



with



2.30pm – Saturday 14 June 2025
St Andrew's Church 228 New St, Brighton

Conductor: Elena Varshavskaya
Piano: Berta Brozgul
Lyric Soprano: Lisa Robinson
Harp: Melina van Leeuwen
Cello: Rosanne Hunt

Oboe: Donna Chung
French Horn: Robert McMillan
Percussion: Grace James
Violin: Erik Poliak
Recorder: Ian Smith

Hallelujah chorus
from *Messiah* HWV 56

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Shall we go dance?

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)
Words: Nicholas Breton (c. 1545/53 – c. 1625/6)

The Blue Bird

Words: Mary Elizabeth Coleridge 1897

*The lake lay blue below the hill.
O'er it, as I looked, there flew
Across the waters, cold and still,
A bird whose wings were palest blue.
The sky above was blue at last,
The sky beneath me blue in blue.
A moment, ere the bird had passed,
It caught his image as he flew.*

Charlie is My Darling

Scottish traditional,
arr. Cecil Armstrong Gibbs (1889–1960)

Londonderry Air

Music: Irish traditional
arr. Arthur S. Loam (1892–1976)
Words: Roy Jeffries (1893–1969)

My bonny lass she smileth

Thomas Morley (1557–1602)

Fair Phyllis I saw sitting all alone

Music: John Farmer (c.1570–c.1601)
Words: Anon.

Ombra mai fu
from *Xerxes* (1738)

Soprano: Lisa Robinson

Music: Handel
Libretto: Nicolò Minato (c.1627–1698)
*Ombra mai fu di vegetabile, cara ed amabile, soave più
Never was a shade of any plant dearer, lovelier, or sweeter*

The Dance
from *From the Bavarian Highlands* Op.27 No.1

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

The Lord is my Shepherd
from *Requiem* (1985)

Oboe: Donna Chung

Music: John Rutter (b.1945)
Words: Psalm 23

from <i>A Ceremony of Carols</i> Op.28	Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)
Balulalow This Little Babe	
Soprano: Lisa Robinson, Harp: Melina van Leeuwen	
from <i>Requiem</i> (2005)	Karl Jenkins (b.1944)
Lacrimosa Lux Aeterna In Paradisum	
Soprano: Lisa Robinson, Harp: Melina van Leeuwen, French Horn: Robert McMillan, Percussion: Grace James, Violin: Erik Poliak	
from <i>The Armed Man – A Mass for Peace</i> (1999)	Karl Jenkins
Benedictus	
Cello: Rosanne Hunt, French Horn: Robert McMillan, Percussion: Grace James	
from <i>Adiemus: Songs of Sanctuary</i> (1995)	Karl Jenkins
Adiemus	<i>The lyrics of Adiemus are in a language of syllables and words made up by Karl Jenkins to match the music.</i>
Percussion: Grace James, Recorder: Ian Smith	
And did those feet in ancient time (Jerusalem)	Music: Charles H.H. Parry (1848–1918) Words: William Blake (1757-1827)
<i>Please join in singing:</i>	
And did those feet in ancient time walk upon England's mountains green? And was the Holy Lamb of God on England's pleasant pastures seen? And did the countenance divine shine forth upon our clouded hills? And was Jerusalem builded here among these dark satanic mills? Bring me my bow of burning gold! Bring me my arrows of desire! Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold! Bring me my chariot of fire! I will not cease from mental fight, nor shall my sword sleep in my hand, till we have built Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land.	
For the beauty of the earth	Music: John Rutter Words: Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835–1917)

Elena Varshavskaya (conductor) 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 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 2011 Elena became Musical Director of Bendigo Chorale where she directed and conducted many concerts for the choir in Bendigo, Echuca and Melbourne and participated in projects with David Kram (More Than Opera) and Victorian Opera. In 2020 Elena joined the Glen Eira City Choir as a Musical Director. Elena has conducted the Glen Eira City Choir for Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Rheinberger's *Stabat Mater*, Haydn's *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo* and Karl Jenkins' *Requiem*. She has introduced new works by Rutter, Langlais, Lauridsen and Gershwin to the choir repertoire. She also leads the children's Choral Studio "Harmony".

Berta Brozgul (piano) 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. She performed Bartok's Third *Piano Concerto* with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Benjamin Northey in 2023.

Lisa Anne Robinson (lyric soprano) began her formal musical studies at age 14. A series of scholarships enabled her to complete her tertiary education at prestigious Australian educational facilities. Lisa has been the recipient of well over 100 prizes, awards, and scholarships and has studied and performed throughout Australia and Europe. In 2007 Lisa moved to the UK and performed leading roles with The Royal Opera House, English Touring Opera, Longborough Festival Opera, Iford Arts, Opera Della Luna, Stanley Hall Opera, London Festival Opera and the Gilbert & Sullivan Company. In 2011 Lisa Anne Robinson made her debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as Nella in ***Gianni Schicchi***, in the Gramophone Award winning production of ***Il Trittico***, conducted by Antonio Pappano and directed by Richard Jones. Critics have described her voice as 'sheer auditory bliss', 'rich', 'melting', 'world-class' and her operatic performances as 'superb', 'exceptional' and 'outstanding'. Lisa has sung solo roles frequently with Glen Eira City Choir, including Haydn's *The Creation* (2017), Faure's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass* (2018), Mozart's *Requiem* (2019), Vivaldi's *Gloria* (2022) and Jenkins *Requiem* (2024).

Melina van Leeuwen (harp) performs nationally as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral performer. She is a founding member of the Chrysalis Trio formed together with flautist Kiran Phatak and violist Katie Yap. The ensemble was awarded a competitive Australian National Academy of Music Artists title and embarked on a national tour in 2019. Highlights for Melina as a featured soloist have included multiple Sydney Symphony Fellows Concerts in 2022, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra 2023 chamber series, the Melbourne Recital Centre's 2019 Tenth Birthday Gala Concert and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra's opening 2016 concert series. She has performed chamber music with Syzygy Ensemble, Kegelstatt Ensemble, Rubiks Collective, Inventi Ensemble, Forest Collective, Halcyon ensemble, and Australia's Seven Harp Ensemble. Melina has appeared as Principal Harp with the Australian World Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria/the Australian Ballet, Victorian Opera, and the Tasmanian, West Australian, Sydney, and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras.

Rosanne Hunt (cello) is in high demand as a teacher, both at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and at her private studio. She loves working with students to find the path that suits them best and engenders a love for the instrument. She has had fabulous times over the years playing with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra, the ELISION (founding member) Libra and Aphids contemporary music ensembles, the Melbourne Symphony, Orchestra Victoria (sometimes as principal cellist), and is now involved in the Melbourne Baroque Orchestra (founding member) and Forest Collective.

Donna Chung (oboe) was born in Hong Kong, raised in Melbourne, and lived and studied in Europe. After taking up the oboe at age nine, Donna studied international music throughout her teens. She later was a student at the Victorian College of the Arts where she engaged in high-level chamber music and solo performances at major Australian concert venues, graduating with a Bachelor of Music Performance (Honours) in 2011. From 2011, Donna studied in Cologne, Germany, where she completed two masters degrees, one at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln and the other at the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf. Between 2013 and 2018, she was a frequent guest oboist with the German broadcaster orchestra WDR Funkhausorchester Köln, performed regularly with the Klassische Philharmonie Bonn and Kammeroper Köln, and also worked with the Russian Chamber Philharmonic in St Petersburg, and the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia.

Robert McMillan (French horn) studied in Vienna and freelanced across Europe, Japan, Singapore, and New Zealand before returning to Australia in 2006. Whilst in Europe, Robert worked as Principal horn of the Graz Symphony Orchestra and guest artist with the Vienna Symphony. Highlights of Robert's European travels included performances in the Concertgebouw with the Vienna Academy on Baroque Horn, Bruckner Symphonies with the Vienna Radio Orchestra on Wagner Tuba, and a memorable performance with Wolfgang Sawallisch and the Vienna Symphony on Vienna Horn. Currently Robert is working as a freelance musician in Melbourne and enjoys being a casual member of the MSO and Orchestra Victoria.

Grace James (percussion) is an Orchestral Percussionist who has been performing for 10 years, participating in multiple ensembles such as the Victorian Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Geelong Symphony Orchestra. She has participated in the Victorian State School Spectacular as the Percussion Section Leader for three consecutive years and later assisted as the Percussion Tutor. In late 2022, Grace performed with the Australian Conservatoire of Ballet Orchestra for their performance of *The Nutcracker*. She was Principal Percussionist of the Monash Academy Orchestra, performing at the Women in Percussion Festival (2022), and also receiving the Yamaha Australian Percussion Prize (2022). Most recently she has been awarded the Monash University Australian Music Prize (2024) for her solo performance of 'Hinchinbrook Riffs'. Grace currently teaches at Music Works Magic and occasionally teaches at McKinnon Secondary College.



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 concerts per year: May/June and November/December. In 2026 we will celebrate our 80th anniversary.

Soprano: Helen Bryce, Ree Dowling, Halina Dymek, Deanne Flanagan, Jennifer Hyams, Deborah Polites, Sue Polites, Margaret Ricardo, Catherine Shkolnik, Betty Spencer, Julia Williams

Alto: April Blackwell, Helen Cliffe, Iris Felstead, Alison Groh, Denise Grocke AO, Rosemary Harmer, Irene Havryluk-Davies, Valerie McDonald, Karine Nadtochii, Barbara Overbury, Penny Paton, Annette Robinson, Hazel Wilson

Tenor: Stuart Allen, John Dunham, Alex Hovy, Colin Nicholson, John Norman

Bass: John Barrett, Sam Bateman, Noel Fabri, Geoff Peters, Stephen Rabach, Dougal Richardson, Michael Skillington

Life members: Jane Elton Brown OAM, Hazel Wilson



Soprano: Alison Apostolou, Lily Davidson, Janice Donnelly, Rita Hack, Lorraine Jones, Pamela Kadow, Sue Lawson, Beverley Leeson, Dawn Moncriff, Julianna Rickard, Heather Ryall, Barbara Tippett, Liesbeth van Emerick

Alto: Sandra Birch, Val Hall, Joan Self

Tenor: Brendan Grinter, Fred Kelly, David Wright OAM

Bass: Travis Perara, Peter Phillips, Adrian Schoo, Will Slow, Ian Smith

The Glen Eira City Choir extends its thanks and appreciation to:

- Elena Varshavskaya (Conductor)
- Berta Brozgul (Rehearsal Accompanist)
- Glen Eira City Council
- St Andrew's Anglican Church, Brighton
- Buxton Real Estate Group
- Marshall White Real Estate

COME SING WITH US

Two winter workshops presented by Glen Eira City Choir with Lisa Robinson

Monday 21 July 7pm – AN INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP to singing, including warmups, breathing, singing of rounds, with no need to be able to read music, just an interest in singing. Also a suitable refresher for experienced choristers. All welcome!

Monday 28 July 7pm – A CHORAL WORKSHOP with a focus on vocal technique, singing four-part harmony (SATB) with an ability to read music an advantage.

No charge, but registration is required

trybooking.com/DBZOH



We hope you have enjoyed *Music from the British Isles*

Glen Eira City Choir welcomes new members

Rehearsals resume in August 2025
on Mondays 7:45- 9:30pm
at St Andrews Church,
228 New Street Brighton

Please join us –

Saturday 29 November at 2.30pm

Music from the 'New World'

as we focus on songs from the American continent
... and in the lead-up to Christmas
of course we will sing some carols!

Find out more: gleneiracitychoir.org.au

Join our mailing list: admin@gleneiracitychoir.org.au