



BIRTH of the BLUES

PROGRAM

Glen Eira City Choir

I got rhythm – Gershwin

Sweet and low – Trad.

Rock-a my soul – Trad.

Rose of Tralee – Trad.

Soloist: Annie Sweeney

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit – Trad.

Soloist: John Dunham

Home on the range – Trad.

Saxophone: Erik Poliak

Birth of the Blues – Gershwin

Soloists: Annie Sweeney, Adrian

Mill, Sam Bateman, Helen Cliffe,

Betty Spencer

Piano Solo: Berta Brozgul

Kinderszenen (Scenes from

Childhood), nos 1-7 – Schumann

Choral Studio *Harmony* Children's Choir

Ding-Dong – Pakhmutova

Whisper – Gilpin

Listen to the rain – Lawrence

Combined choir

Porgy and Bess – Gershwin

Soloist (Summertime):

Annie Sweeney

Soloists: Adrian Mill, Helen Cliffe,

Alex Hovey, Barbara Overbury

Glen Eira City Choir

with Choral Studio *Harmony* Children's Choir

Conductor: Elena Varshavskaya

Soloist and accompanist: Berta Brozgul

Accompanist for Children's Choir: Rosa Hwang

The Glen Eira City Choir

SOPRANO: Jan Brasch, Halina Dynek, Barbara Overbury, Margaret Reimer, Margaret Ricardo, Betty Spencer, Annie Sweeney, Julia Williams

ALTO: Angela Alomes, Nadya Belousova, Helen Cliffe, Rosemary Harmer, Irina Fateeva, Iris Felstead, Denise Grocke AO, Kathy Hope, Valerie McDonald, Penny Paton, Annette Robinson, Eva Viaz

TENOR: Stuart Allen, Andre Dubrowin, John Dunham, Alex Hovey, Jeremy Paton

BASS: Sam Bateman, Adrian Mill, Geoff Peters, Bill Raper

Choral Studio *Harmony* Children's Choir

Andrei Fateev, Aleksandr Fateev, Victoria Furman, Akiva Kenner, Kent Kulakovsky, Maxim Levin, Alisa Levin, Roman Monarca, Erik Poliak, Kai Polak, Laura Rodin, Shoshana Tesler, Ivana Tyapkin, Sasha Tyapkin, Mirabella Tyapkin, Keira Zemskova.

About the Glen Eira City Choir

The Glen Eira City Choir is a SATB non-auditioned choir that was established in 1946. We are a voluntary not-for-profit organisation, and a member of the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA). We usually perform two to three concerts per year. The first is normally a choral work, the second comprising lighter music from operas and musicals, and a third (sometimes combined with second concert) is our Christmas concert.

Our life members are: Jane Elton Brown OAM, Margaret Glasson, and Hazel Wilson.

The Choir extends its thanks and appreciation to:

- o Elena Varshavskaya (Conductor)
- o Berta Brozgul (Rehearsal Accompanist)
- o Glen Eira City Council
- o David Southwick MP (State Member Caulfield)
- o St Andrew's Anglican Church, Brighton

Our conductor **Elena Varshavskaya** graduated from Moscow State P. I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory with Honors in 2002 majoring in choral conducting. While studying at the conservatory, she was a member of the Moscow Conservatory Chamber Choir and participated in international choral music competitions and festivals, both in Russia and abroad touring Italy, Germany, Austria and Poland. In 2002 Elena was the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Chamber Choir "Lad" which successfully toured Greece, Germany and Finland and also received gold and silver awards at the 5th International Johannes Brahms Choir Competition, Wernigerode, Germany in 2005. In 2006 she started working in the Russian Radio and Television Big Academic Choir as a singer and an assistant to the Artistic Director.

In 2010 she joined Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus as a chorister, and in 2011 Elena became Musical Director of Bendigo Chorale where she directed and conducted many concerts for the choir in Bendigo, Echuca and Melbourne and also participated in projects with David Kram (More Than Opera) and Victorian Opera. Elena also works with a community choir "Nostalgia". Her repertoire includes classical music, contemporary music, jazz, gospel and folk, including works by Rachmaninoff, Mozart, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gershwin and Rutter. She also leads the Choral Studio Children's Choir *Harmony*.

Berta Brozgul has been the accompanist for the Glen Eira City Choir since 2019. She was born in Cape Town, South Africa into a musical family and migrated to Australia at the age of 12. After attending the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, she obtained both her Bachelor and Master's degrees from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, graduating with highest honours. She has been the recipient of many prizes including the 2014 Australian National Piano Award and the 2015 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition. She received the Queensland Symphony Orchestra vote for the best concerto performance performing Beethoven's fourth piano concerto. In 2016, she was accepted into the Australian National Academy of Music and was the joint recipient of the ANAM prize for the most outstanding performance in a solo recital. The following year, she received the Ursula Hoff institute prize for outstanding performance of a work by Mozart. Her piano trio, the Clarendon trio, won the first prize in the ANAM chamber music competition. They were also the only Australian ensemble to be selected for the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition in 2018, reaching the semi-final stage of the competition. Later that year, she was also a finalist in the Academy's concerto competition, performing Chopin's E minor concerto with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Nicholas Cleobury.

On 2nd and 3rd November 2023 Berta will perform Bartok's Third Piano Concerto with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Benjamin Northey.

**The Glen Eira City Choir
welcomes new members**

Rehearsals are held on Mondays 7:45- 9:30pm
at St Andrew's Church,
228 New Street Brighton
Enquiries: admin@gleneiracitychoir.org.au
www.gleneiracitychoir.org.au

Our concert of
Christmas Carols
will be held at 2.30pm
Saturday 9 December 2023
St Andrew's Church
228 New Street Brighton
www.trybooking.com/CIMXR