



Male Choirs Association of Australia

MCAA FESTIVAL – 13th to 15th October 2017

BULLETIN No. 1

For circulation to all participating choristers

1. From the President – Neil Kinsey

Dear Choristers and Musical Directors,

Welcome to this first Bulletin for the 2017 MCAA Festival of Song to be held in Wollongong, and we hope you are feeling excited and enthusiastic about the festival weekend. The committee has already held a meeting in Wollongong and inspected the venue for the concert and we have been assured that the venue will meet our expectations for our event. Even though it is a sports stadium, much like the venue in Canberra in 2014, it can be very effectively reduced in size using curtaining to make it appropriate to the size of the audience. We were also fortunate, through the connections of our Treasurer, Dave Bryars to meet with Professor Michael Hough, who is a Rotary Club President, and is very influential in Wollongong. He has committed the support of Illawarra Rotary Clubs to our project which should ensure its success on many fronts. Dave Bryars will be meeting with our Wollongong partners shortly to see what can be organised around the festival, which could help showcase MCAA choirs.

Wollongong is a very attractive and vibrant city situated 1½ hours south of Sydney, and is the third-largest urban area in New South Wales. We hope your choir members will take advantage of the many tourist attractions in the area, and those who travel independently will consider exploring the area more fully.

Many thanks for your responses to the recent survey. The results will greatly help us organise the festival. With 16 months to go to the festival, we are over the initial planning stages and are now full steam ahead to confirm venue arrangements and other logistical issues. We are working hard to get the repertoire licensing confirmed so that you can start rehearsing.

Please let me know if you have concerns or issues you would like addressed, and please do your best to encourage as many of your choristers is possible to commit to attending the festival.

Warm regards

Neil Kinsey
MCAA President

2. Guest Conductor

Richard Gill OAM Conductor



Founding Music Director and Conductor Emeritus, Victorian Opera
Artistic Advisor for the Musica Viva Education program
Music Director of Sydney Chamber Choir

Richard Gill, OAM, Founding Music Director and Conductor Emeritus of Victorian Opera, is one of Australia's pre-eminent and most admired conductors specialising in opera, musical theatre and vocal and choral training and is internationally respected as a music educator. Richard's work in developing young musicians and creating opportunities for them is recognised world-wide. Richard has been Artistic Director of the Education Program for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Artistic Director of OzOpera, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and is currently Artistic Advisor for the Musica Viva Education program and Music Director of Sydney Chamber Choir.

3. MCAA 2017 repertoire with Composers/Arrangers

1. Good Night my Angel (Lullabye) – Billy Joel - Arranged by Kirby Shaw or Arr. Philip Lawson
2. My Country – Jackie Trent, Tony Hatch Arr. David Lawrence
3. Finlandia (2008) Arr. Alwyn Humphreys
4. You Raise Me Up (2008) Arr. Alwyn Humphreys
5. Sixteen Tons - Merle Travis Arr. Ben Oxley
6. Speed Your Journey – Verdi (Nabucco)
7. Shelter – Eric Bogle Arr. Leon Paix
8. Where Shall I Be? (2014 Book) Arr. Bryan Davies
9. Bring Him Home – Schonberg arr. John Leavitt
10. Rhythm of Life – Coleman Arr. Richard Barnes
11. Ev'ry time I Feel the Spirit (2014 book) Arr. Derek Jones
12. Deus Salutis (2014 Book) Arr G.H. Jones
13. Brothers Sing On – Edvard Grieg Arr. Howard D. McKinney

In regard to the repertoire, Rachel Campbell, MD with Australian Rugby Choir (ARC), will advise the MCAA Executive of the most cost effective and efficient way in which to ensure all choirs are singing from "the same hymn sheet". If you haven't responded to the Secretary on the repertoire survey, please do so as soon as possible.

4. Festival Location

Wollongong Sports and Entertainment Centre

<http://wsec.com.au/page/wec-overview>



The WIN Sports and Entertainment Centres comprises the WIN Entertainment Centre (WEC) and WIN Stadium.

The WIN Entertainment Centre (WEC) includes the main auditorium, the Premiers Room and 3 expansive venue foyers. A Foreshore Plaza is adjacent to the eastern end of the Centre and is overlooked by The Illawarra Brewery.

Seating a maximum of 6,000 pax in tiered theatre style seating, the main auditorium has the flexibility to be reduced to various configurations and is ideal for hosting concerts, dinners of 300 pax plus, or for hosting conference on one side of a dividing curtain and catered events or exhibitions on the other.

A modular concert and presentation stage, quality PA system, TV quality lighting, first-class kitchen and catering facilities and, a dream location, complete the picture for this unique conference and entertainment facility.

A bus drop-off bay suitable for 5 buses at any one time, an easy walk from hotels, rail transport, the City Centre and shops, and its proximity to Lang Park and City Beach (both of which are only 20 paces away!) make it a facility which is accessible and a joy to attend.

WIN Entertainment Centre is well equipped with accessible seating areas, lifts and ramps (where necessary) has a hearing loop facility and disabled parking can be easily arranged.

5. Accommodation

<http://visitwollongong.com.au/accommodation>

Member choirs will need to make their own accommodation bookings but we hope to provide you with some additional help in this regard in the near future.

6. Indicative Program of Events

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday 13th October 2017	Travel/Arrival	Get to Know Wollongong Take up some tour/s suggested by Destination Wollongong, or just enjoy the sea front and city.	5pm – 7.30pm WELCOME Richard Gill <i>MCAA Executive and MCAA Music Directors welcome our esteemed Guest Conductor and discuss the Rehearsals and Concert.</i>
Saturday 14th October 2017	Concert Rehearsal (9.30am to 12.00pm) Rehearsal of Concert with Guest conductor, accompanist and band. <i>WIN Entertainment Centre (Auditorium)</i>	Workshops (2.00pm – 4pm) Still to be arranged. Workshops with Richard Gill and MDs. Potentially for MCAA MDs, Choristers and other interested local singers. WEC Function Rooms	Festival Official Dinner/Buffer (6.30pm – 10.00pm) Choir members and other stakeholders and supporters join together potentially with local guest artists performing. <i>WIN Entertainment Centre (Auditorium)</i>
Sunday 15th October 2017	Concert Dress Rehearsal (9.30am to 12.00 noon) Dress Rehearsal of Concert with Guest conductor, guest artists, accompanists, band and technical. <i>WIN Entertainment Centre (Auditorium)</i>	CONCERT (2.30pm to 5.00pm) Concert with Guest conductor, guest artists, accompanists, band. <i>WIN Entertainment Centre (Auditorium)</i>	Travel or Stay Choir members free to travel home or stay to participate in post-Festival camaraderie, or local touring.
Monday 16 October 2017	Travel home		

7. General

We will be issuing regular bulletins to update you on our progress but in the meantime we wish you all well and happy singing.

Warm regards

The 2017 Festival Committee