes her a very valuable member of the team. So too our first Assistant Conductors, Alex Siegers and Dr Philip Eames, who often went above and beyond to positively contribute to the choir's successful first year. I thank Father Arthur Bridge of Ars Musica Australis for his generosity in helping support the Assistant Conductor Development Program.

And of course there would be no choir without our wonderful choristers! Thank you for taking a leap of faith and joining us. Thank you all for your spirit of generosity, flexibility, commitment, and unbridled enthusiasm, and for exemplifying and embodying the company ethos we are trying to build.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family who have unflinchingly supported my artistic career, particularly this exciting venture. ❤️

INARA MOLINARI
Founder, Director and General Manager

2019 SNAPSHOT



PERFORMANCES



ARTIST, AUDIENCE AND
PARTNER ENGAGEMENT



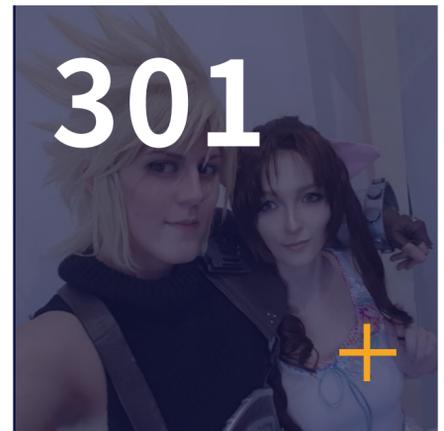
WORKSHOPS &
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS



PLUS1 FUNDS RAISED



HIGHEST FACEBOOK
REACH



E-News SUBSCRIBERS

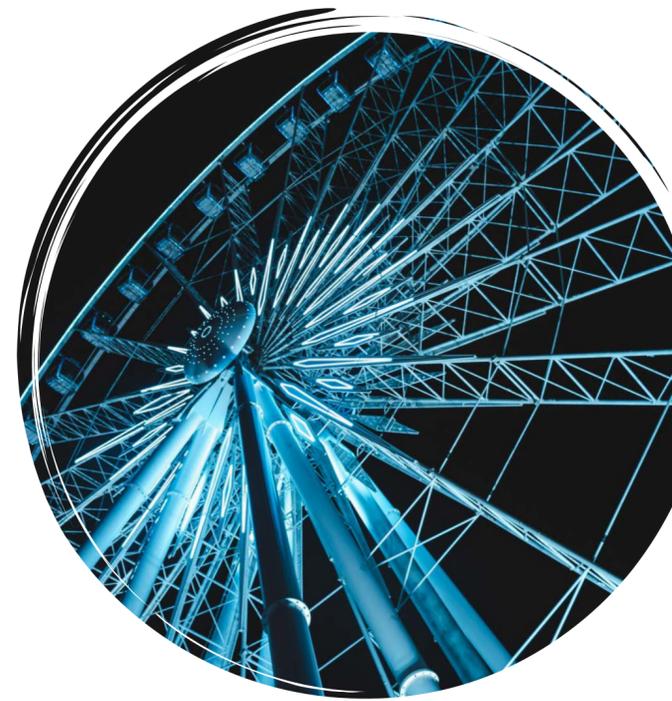
2019 ARTISTIC PROGRAM



Carmina Burana "Come & Sing"

4 - 5 May

Edith Angel Hall, Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta



"I didn't really know what to expect. To be involved in something different, this goal was absolutely met. Things I had vague ideas about - gaining improved singing ability, being challenged, gaining further performance experience, being around very talented musical people, were also met."

Community "Come & Sing" Participant

What does a brand new choir sing for its first ever event? Carl Orff's enduring and number 1 globally popular choral classic, **Carmina Burana** of course!

The choice of this work lent itself to satisfying a number of company goals:

- presenting accessible music for audience and participants
- rehearsing an impactful work within the reach of newly recruited RCV singers to ensure a high standard of artistic quality
- engaging with local community groups and individuals in a collaborative and participatory event
- delivering a large-scale choral work for western Sydney audiences

The "**Come & Sing**" philosophy is to provide an opportunity for singers who can't attend regular weekly rehearsals, the chance to learn music in their own time and then rehearse with RCV over an intensive, challenging and fun weekend.

The event attracted 44 new registered workshop participants and engaged 42 professional and student singers and musicians, making a combined force of over 100 performers.

RCV was very pleased to attract 208 new audience members. Tickets were offered free to children under 12 to encourage families and younger students. The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP, Member for Parramatta and Ms Julia Finn MP, Member for Granville were also in attendance.

Through this event, RCV also forged new relationships with concert promotion and ticketing entity **classikON** and local media outlet **Auburn Review**.

Collaborators

Music Academy, Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta
Senior Chorale, OLMC
The Arts Unit, NSW Department of Education

Key Artists

Conductor Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith
Soloists Ayse Goknur Shanal
Simon Lobelson
Warren Fisher
Pianists Su Choung
Anthony Chen

44

New Registered
Community
Singers

1

Premiere
Performance for
Parramatta

208

New audience
members

Photos Left and below: Carmina Burana, Edith Angel Hall, Parramatta.
Credit: Grant Leslie





Cumberland Gets Anime-ted!

18 August
Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival, Auburn Botanic Gardens

"Kingdom Hearts was AWESOME!"

Surveyed festival audience member

This festival project was conceived in March 2018 and realised through the support of the NSW Government through **Create NSW** and staff from **Cumberland Council**, and is in effect, the catalyst that drove River City Voices' existence!

This project satisfied a number of company goals:

- Presenting an accessible and new musical experience for audiences. The program of specially arranged Japanese songs for choir from Kingdom Hearts, Final Fantasy, Princess Mononoke and Astro Boy was targeted to Cumberland LGA's youth population, the highest in the State. In the second performance, a budding youngster from the crowd leapt at Sarah's offer to conduct Astro Boy to rapturous applause from the crowd!
- Collaborating with a western Sydney local government organisation that enabled RCV to align with an event that provided affordable access to audiences
- Developing choristers' vocal skills and expanding repertoire through popular but challenging music not usually part of the standard choral repertoire
- Providing choristers the opportunity to perform in an outdoor festival setting with a "mobile" audience that requires flexibility and stamina.
- Engaging the audience directly by programming the Astro Boy sing-along!
- Successful grant acquittal

Collaborators

Dr Paul Smith, Composer and Senior Lecturer in Music, UNE
Cumberland City Council
World Cosplay Summit Australia

Artists

Conductor Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith
Assistant Conductors
Alexandria Stavelly-Siegers
Dr Philip Eames
Accompanist: Su Choung

Guest Artists

Musicians TaikOZ
Cosplayers Jenna, Roxanne and Alix

Funding Body

Create NSW Western Sydney Making Spaces



Photo Credit this page and right: Grant Leslie







Handel's Messiah

17 December
St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

"The highlight of the evening was the famous Hallelujah chorus... spine-tingling! A sterling first season for River City Voices"

Jennifer Foong, classikON review

In a fitting and splendid end to our inaugural year, River City Voices joined forces with Australian soloists, choristers from the **Sydney Philharmonia Choirs** and the Sydney Philharmonia Orchestra to bring Handel's enduring and magnificent **Messiah** to a sold-out western Sydney audience.

The performance highlighted that RCV has solid foundations upon which to further develop as a key cultural player in western Sydney and the perfect springboard to the 2020 season.

We were very pleased to again have the Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP, Member for Parramatta and Ms Julia Finn MP, Member for Granville and Visionary Foundation Sponsor Schon Condon and guests from Condon Advisory Group in attendance.

Prior to the Parramatta performance, River City Voices was invited to perform alongside Sydney Philharmonia Choirs for its performances of Handel's Messiah in the Concert Hall at the Sydney Opera House. These were the final choral performances before planned closure and refurbishment of the Concert Hall in 2020. RCV choristers were provided with first-hand exposure to the demands of performing in an international venue to thousands of concert goers alongside a choir that has been running for almost 100 years at a professional level, and joining in combined rehearsals under the highly skilled and entertaining baton of SPC Artistic and Music Director Brett Weymark.

It is noteworthy that both the Sydney Morning Herald and Limelight Magazine reviews of these Opera House performances referenced River City Voices' participation as a new western Sydney choral organisation.



Collaborators

Sydney Philharmonia Choirs
St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

Artists

Conductor Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith
Assistant Conductors
Alexandria Stavely Siegers
Dr Philip Eames

Guest Artists

Soloists Susannah Lawergren
Alexandra Mathew
Damien Noyce
Warwick Fyfe

Sydney Philharmonia Orchestra

3

Performances with
Sydney Philharmonia
Choirs, Concert Hall,
Sydney Opera House

300

Audience
members
St Patrick's Cathedral
Parramatta

Photo Credit: Left, below left and middle: Sarah Adams Photography



Right: Performing with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs Sydney Opera House



2019 EXTRA GIGS



Cumberland Local Festival

"Our Stories Granville"
25 May
Granville Town Hall, Granville

As an artistic "resident" of the Granville Town Hall, River City Voices was invited to participate in a pop-up evening family festival celebrating local stories of Granville. The choir performed Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time" as an homage to the Granville Town Hall's appearance in the popular Australian movie "Strictly Ballroom".

Collaborators
Cumberland Council

Artists
Conductor Joanna Brooke
Pianist Su Chong



*Our Stories
Granville*

A one night only live and local block party. **Little Projector Company** (Parra Lanes, Vivid) light up Granville Town Hall and park with pop-up outdoor cinema, live animation, and projection art. The short films and visuals shown will be crowd sourced from the Granville community – if you have a local story to share, visit Council's website to get involved.

Featuring:

- Food Trucks
- Screening of Cumberland-made documentary *Before 1770*
- River City Voices choir
- Arab Theatre Studio live theatre
- Dandana Arabic music ensemble



Choristers Karla Stewart-Sykes and Nancy Nicholls

Western Sydney Awards for Business Excellence

13 September
Rosehill Gardens Racecourse

River City Voices was honoured to be invited by the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce to perform before the Premier of New South Wales, Gladys Berejiklian, and a capacity crowd from the western Sydney business community. This was a great opportunity to raise broader awareness about the choir, its ambitions, showcase homegrown talent and potentially recruit some!

Collaborators
Parramatta Chamber of Commerce

Artists
Conductor Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith
Pianist Su Chong

NSW Local Government Conference

14 October
Casula Powerhouse

In another great opportunity, River City Voices was invited to provide some opening entertainment for the Welcome Event for the 2019 NSW Local Government Conference hosted by Liverpool City Council.

Not only did it provide a chance for one of our Assistant Conductors to take the podium but we were also able to strengthen our connection to Casula Powerhouse and instigate plans for a performance in this very unique and popular venue in 2020.

Collaborators
Casula Powerhouse

Artists
Conductor Alexandria Stavelly Siegers
Pianist Su Chong



Su Chong and Alex Siegers pre-performance.

ABC Sing Out Sydney

10 November
City Recital Hall, Sydney

"They're already brilliant!"

Wendy Harmer, Co-Host, ABC Sing Out Sydney
commenting after RCV's performance



Ecstatic choristers get ready to debut at the City Recital Hall

River City Voices successfully applied for a spot as a featured choir in this year's ABC Sing Out Sydney. Performing Australian composer Lisa Young's *Other Plans*, this *a cappella* number was a perfect vehicle for showcasing how far the new choir had come in only 9 months of rehearsing and performing together under Sarah Penicka-Smith's leadership.

The event also saw 21 choirs including RCV, coming together for a massed choir performance of Christine Anu's *Kulba Yaday*.

Hosted by popular ABC radio presenters Wendy Harmer and Robbie Buck, the event was live recorded with various choirs' performances including RCV's, being broadcast after the event on ABC Local Radio.

A video of RCV's performance was also made available and this is proving an invaluable archival and promotional resource.



Artists
Conductor Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith
Soloist Catherine Carr



2019 ACCESS PROGRAMS



Music Sight Reading 101 Workshop

19 January
Berala Community Centre

This "pilot" 3 hour workshop was the first public activity presented by River City Voices. It was developed to coincide with the January auditions being conducted as a means of providing training and confidence for potential auditionees as well as the opportunity for community musicians to meet and work with the RCV team. The workshop attracted 19 registrants and was also attended by choristers accepted following the October '18 auditions. A post workshop survey identified that developing a two- tiered course focusing on (1) absolute beginners and (2) those with some sight reading ability, would attract more learners and provide greater access. We will use this information to develop courses in to the future.

Associate Chorister Program

March-April

During the October '18 and January '19 auditions a number of singers were identified as being able to meet the eligibility criteria if supported by some additional vocal and/or musicianship training. Six singers were chosen to participate in a six week program of hourly tuition combined with main choir rehearsals. Singers were then encouraged to participate in the "Come & Sing" and were invited to join as permanent members for the remainder of the year following successful "graduation". All six provided positive feedback on the program and joined the choir!

From top left clockwise: Nicole Senior, Helen Yiu, Geoff Kerr, Deborah Howitt, Maria Costello, Danica Gluvakov



Assistant Conductor Development Program

From the outset of River City Voices' establishment , it was considered a major objective that activities be delivered that create development opportunities for professional and community singers, musicians, composers and conductors. It is the company's goal to provide an annual program for an aspiring choral conductor, particularly one from and/or working in western Sydney. Auditions and interviews were held in September '18 and not one, but two conductors were chosen! Philip and Alex shared projects throughout the year and received one-on-one tuition from RCV's Artistic Director, with opportunities to conduct rehearsals and performances.

Program support was received from Ars Musica Australis



Dr Philip Eames in rehearsal
Granville Town Hall

DEVELOPMENT

River City Voices' could not have been established nor have completed its inaugural year so successfully without the financial support of the following organisations and individuals.

Grants Secured 2018–19



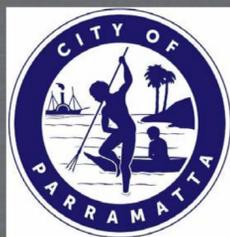
Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative

This \$50K grant secured by RCV founder Inara Molinari in 2018, provided funding for RCV's festival project with Cumberland Council "Cumberland Gets Anime-ted!" To deliver the project, the choir was established and incorporated, choristers recruited, staff and project artists engaged and remunerated, and rehearsal venue secured for the year.



Plus1

Obtained in 2018, Plus1 is a matched fundraising grant administered through Creative Partnerships Australia. Through Australian Cultural Fund, a crowdfunding campaign ran from March-May 2019 with a target of \$10K to secure tenure of the Artistic Director and project costs for 2020. This goal was achieved with matched funding received from CPA totaling \$13K.



City of Parramatta Quarterly Grant

River City Voices received \$2K to assist with costs associated with hiring and moving two grand pianos for its inaugural performance and the Parramatta premiere of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana in May 2019.



Organisational Grant

The \$40K package (\$28K from CreateNSW and \$12K contribution from RCV) was received to enable the company to engage a part-time Development Manager to establish a development plan, secure DGR status, strengthen and expand the company's donor and sponsorship base and spearhead 2020 fundraising initiatives. Funds are also to be directed to the General Manager role which throughout 2018-19 has been on a volunteer basis.

Visionary Foundation Sponsor 2019-20



CONDON ADVISORY GROUP



Program Sponsors 2019-20



Support for the Assistant Conductor Development Program



Support to commission new works in 2020 by Indigenous composers

Plus 1 Donors

Tributary - \$2,000 +

Ann Hordern

Creek - \$1,000 +

Sydney Credit Union - Parramatta
Seth Molinari

Stream - \$500 +

Jason Coates
Andrew Christie

Brook - \$100 +

Diana Weston & Paul Ryan
Robert Samuel
Ros Lenehan | Isabelle Taye
Nicole Senior | Morris Johnston
Kate Mannix | Bonnie Pang
Steven Adams | Mathisha Panagoda
David Hoffmann | Wendy Robinson
William Soper | Michael O'Brien
Jean Callaghan | Leonie Cambage
Beatrice & Miguel Gomez
Judy Pettingell | Helen White
Maria Costello | Lisa Cooper
Angela Ngu | Christine Logan
Anon (1)

Spring - up to \$100

Anon (9) | Russell Ashley
Jake Ausburn | Graham Baker
Jennifer Baker | Franca Barraclough
Richard & Diana Bayley | Stephen Bowness
Patrick Boyle | Candida Carr
Catherine Carr | Anthony Chen
Don Church | Vonda Copleston
Carole Cusack | Lachlan Drummond
Owen Elsley | Breann Fallon
Natalia Gabriel | Anthony Gerber
Andrew Graham | Anne Hines
Deborah Howitt | Diana Jefferies
Anthony Joseph | Natalie Jurisic
Nerissa Karklins | Leonard Lau
Virginia Leghorn | Amisone Lele
Robert Love | Mel Mel
Harriet Mestitz | Anita Molinari
Lily Molinari | Kristofer Morgan
Andrew O'Connor | Allan & Ann Piper
Daniel Placido | Barbara Rose
Naomi von Senff | Marie Senior
Ridwan Setiawan | Koen van Stade
Jo-Anne Stavely | Hiroko Uchihara
Glenn Waworuntu | Michael West
Hendy Widjaja

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2019

The Board of Directors hereby submit the financial statements of River City Voices Ltd ("the company").

DIRECTORS

The names of the board directors at any time during or until the end of the financial year and who were all appointed as initial directors on 31 July 2018 are:

- **Leonie Cambage**, Chair

Since graduating from the NSW Conservatorium of Music, Leonie has been active in the performing arts in many roles - as a concert and opera singer (Australian Opera), director (Opera West, Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Victoria, Melbourne Opera Studio, Childsplay Productions, The Tall Poppeas, Ondine Productions, the Song Company, and the Canberra International Music Festival), board member (2015 - mid 2019), voice and drama teacher, song writer, playwright, producer, and arts worker.

Over many years, she has actively promoted works by Australian artists. This includes activities as diverse as establishing groups performing operas and concerts for children, such as Three's Company Opera and the children's band Incy Wincy, to collaborations with prominent solo artists, including the pianist Sally Whitwell and soprano Anna Fraser, and directing new works, such as Daniel Manera's chamber opera, L'Operetta II and Mind Over Matter for The Song Company.

- **William Soper**, Treasurer

Bill's 40 year career as a chartered accountant in both the UK and Australia, has taken him from the accounting profession through to various consulting companies - both medium and large sized with between 30 and 1,500 employees. His roles ranged from operational management through to Finance Director, and during his career his employers have included Price Waterhouse (now PWC), Dames & Moore, URS Australia (now Aecom) and ERM.

Although semi-retired, Bill continues to work in a voluntary capacity and included within these roles he has been Finance Director of Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) Australia's peak body for seniors and technology.

A keen cyclist, Bill managed a charity bike ride for a former colleague, and in November 2018 took up his greatest challenge yet, cycling from Melbourne to Sydney as part of the "Peleton Events Ultimate Challenge", raising significant funds for three different charities.

- **Inara Molinari**, Secretary

As a grass roots entrepreneur, producer, artistic administrator and professional singer, Inara Molinari has over twenty-five years experience in the performing arts and community sectors. Her connection with the arts scene in western Sydney began twenty years ago, when she established "Opera West" in Wentworthville, a weekly course for aspiring opera and music theatre singers.

After returning from the USA in 2000, Inara founded "The Tall Poppeas", Sydney's only female baroque vocal ensemble that delivered innovative programs throughout Sydney and interstate for ten years. She also co-founded Ondine Productions which staged the Australian premiere performance of "La liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina" (1625), which was short-listed for an ArtsHub award in 2012.

Inara has been a strong community advocate and volunteer in her local 'hoods of Granville and Parramatta, forging relationships with local government, and community and arts organisations. She was a member of Cumberland Council's Arts Advisory Committee, 2018-2019 and is the founder of River City Voices.

Director Name	No eligible to attend	No attended
Leonie Cambage	3	3
William Soper	3	3
Inara Molinari	3	3

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

From incorporation to the end of the 2019 financial year, there were three directors' meetings.

There were also two Advisory Committee meetings.

DIRECTORS' BENEFITS

No director of the company has, since the end of the previous financial year, received or become entitled to receive by reason of a contract made by the company with the director or with a firm of which they are a member, or with a company in which they have substantial financial interest, apart from those disclosed in the notes.

OPERATING RESULTS

River City Voices Ltd reports an operating surplus of \$ 57,754 for the nominated financial year ending 30 June 2019. The company's turnover of \$ 100,268 for the year reflected the significant grant received from CreateNSW in 2018 and funds raised through the Creative Partnerships Australia Plus1 matched fundraising grant.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the company during the financial year was to enrich Australian culture by funding the public performance of choral works.

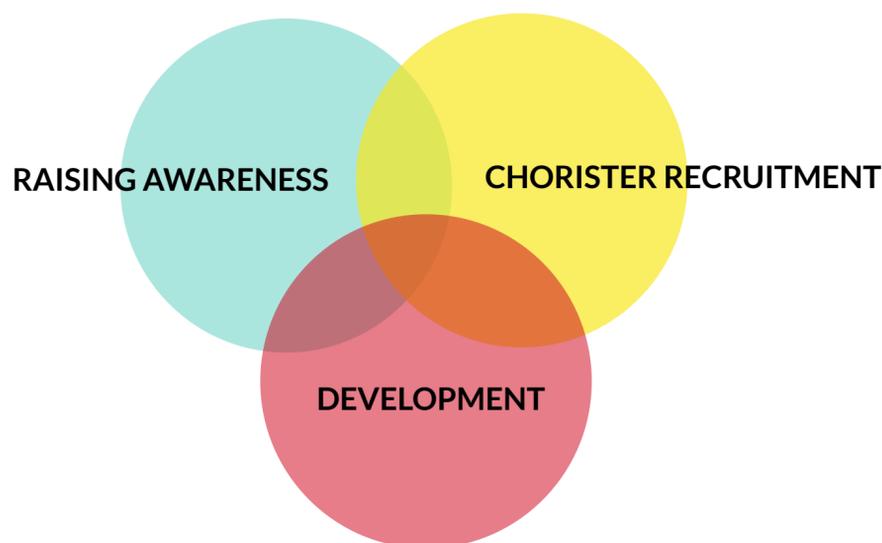
STRATEGIC GOALS

As a new company the strategic goals have focused on three key outcomes:

1. Raising awareness of the company's existence.

To achieve this, an initial media article was published in the Parramatta Advertiser that has continued to generate interest as well as subsequent articles in the Auburn Review, Hills Living, Limelight Magazine and classikON. A website was created and social media platforms established. Personal calls and emails were delivered to community choirs, arts venues and organisations, local politicians and councils throughout western Sydney. The choir joined the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce to network with local business leaders.

The company's profile was also raised through public performances and activities.



2. Chorister Recruitment

Auditions were held in October 2018, January, May and November 2019. The goal is for the choir to number 50-60 voices balanced across all 4 voice types. Following the November auditions, the choir will commence in 2020 with 40 (increase from 29) signed-up choristers with a current waiting list for soprani and alti.

3. Development

As a new organisation with no current reserves and one that strives for sustainability in the longer term, successful whole-of-organisation fundraising activities are fundamental to the company's ongoing viability. Through this year's Plus1 campaign, funds were raised to secure the Artistic Director's tenure for 2020 and other operational costs. In December an Annual Organisational grant was obtained from Create NSW to engage a part-time Development Manager. Sponsorship funds from Condon Advisory Group for 2019/20 will be applied to this new position in line with grant conditions. Recruitment for this role will commence in January 2020.



EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

Since the end of the financial year, the Directors are not aware of any matter or circumstances not otherwise dealt with in the report or financial statements that has significantly, or may significantly, affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the company in subsequent financial years.

LIABILITY

No options over issued shares or interests in the company or a controlled entity were granted during or since the end of the financial year and there were no options outstanding at the date of this report.

No indemnities have been given during or since the end of the financial year for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

There are no significant changes in the state of affairs of the company during the financial year.

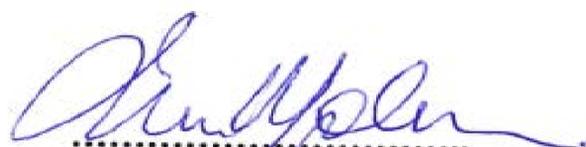
LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS/ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

In the opinion of the directors, there are no likely changes in the operations of the company which will adversely affect the results of the company in subsequent financial years. The board will be seeking DGR status for the company in 2020. It will also seek to change the financial year end reporting period to 31 December.

MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At the end of 2019 the number of members was 3.

This Directors' Report is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.


.....
Ms I Molinari
Director


.....
Mr W Soper
Director

Dated this 23 day of NOVEMBER 2019

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis.

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on its general purpose financial reports. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. The company was registered with the ACNC on 31 July 2018.



Statement of Profit and Loss

For the financial year ended 30 June 2019

REVENUE	NOTE	2019 \$
Grants		72,327
Philanthropic and fundraising		7,990
Ticket and registration sales		12,610
Chorister Contributions		4,850
Performance Fees		940
Merchandise		1,112
Bank interest		229
Sundry		210
TOTAL REVENUE		100,268
EXPENDITURE	NOTE	2019 \$
Artistic Contractors Fees		19,270
Production Costs		18,174
Marketing		3,128
Administration		1,942
Income Tax	1	0
TOTAL EXPENSES		42,514
NET PROFIT		57,754

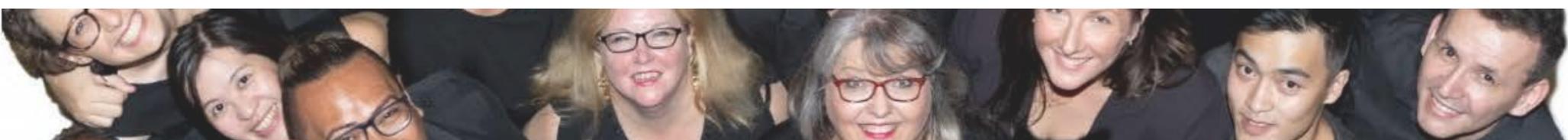
NOTE 1:

No provision for income tax has been raised, as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Statement of Financial Position

For the financial year ended 30 June 2019

CURRENT ASSETS	NOTE	2019 \$
Cash on Hand		58,114
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		58,114
TOTAL ASSETS		58,114
CURRENT LIABILITIES	NOTE	2019 \$
Accounts payable		360
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		360
TOTAL LIABILITIES		360
NET ASSETS		57,754
TOTAL EQUITY		57,754





River City Voices

RIVER CITY VOICES LTD

ABN: 79 627 858 315

11 The Avenue Granville NSW 2142

manager@rivercityvoices.org.au

www.rivercityvoices.org.au