



JOY  
to the  
WORLD  
A Kiwi Christmas

NELSON CATHEDRAL  
29 - 30 NOVEMBER 2024

# NAU MAI HAERE MAI

Greetings from the Nelson Civic Choir. We are delighted to be bringing you *Joy to the World – A Kiwi Christmas*. We hope you enjoy the concert.

Where I come from Christmas is a midwinter festival. After seventeen years in New Zealand, I'm gradually warming to the 'Kiwi Christmas' summertime experience!

I was fortunate to have some very good music teachers and Christmas was a very special part of the musical calendar. Our Candlelit Carol Concert began with the audience sitting in darkness apart from one candle on the piano, and the Chamber Choir would start singing out in the lobby. We sang as we entered slowly, in pairs, holding candles, and then kept the audiences enthralled for the first half of the concert with unaccompanied songs interspersed with readings, until we processed out again, still singing; the applause was abundant once we'd left the hall. The second half of the concert involved the full school choir and band and was a much more raucous affair with the audience joining the traditional carols, and the tinsel crowns and reindeer hats coming out for Jingle Bells and other pieces - great fun after the atmosphere of the first half performance!



Whatever Christmas and its traditions means for you and your family, we hope we can get the festive season off to a great start with our mix of new and traditional music, Kiwi summertime and Northern Hemisphere midwinter.

We are hugely grateful to our sponsors and supporters whose financial contributions allow us to continue producing concerts for your enjoyment. Many of them are becoming part of our Choir community, supporting our committee members and joining our social events. Thank you for everything, we appreciate you so much.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Jan Brayshaw – Chair, Nelson Civic Choir Committee.

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Nelson Civic Choir's third annual *Joy To The World* Christmas choral celebration.

This year we are joined once again by organist David Burchell who is pulling out all the stops to lift the Cathedral roof and sweep us along as we all sing some of the big holiday favourites such as *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *The First Nowell*, *Unto Us Is Born A Son*, and *Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing*.



The choir will also be singing two beautifully atmospheric settings of *Silent Night* and *Son Of Maria* by the Welsh composer Sir Karl Jenkins.

More traditional Christmas music in this year's programme comes in the form of *Away In A Manger* and *In The Bleak Midwinter* sung in duet form by our guest soloists Rosie McAllister and Allison Cormack. Our soloists will also be performing *I Wonder As I Wander* arranged by John Rutter, as well as the ever popular *O Holy Night* by Adolphe Adam.

We add a Kiwi element to this year's seasonal offerings with music by five New Zealand composers. We *Look Towards Christmas* with the music of both Jillian Bray and Colin Gibson, and with *Summer's A Time To Discover* Jackie Wise reminds us of the many things that New Zealand offers us at this time of year besides the celebration of the birth of the baby Jesus.

No Christmas choral programme would be complete without the beautiful *Not On A Snowy Night* by Willow Macky, performed in a simple arrangement with a 2-part refrain on the words *Te Harinui*.

Music by David Hamilton rounds out our Kiwi Christmas programme this year with the world premiere of his *A New Carol For Christmas Day* and ending with his contemporary setting of *Joy To The World* as we celebrate the uniqueness of the Christmas holiday season in New Zealand.

Jason Balla - Music and Artistic Director Nelson Civic Choir

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# PROGRAMME Part 1

## **O Come All Ye Faithful**

J. F. Wade - Arr. David Willcocks

## **Look Toward Christmas**

Jillian Bray

## **Look Toward Christmas**

Colin Gibson

## **Summer's a Time to Discover**

Jackie Wise

Soloist Rosie McAllister

## **Noel X**

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Organist David Burchell

## **Away In A Manger**

Arr. Murray/Kirkpatrick

Soloists Rosie McAllister & Allison Cormack

## **In The Bleak Midwinter**

Gustav Holst

Soloists Rosie McAllister & Allison Cormack

## **Te Harinui**

Willow Macky

## **I Wonder As I Wander**

Appalacian Carol - Arr. John Rutter

Soloist Rosie McAllister

## **The First Nowell**

English Traditional - Arr. David Willcocks

Soloist Allison Cormack



# PROGRAMME Part 2

## **Unto Us Is Born A Son**

From Piae Cantiones (1582) - Arr. David Willcocks

## **Gloria**

Jillian Bray

## **Gloria In Excelsis**

Colin Gibson

## **Silent Night**

Franz Gruber - Arr Karl Jenkins

## **O Holy Night**

Adolphe Adam

Soloist Allison Cormack

## **Son of Maria**

Traditional - Arr. Karl Jenkins

## **Christmas Toccata on Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing**

Grimoaldo Macchia (b.1972)

Organist David Burchell

## **A New Carol for Christmas Day**

David Hamilton

## **Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing**

F. Mendelssohn - Arr. David Willcocks

## **Joy to the World**

David Hamilton

# MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## Jason Balla

Jason was born in Wales and was awarded the prestigious Organ Scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford University where he also sang in the choir of New College. Jason sang and toured as a soloist with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and at age eighteen he became the youngest member of the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

After completing post-graduate studies in voice and opera at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London Jason went on to a busy schedule internationally as a singer, pianist, organist and music director.



As a conductor and choral trainer his choral repertoire ranges from masterworks of the Renaissance through Handel oratorios and Mozart masses to 20<sup>th</sup> century English choral pieces.

As a teacher of music and voice in particular Jason has tutored and taught extensively in the UK and the USA. As a singer he appears regularly in opera, concert and oratorio throughout the UK, Europe, the Far East, and North America. He has performed most of the major concert and oratorio works, including Verdi's *Requiem*, Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and many others. He has recorded recitals of French and English music for Radio Hong Kong and has also been featured on CBC and BBC radio broadcasts, and CD recordings of Mozart's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* with the Slovak Philharmonic.

Jason was a company member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago from 1995 to 2018. His organ and piano instrumental recital tours have taken him from the West Coast of the USA to Germany, the UK and the Far East. In 2021 Jason moved to Nelson where he now resides permanently.

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# VOCAL SOLOISTS

## Rosie McAllister

Rosie is a 20-year-old soprano from Blenheim in her third year at the University of Otago. She is studying for a Bachelor of Music endorsed in Performance, under the tutelage of Dr Tessa Romano, and a Diploma of Languages in French. She was a member of the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir in 2021 and 2022, the soprano section leader for the Aotearoa New Zealand Academy Choir in 2023, and is currently a member of the New Zealand Youth Choir.

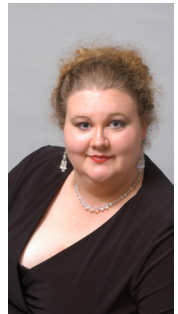


Last year, Rosie sang as a soprano soloist in Marlborough Civic Orchestra's *Summertime* and Blenheim Choral's *Carols By Candlelight* alongside Robert Tucker. In July, she performed in Auckland at the World Choir Games, and sang the national anthems for both the All Blacks and England during their second rugby test match at Eden Park as part of the New Zealand Youth Choir. She is fortunate to have been chosen to attend the New Zealand Opera School in Whanganui, and, in June, she will be embarking on an international tour with the New Zealand Youth Choir.

## Allison Cormack

Allison studied Classical Voice at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, (Brisbane) E.I.T (Taradale) and most recently Victoria University of Wellington.

In 2005 Allison won the Sealord (Nelson) and Wellington Aria competitions and was Runner-up in both the Rotorua Aria and the Lexus Song Quest. She has appeared as a soloist with the Wellington Youth Orchestra, Waikato Youth Orchestra, Kapiti Symphony, Hutt Valley Orchestra, Victoria University Orchestra and Nelson Symphony Orchestra.



Recent performances with the Nelson Civic Choir in 2024 include the role of soprano soloist in the *Opera Festival* Gala Concert in May and soprano soloist in *Choral Magnificence* in August.





# NELSON CIVIC CHOIR

**SOPRANO:** Agathe Porlier, Alouise Pope, Anne Doyle, Charlotte Reith, Debbie de Geus, Elena Camisani West, Emma Hamley, Frances Coleman, Gay Bryant, Gretchen van Haght, Helen McDonnell, Inga Lane, Irene de Jong, Jane Broughton, Janet Galloway, Jill Seenev, Julie Lawn, Linda Wareing, Lucy Rainey, Maggie Costello, Maggie Suwono, Nancy Davis, Patti Martin, Rachel Donald, Rosemarie Amos, Sarah Holmes, Steph Hoffman, Ulla Schneider, Yvonne McLean.

**ALTO:** Alice Faulkner, Antje Kleinmans, Angela Armstrong, Belinda Smale, Eve Ward, Gillian Kendrick, Helen Bywater, Jan Brayshaw, Karen Gibson, Kathryn van Veen, Lesley Darcy, Liivi James, Liz Coulter, Lois Mills, Martina Schneider-Lesser, Miriam Martin, Neroli Amyes, Nicole Hauman, Noeline Saunders, Pam Henson, Rita Joy, Shona Idle, Sian Holden, Sunmi Kang, Suzie Peacock.

**TENOR:** Alistair Webber, Andrea King, Ann Briggs, Bronwen Pelvin, Christine Burn, David Featherstone, Eru Aperahama, Gretchen Howard, John Foes-Lamb, Linda Cooper, Noel Stephens.

**BASS:** Bill Walker, Dan Griffin, Doug Higgins, Ian Buick, Jack Hamley, John Botting, Peter Field, Roy Nuemegen, Todd Padgett .

Nelson Civic Choir is a non-auditioned choir open to people of all ages with an interest in singing and learning choral music in a variety of styles and genres. The choir rehearses regularly on Tuesday evenings preparing for three concert programmes each year. To learn more about joining the choir please contact [membership@nelsoncivicchoir.com](mailto:membership@nelsoncivicchoir.com)

## ORCHESTRA

**VIOLIN:** Fleur Jackson (Concertmaster), Grace Lee, Rosemary Galton, Alex Partridge. **VIOLA:** Myles Payne, Jonna Arthur. **CELLO:** Siobhan Gerritsen, Marta Barham. **FLUTE:** Tersha Coppell. **OBOE:** Suzanne Pentecost. **TRUMPET:** Imke Howie. **KEYBOARD:** Louis Lucas-Perry.

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# ORGANIST

## David Burchell

David Burchell is Dunedin City Organist, Organist and Choir Director of St Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, Senior Organist at All Saints' Church, Dunedin, and organ tutor and graduation organist for the University of Otago. Away from the organ, he is Musical Director of City Choir Dunedin, and Musical Director of 'The Little Box of Operas', a company specialising in chamber opera. Since moving to Dunedin in 1999 he has made a considerable impression on the city's musical life, as a choir trainer, organist, organ teacher, piano accompanist and also as an orchestral conductor. He performs throughout New Zealand as an organ recitalist and accompanist.

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