

# Celebrating Christmas

WITH MUSIC  
FROM AMERICA



2.30pm Saturday 29 November 2025

Conductor: Elena Varsharvskya

Pianist: Berta Brozgul

Cellist: Rosanne Hunt

  
and  
Choral Studio *Harmony*  
Children's Choir

## PROGRAM

### Glen Eira City Choir

- Rock-a My Soul* trad. African American spiritual, arr. Joyce Barthelson (1900-1986)
- Gershwin in Love* from *A Gershwin Portrait (The Music of George & Ira Gershwin)* arr. Mac Huff  
Soloists: Jennifer Hyams, John Dunham and Alison Apostolou
- Clap your hands* George Gershwin (1898-1937) and Ira Gershwin (1896-1983)
- Seal Lullaby* Music: Eric Whitacre (b.1970);  
Words: Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)
- Oh! hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,  
and black are the waters that sparkled so green.*
- The moon, o'er the combers, looks downward to find us  
at rest in the hollows that rustle between.*
- Where billow meets billow, there soft be thy pillow;  
Ah, weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!*
- The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark overtake thee,  
asleep in the arms of the slow-swinging seas.*

## The Rose

Music :Ola Gjeilo (b.1978);

Words: based on Christina Rossetti's (1830-1894) poem

*The lily has a smooth stalk, will never hurt your hand;  
but the rose upon her briar, is lady of the land.*

*There's sweetness in an apple tree, and profit in the corn;  
but lady of all beauty is a rose upon a thorn.*

*When with moss and honey she tips her bending briar,  
and half unfolds her glowing heart, she sets the world on fire.*

## Rosanne Hunt – Cello Solo

*Julie-O*

Mark Summer (b.1958)

## Children's Studio Harmony Choir

*In dulci jubilo*

arr. K. Jenkins

*Lullay*

K. Jenkins

*V gornitse (In the room)*

A. Morozov

*We wish you a Merry Christmas*

arr. R. Artman



## Glen Eira City Choir

*Birth of the Blues*

Music: Ray Henderson (1896-1970) arr..Kirby Shaw

Words: B.G. DeSylva (1895-1950) & Lew Brown (1893-1958),

*Children, Go Where I Send Thee*

trad. African American spiritual, arr. André Thomas (b.1952)

Soloist: Sam Bateman

*The Twelve Days of Christmas*

Trad.carol arr. John Rutter (b.1945)

## Audience Participation – Carol Singing!

Please join in singing *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* and *O Come, All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fidelis)*

**Hark! the herald angels sing 'Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled':  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies,  
with th'angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.**

**Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing  
'Glory to the new-born King'.**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth born to give them second birth. [Refrain]**

Words: C. Wesley, T. Whitefield, M. Madan  
Tune: MENDELSSOHN (51171)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the King of Angels:**

*Refrain:* **O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither, bend our joyful footsteps: [Refrain]**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God, in the highest: [Refrain]**

Words: JF Wade, tr. F. Oakley, W.T. Brooke  
Tune: ADESTE FIDELIS; v. 1,3,6

## Glen Eira City Choir and Choral Studio *Harmony* Children's Choir

*Santa Claus is comin' to town* Music: Fred Coots (1897-1985); Words: Haven Gillespie (1888-1975)  
Soloists: John Dunham and Helen Cliffe

*Why we sing* (2005) Greg Gilpin (b.1964)

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### 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 major choral work, the second comprising lighter music from operas and musicals, and the third is our Christmas concert.

**Life members:** Jane Elton Brown OAM and Hazel Wilson.

**Sopranos:** Judy Aldridge, Alison Apostolou, Helen Bryce, Halina Dymek, Deanne Flanagan, Jennifer Hyams, Sue Polites, Margaret Reimer, Margaret Ricardo, Anne Shepherd, Carol Scholes-Robertson, Catherine Shkolnick, Betty Spencer, Steffie Wallace, Julia Williams.

**Altos:** Angela Alomes, April Blackwell, Helen Cliffe, Anne Cole, Iris Felsted, Christine Gamble, Caroline Giles, Denise Grocke, Alison Groh, Rosemary Harmer, Karine Kocharyan, Valerie McDonald, Barbara Overbury, Penny Paton, Jane Patrick, Annette Robinson, Hazel Wilson.

**Tenors:** Stuart Allen, John Barrett, John Dunham, Brendan Grintner, Alex Hovey, Jeremy Paton.

**Basses:** Sam Bateman, Paul Butler, Colin Nicholson, John Norman, Geoff Peters, Dougal Richardson.

### Choral Studio *Harmony* Children's Choir

Audrey Fateev, Aleksandr Fateev, Akiva Kenner, Kent Kulakovskiy, Sofia Lazareva, Ivan Lazarev, Maxim Levin, Alisa Levin, Eva Mitchell, Kai Polak, Erik Poliak, Laura

Rodin, Marcus Rosenberg, Ivana Spektor, Shoshana Tesler, Alexandra Tyapkin, Ivana Tyapkin, Keira Zemskova

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 *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 Choral Studio *Harmony* Children's Choir.

**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 (ANAM) 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.

**Rosanne Hunt**, cellist, 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.

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## Concerts in 2026 – Celebrating our 80<sup>th</sup> Year

at St Andrew's, Brighton

Mozart *Requiem*: Saturday 30 May – 2:30pm

Christmas Concert: Saturday 5 December – 2:30pm

## Glen Eira City Choir welcomes new members

Rehearsals are held on Mondays 7:45-9:30pm

at St Andrew's, Brighton

### Find out more...

[admin@gleneiracitychoir.org.au](mailto:admin@gleneiracitychoir.org.au)

[www.gleneiracitychoir.org.au](http://www.gleneiracitychoir.org.au)

[facebook.com/gleneiracitychoir](https://facebook.com/gleneiracitychoir)

## Acknowledgements

- Whelan Blooms
- Elena Varsharvskaya (Conductor)
- Berta Brozgul (Rehearsal Accompanist)
- Glen Eira City Council
- David Southwick MP (State Member for Caulfield)
- St Andrew's Anglican Church, Brighton
- Golden Days Radio
- Buxton Real Estate
- Marshall White Real Estate

**The Glen Eira City Choir is very grateful for the generous donations given by choir members and members of the audience in support of today's concert.**