



with

**Christ Church Camerata**

presents

# **Messiah**

By George Friedrich Handel

**Conductor: Dr Christopher Allan**

**Soprano: Amy Moore**

**Alto: Hannah Fraser**

**Tenor: Louis Hurley**

**Bass: Andrew O'Connor**

Newcastle City Hall

2.30pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## MESSIAH

### PART ONE

1	Sinfonia (Overture)	Orchestra
2	Comfort ye	Tenor
3	Ev'ry valley shall be exalted	Tenor
4	And the glory of the Lord	Chorus
5	Thus saith the Lord	Bass
6	But who may abide the day of his coming	Alto
7	And He shall purify	Chorus
8	Behold, a virgin shall conceive	Alto
9	O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion	Alto and Chorus
10	For behold, darkness shall cover the earth	Bass
11	The people that walked in darkness	Bass
12	For unto us a child is born	Chorus
13	Pifa ("Pastoral Symphony")	Orchestra
14a	There were shepherds abiding in the field	Soprano
14b	And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them	Soprano
15	And the angel said unto them	Soprano
16	And suddenly there was with the angel	Soprano
17	Glory to God	Chorus
18	Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion	Soprano
19	Then shall the eyes of the blind	Alto
20	He shall feed His flock	Alto and Soprano
21	His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light	Chorus

### INTERVAL

### PART TWO

22	Behold the Lamb of God	Chorus
23	He was despised	Alto

24	Surely He hath borne our griefs	Chorus
25	And with his stripes we are healed	Chorus
26	All we like sheep have gone astray	Chorus
27	All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn	Tenor
28	He trusted in God	Chorus
29	Thy rebuke hath broken His heart	Tenor
30	Behold, and see if there be any sorrow	Tenor
31	He was cut off out of the land of the living	Tenor
32	But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell	Soprano
33	Lift up your heads, O ye gates	Chorus
34	Unto which of the angels said He at any time	Tenor
35	Let all the angels of God worship him	Chorus
38	How beautiful are the feet	Soprano
39	Their sound is gone out	Chorus
40	Why do the nations so furiously rage together	Bass
41	Let us break their bonds asunder	Chorus
42	He that dwelleth in Heav'n	Tenor
43	Thou shalt break them	Tenor
44	Hallelujah	Chorus

### **TUNING BREAK**

#### **PART THREE**

45	I know that my Redeemer liveth	Soprano
46	Since by man came death	Chorus
47	Behold, I tell you a mystery	Bass
48	The trumpet shall sound	Bass
52	If God be for us	Soprano
53	Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, Amen.	Chorus

## Dr Christopher Allan



Dr Christopher Allan retired as senior lecturer in Voice at the University of Newcastle, NSW in 2017 where he worked with singers and lectured in academic music courses for 22 years. He is well known as a baritone soloist with many choral institutions such as Sydney Philharmonia Choir, Newcastle University Choir, Willoughby Choir and Coro Innominata. Chris appeared as guest artist with The Song Company for many years in concert and radio broadcasts and appeared with Opera Australia as understudy and chorus member. He also toured extensively for Musica Viva with the Song Company and the early music ensemble Sounds Baroque.

Chris continues to perform and in recent years (pre-pandemic) presented recitals for the Newcastle Music Festival and in 2021 sang with Pinchgut Opera in their acclaimed production of *Platée*. In the 2022 Newcastle Music Festival he performed the Baritone solos in the Faure *Requiem* and in David Banney's new *Mass for Peace*. 2021 saw him return to the stage in a different genre as the Soviet KGB agent Molokov in the Very Popular Theatre Company's production of *Chess*. 2022 also saw him appear once more with Pinchgut Opera in their production of *Medée*. In September 2023 he premiered Ross Fiddes' moving song cycle *Closing Time*, playing a man with dementia in an acted production of the cycle scored for Soprano, Baritone, Pianist and Narrator with Soprano Daniella Sicari, pianist Tonya Lemoh and Ghillian Sullivan as narrator (and director).

Chris held the post of Artistic and Musical Director of the Newcastle University Choir from 1999-2004 and was reappointed to the position of Musical Director from 2011. With the University Choir he has directed performances of major works of the choral literature including the JS Bach *Magnificat*, John Rutter's *Magnificat*, Vittoria's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* and Mozart's *Requiem*. In late 2013 the Choir's first commercial CD (*Encore*) was released. In 2016 the Choir, under Chris' direction, performed Bach's *St Matthew Passion* to an enthusiastic audience. The 40th Anniversary of the Choir (2017) saw a performance of Haydn's *Creation*. 2022 heralded the return of the Choir to the stage after two long years of no concerts where they presented a very warmly received performance of Handel's *Messiah* to a packed Newcastle City Hall.

Chris is also an accomplished pianist and accompanist and has appeared on many occasions with performers such as Sally Walker (Flute) and in recital with his daughter, soprano Miriam Allan. He continues to appear as an accompanist, most recently in the Opera Cocktails event for the 2022 Newcastle Music Festival.

## Christ Church Camerata

### First Violins

James Ferguson (Concertmaster)  
Hilary Burgess  
Lyndell Scheman  
Zac Choi

### Second Violins

Sandra Fitzgerald (Principal)  
Emily Mitchell  
Jennifer Kershaw  
Katy Convery

### Violas

Paul Groh (Principal)  
Shona d'Arbon

### Cellos

Gavin Clark (Principal)  
Anthea Scott-Mitchell

### Timpani

John Alley

### Trumpets

Fiona Watson (I)  
John Kellaway (II)

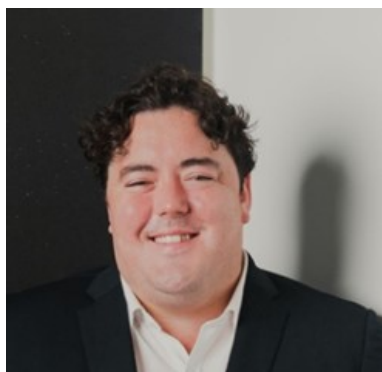
### Double Bass

Rosemary Ponnekanti (Principal)

### Continuo

Erin Sweetman

## Andrew O'Connor



As a performer and educator Perth-born Andrew O'Connor is versed in a wide variety of styles and genres – and for more than a decade has developed a busy freelance career encompassing opera, the concert platform, vocal chamber music, and the classroom. Praised for his 'remarkable musicianship' (Limelight Magazine) and 'textured, fine-wine bass baritone' (Arts Hub) he appears regularly in both a solo and ensemble context with many of Australia's finest music organisations.

Andrew is a Lay Clerk with St Mary's Cathedral Choir, Sydney, was an Associate Artist with Pacific Opera in 2019, and was the winner of the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria Competition 2020. From 2015 – 2019 he was a core member of The Song Company, and in 2021 became a founding member of AVÉ – the Australian Vocal Ensemble. In 2022 he made his international debut with The VOCES8 Foundation and in 2023 was a member of the American Bach Soloists Academy in San Francisco.

In 2024 Andrew will make important solo debuts with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Other projects include joining Pinchgut Opera for four opera and concert programs, further recording and performance activity with **AVÉ – Australian Vocal Ensemble**, returning to **The Song Company** for two projects in their 40th Anniversary Season, concerts with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Van Diemen's Band, Castalia Vocal Consort, **Bach Akademie Australia**, Salut! Baroque, and more.

## Amy Moore



Soprano Amy Moore moved to Australia from the UK in 2015 following a successful career encompassing a wide repertoire, with a particular affinity for both Early and Contemporary Music. With a voice praised for its “crystalline clarity”, Amy is an adept soloist and ensemble singer, working with virtually all the leading UK ensembles and featuring on dozens of CD recordings. With EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble Amy premiered countless new works and appeared with many leading contemporary orchestras. Solo highlights included radio broadcasts with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, The Gabrieli Consort and the RTÉ Orchestra and concert appearances with Bochumer Symphoniker, Irish Baroque Orchestra, Hanover Band, and London Contemporary Orchestra.

In Australia, Amy has performed solo concerts with Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Pinchgut Opera, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Bach Akademie Australia, The Choir of St James’ King Street, Victoria Chorale Melbourne, Trinity College Choir Melbourne, Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, and Sydney University Graduate Choir, with whom she recently premiered Christopher Bowen’s ‘Redfern Oratorio’.

A regular artist with The Song Company, Amy was recently Guest Director for their first program of 2023. Amy is the Founder and co-Artistic Director of CASTALIA Vocal Consort, and conducts Phoenix Choir in Blackheath, close to her home in the Blue Mountains.

## Louis Hurley



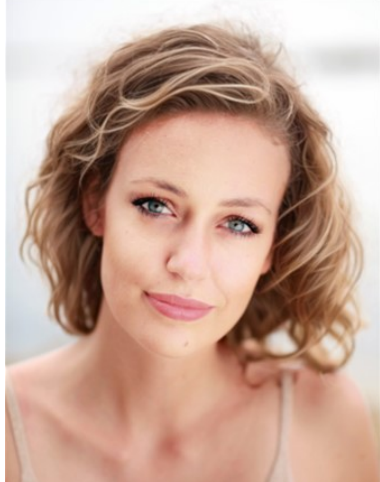
Louis Hurley, a Sydney-based tenor, has established himself as a versatile and sought-after artist in classical music. He is a passionate operatic and concert performer in repertoire spanning from the Baroque to the 21st Century. After completing a Bachelor of Music and Graduate Diploma of Music at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Louis furthered his studies, as a Hazell Scholar, with a Master of Music at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London under the tutelage of Adrian Thompson.

Whilst in London, Louis made debuts as a soloist at Wigmore Hall, and at the Barbican Hall with the London Symphony Orchestra. Since returning to Australia, Louis has made debuts with a number of Australia's leading companies and orchestras. On the concert platform he has been a soloist with Melbourne and Sydney Symphony Orchestras, Pinchgut Opera, and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. Louis has performed extensively with Pinchgut Opera, where he was the inaugural recipient of the Humanity Foundation Taryn Fiebig Scholarship, and with Melbourne Opera, West Australian Opera, and at the *(continued next page)*

Adelaide Festival, where performance of Flute/Thisby in Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream, was praised for 'stealing the show' (The Advertiser).

Also celebrated in ensemble singing, Louis has performed in some of Australia's premier vocal ensembles, including The Song Company, Cantillation, and CASTALIA Vocal Consort. The recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, Louis was the winner of the 2019 Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria Competition and the Hans & Petra Henkell Award at the 2019 National Liederfest. As the recipient of the Joseph Sambrook Opera Scholarship, and an artist with Melba Opera Trust in 2020 & 2021, Louis is also an alumnus of Melbourne Opera's Richard Divall Emerging Artist Programme, and has since been made an Associate Artist with the company.

## Hannah Fraser



Mezzo Soprano Hannah Fraser known for her 'great style and conviction', has become a well known name on stages across Australia, performing regularly with reputable ensembles and musicians both as a soloist and a consort member. From 2013-2017 she was a core member of The Song Company, which led her into a rewarding career spanning repertoire from 12th Century Europe to contemporary music of today.

Some notable recent engagements include Pinchgut Opera programs Spiritual Forest, Women of Pietà, Buxtehude's Membra Jesu Nostri and Charpentier's Pleasures of Versailles. With Bach Akademie she joined them for their Missa Brevis in F, A Child of Stars and Bach in the Castle of Heaven programs. Through Song Company she collaborated with ACO in their 'Total Immersion' program and also sang under the direction of Simone Young with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Cantillation in A Midsummer Nights Dream.

2024 will see Hannah make her solo debut with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra performing Bach's Christmas Oratorio, conducted by Stephen Layton. She will also appear with The Song Company for their 40th Anniversary Season and with Bach Akademie Australia for their seasonal programs.

### **Save the dates for the Newcastle University Choir Concerts in 2024**

**19 May:** *Enchanting Mozart and Haydn*, in Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle

**29 September:** *You, Me and the Wide-Open Sky II* (Works by Australian composers), in the Great Hall, University of Newcastle

**8 December:** *Messiah* in the Concert Hall, City Hall, Newcastle

## NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY CHOIR

### Sopranos:

Jennifer Barnes, Dorte Bladt, Diana Bridgman, Caitlin Brown, Sheelagh Callaghan, Frances Carlile, Daa Sukanya Daniels, Judith Dark, Joanna Davies, Di Doratis, Trish Edwards, Kerry Fagan, Jillian Farrell, Joy Fitness, Caroline Hill, Georgie Hoddle, Barbara Kelso, Georgi Laney, Liz Langford, Josephine Maher, Christine McIntosh, Linda New, Daphne Princehorn, Margaret Ryan, Millicent Ryan, Jean Somerville-Rabbitt, Christine Starling, Charlotte Thaarup, Bronwen Tyler, Nola Wallace, Carmel Walsh, Penny Warrall, Nicola Watts.

### Altos:

"Bee" Beeby, Louise Boutard, Catherine Brown, Jessica Brown, Judith Buchhorn, Angela Callaghan, Sandra Christie, Pamela Coleman, Wendy Cummings, Penelope Cummins, Thea den Hollander, Judy Dyer, Roslyn Evans, Wendy Gray, Marea Hallett, Annie Harben, Christine Kearns, Christine Lucas, Susan McBurney, Trudy Mills-Evers, Patricia Moore, Ruth Newman, Elizabeth O'Keeffe, Elaine Perry, Linden Perry, Barbara Royle, Jordan Ryan, Maureen Ryan, Bente Saugbjerg, Lyn Schlaeger, Rhonda Sessions, Elizabeth Seysener, Deb Sherwood, Carolyn Syme, Sarah Turner, Asiya Verachia, Sue Walkom, Sol Warburton Hughes, Barbara Ward, Polly Ward, Jenny Whalley, Wendy White, Bridget Whitehead, Katrina Wintle, Sophia Wooldridge.

### Tenors:

Howard Bridgman, Sheila Keane, Richard Kearney, Ari Ryan, Benjamin Ryan, Isaac Ryan, Joshua Ryan, Dan Wheeler, Peter Woon.

### Bass:

Thomas Berendt, Bryan Beresford-Smith, Trevor Burndred, Don Cameron, Jonathan Carlile, Joseph Divjak, David French, Winston James, Stuart King, Ron Klumpes, Jim MacDougall, John Mills, Ross Newman, Chris Page, Graham Perry, Bruce Rowland, Ronald Watts, Robert White, Geoff Whitfield, John Woods.

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## Thanks

The presentation of a major choral work such as Messiah is a significant undertaking. We are grateful for financial support from the City of Newcastle and our other sponsors who support this performance, as well as the many volunteers who have made this performance possible.



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