



Friends

of St Paul's Cathedral
Melbourne

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Polyphonic Voices

Magnificat! Song of Mary

SATURDAY
15
NOVEMBER

J.S. Bach's Magnificat in E-flat (BWV243a)
*with Łukaszewski, Pärt, Rachmaninoff,
Schnittke, Tavener, and Tomkins*

Featuring: Polyphonic Voices and Voices New Zealand

Conducted by: Michael Fulcher, Artistic Director of Polyphonic Voices

Accompanied by: Polyphonic Players and the Australian Baroque Brass

Soloists: Siobhan Stagg, Emma Muir-Smith, Michael Petruccelli & Michael Leighton Jones

By Tim Matthews Staindl

POLYPHONIC VOICES CONCLUDE their inaugural season with a festive collaboration of extraordinary talent from across Australia and New Zealand to mark the beginning of Advent and the ANZAC Centenary commemoration.

It is a fitting end to this exciting new choir's first year on the Melbourne stage. Polyphonic Voices, led by Michael Fulcher, has arranged a veritable feast for both the Bach-lover and the Melbourne audience in general. Joined by New Zealand's

premier chamber choir Voices New Zealand, the group will perform the original E-flat major version of J.S. Bach's Magnificat, written for the Christmas Vespers of 1723 at St Thomas's Leipzig. It is a setting of the canticle of Mary the mother of Jesus as told in Luke's Gospel, together with four interpolations of Christmas texts.

The groups are proud to collaborate for this stunning work with both Australian Baroque Brass – the country's finest baroque trumpets and period instrument ensemble –

as well as Polyphonic Players, led by Sarah Curro, playing on period instruments.

Furthermore, the concert will feature four spectacular soloists. Siobhan Stagg is one of Australia's brightest rising stars on the international scene and is currently working as a soloist with the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

This image is kindly supplied by Nature's Pic Images.

The Pōhutukawa tree with festive red flowers is fondly known as the "New Zealand Christmas Tree".



Don't miss this rare chance to hear Bach's rarely-heard original 'Christmas' version of the work played on period instruments and sung by stellar soloists.

**Tickets from
www.polyphonicvoices.com**

Emma Muir-Smith and Michael Petruccelli are both Developing Artists at the Victorian Opera. Michael Leighton Jones is renowned throughout Melbourne and Australia as a performer, conductor and composer of superb choral music. He is also a valued patron of Polyphonic Voices.

Preceding the Bach, an evocative collection of settings of the Magnificat and other Marian texts will be presented by each choir individually. The program will include works by Łukaszewski, Pärt, Rachmaninoff, Schnittke, Tavener and Tomkins, the first half concluding with a joint performance of Jan Sandström's transcendent *Det är en ros utsprungnen* in double choir. Following two major sold-out performances this year, Polyphonic Voices has already made an imposing entry into the rich choral landscape of Melbourne. Don't miss this opportunity to experience them in

collaboration with such an exciting collection of talented artists when they perform this rarely-heard version of one of J.S. Bach's great works.

About the Choirs Polyphonic Voices

Polyphonic Voices is a Melbourne based chamber choir which aims to create vibrant and engaging concerts of the finest choral repertoire, performed to the highest standard.

Led by Michael Fulcher, this small group of exceptional ensemble singers tailor evocative programs to pair with interesting venues and themes. The choir is composed of 20 voices drawn from the alumni of Melbourne's outstanding college chapel choirs.

Polyphonic Voices have enjoyed a spectacular inaugural season with concerts selling out well in advance.

Voices New Zealand

Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir [Voices NZ] was formed in 1998 with Dr Karen Grylls as its Music Director. As a nationally selected choir of the highest calibre, Voices NZ is a chamber choir that is flexible in size, and capable of performing a wide repertoire. Many of the singers are alumni of the New Zealand Youth Choir.

Highlights of the choir's numerous achievements include; winning gold and silver awards at the Tolosa International Choral Competition

in the Basque region of Spain (1998), award for Best Classical Album at the NZ Music Awards (2006), collaborating with New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and other choirs to perform Mahler's Symphony No. 8, conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy (2010), representing New Zealand at the 9th World Symposium on Choral Music in Puerto Madryn, Argentina (2011) and premiering Requiem for the Fallen, a Choirs Aotearoa/New Zealand String Quartet commission from Ross Harris and Vincent O'Sullivan in the New Zealand Festival (2014).

TICKETS

**Premium Reserve \$50
General Admission \$40
Students \$20**

www.polyphonicvoices.com

**7:30pm
Saturday 15 November
St Paul's Cathedral**



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Polyphonic Voices

*We hope you enjoyed this first issue of
the Magazine for the Friends of
St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne*

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