



IN GOOD COMPANY

7:30 pm SATURDAY

13 AUGUST 2022

ELDER HALL

University of Adelaide,
North Terrace, Adelaide 5000



GRADUATE SINGERS SEASON 2022

Graduate Singers 2022

Conductor Karl Geiger

Piano Michael Ierace

Soprano

Alexandra Fowler*
Alison Fleming
Emma Chesterman
Frances Robinson*
Jackie Eldridge
Katherine Lahn
Lauren Driver
Lisa Catinari
Nadia Gencarelli
Nicola Bevan
Sarah O'Brien
Susan Brooke-Smith
Verity Colyer

Alto

Alison Hansen
Annie Douglas
Ashleigh Geiger*
Carrie Lam
Deborah Tranter
Genevieve Spalding
Georgina Gold*
Hamish Madden*
Karen Watson
Karen Yau
Katherine Samarzia
Lily Coats
Madeline Turnbull

Marijke Mellor*

Melinda Pike
Michelle Zweck
Riana Chakravarti
Stephanie Neale
Susan Murdoch

Tenor

Alexandra Cunningham
Christopher Simpson*
Craig Weatherill*
Darren Lutze
Graham Yuile
Jo Pike
Lou McGee

Bass

Alexander Penny*
Andrew Moschou
Bryce Winter
Chris Steketee
Damien Day*
David Rohrsheim
David Shields
Greg John
Mark Roberts*
Neil Piggott
Patrick Carrig
Paul Henning
Robert Cox
Scott Gunn
Stuart Carter
Timothy Pietsch
Timothy Sheehan

* not singing in this concert

For your diary

BEETHOVEN'S 9TH

7:30 pm SATURDAY **24 SEPTEMBER**

3 pm SUNDAY **25 SEPTEMBER**

ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and
Elder Conservatorium Chorale
conducted by Douglas Boyd.

CRISTEMAS

7:30 pm SATURDAY **10 DECEMBER**

ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge that we are on Kaurna Miyurna land. We respect the ongoing spiritual relationship of the Kaurna people with their country, and recognise their cultural and heritage beliefs, as well as their custodianship of the Adelaide region. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people attending from other areas of Australia.

THE PROGRAM

Ubi caritas..... Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Sure on this Shining Night Samuel Barber (1910–1981)
with Michael Ierace, piano

Ubi caritas..... Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

In remembrance (from *Requiem*) Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

A Boy and a Girl..... Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Sure on this Shining Night Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)
with Michael Ierace, piano

Northern Lights Ola Gjeilo

The Parting Glass Trad. arr. Carl Crossin (b. 1953)

INTERVAL

Ubi caritas..... Ola Gjeilo
with Michael Ierace, piano

Do not stand at my grave and weep Joseph Twist (b. 1982)

Loch Lomond..... Trad. arr. David Overton (b. 1942)
with Graham Yuile, tenor soloist

Lux aurumque Eric Whitacre

My love is always here Alexandre Desplat (b. 1961)

Across the Dark Ben van Tienen (b. 1984)
with Michael Ierace, piano

1. The Moron's Bark
2. Lonely Mother Earth
3. Us
4. A Big White Duck

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

One of the great joys of choral music is that, by design, it cannot exist without a foundation of unity and togetherness. Each member of a choir brings their own gifts to the group, but we only *become* a choir when we come together, as one. This theme of togetherness is one that we explore and share with you tonight with *In Good Company*; a collection of captivating and much-loved works that have been hand-picked by the choir, by popular choice. Simply put, these are the pieces that most aptly express what every member of Grads loves to do – make music together.

Tonight's performance features two evocative works by American composer and conductor **Eric Whitacre**—*Lux aurumque*, a haunting piece designed to “shimmer and glow”, and the spine-tingling *A Boy and a Girl*. The lyrics for the latter are taken from a poem by Octavio Paz, which Whitacre describes as, “such a tender, delicate, exquisite poem; I simply tried to quiet myself as much as possible and find the music hidden within the words”. These two pieces demonstrate the true beauty in simplicity, allowing the music to weave its spell over the listener and keep them captivated long after the final notes have faded away.

The same could be said of two settings of the ancient hymn, *Ubi caritas*, which began as a Gregorian chant, and some believe originated even before the formation of Catholic Mass. Tonight's renditions are by French composer **Maurice Duruflé**, who beautifully highlights the chant's original melody, and Norwegian composer **Ola Gjeilo**, whose use of unison lines blossoming into sudden rich chords brings a stunning sense of awe and rejoicing in God. The lesser-known piano version of this work features an exquisite accompaniment by Michael Ierace, who easily earns his place in tonight's performance as a well-loved favourite of the choir in his own right.

Michael also lends his skills to our company with sensitive and lyrical accompaniments for two settings of James Agee's poem, *Sure on this Shining Night*, with its stunning imagery and introspective emotional landscape. Composers **Samuel Barber** and **Morten Lauridsen** each bring their own unique interpretation to Agee's contemplative lyrics, with Barber's wistful countermelodies providing a striking contrast to the work of Lauridsen, who says that his rendition should be sung, “like a song from the American musical theater stage”.

It's not surprising that a concert of favourites finds renewed depth and beauty in the familiar, with folk songs making their way into the programme including **David Overton**'s lilting arrangement of *Loch Lomond* and a tender, moving setting of *The Parting Glass* by **Carl Crossin** OAM, our patron since 2017. We also maintain our commitment to performing music by Australian composers with works by **Joseph**

Twist and **Ben van Tienen** taking pride of place, as well as highlighting female composers with an excerpt from Canadian composer **Eleanor Daley's** lush, soothing *Requiem*.

We hope that you enjoy this collection of pieces that are so dear to our collective hearts, and we thank you sincerely for coming to join us tonight, in good company. Good night, and joy be with you all.

Genevieve Spalding

TEXTS and TRANSLATIONS

Ubi caritas..... Ola Gjeilo, Maurice Duruflé

Antiphon for Maundy Thursday, Verse 1

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Amen.

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice, and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere
heart. Amen.

Northern Lights Ola Gjeilo

Song of Solomon 6:3–4a

Pulchra es, amica mea,
suavis et decora sicut Jerusalem,
terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.
Averte oculos tuos a me,
quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.

Thou art beautiful, O my love,
sweet and comely as Jerusalem,
terrible as an army set in array.
Turn away thine eyes from me,
for they have made me flee away.

Lux aurumque Eric Whitacre

Original English poem by Edward Esch; Latin translation by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Lux, calida gravisque pura velut aurum,
et canunt angeli molliter modo natum.

Light, warm and heavy as pure gold,
and the angels sing softly to the newborn
babe.

THE PERFORMERS

Graduate Singers

Graduate Singers, or 'Grads,' is "one of Adelaide's finest choirs" (*The Advertiser*) and has been a dynamic member of the vibrant local choral scene for 40 years. Grads has received critical acclaim as an exponent of fine choral music and enjoys a reputation for excellence throughout every aspect of presentation and performance.

Grads is committed to presenting high quality, accessible and diverse concerts, keeping the choral tradition alive and fresh. Grads prides itself on its versatility, being equally at home with large-scale choral standards as with intimate chamber works. Grads consists of some of Adelaide's most experienced choral singers, many of whom frequently sing in major choral productions. With strong ties to the local music community, Grads regularly collaborates with other artists and organisations, established and emerging.

In addition to presenting its own concert series, Grads maintains a busy schedule of freelance engagements. Recent highlights include collaborations with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra such as *Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular* (2015), *Last Night of the Proms* (2016, 2019), *Scotland the Brave* (2017), *Carmina Burana* as part of the 2021 Festival of Orchestra, and the 2021 world premiere of *Nativity*, commissioned from Australian composer Richard Mills, alongside Adelaide Chamber Singers and Young Adelaide Voices. In March 2022, Graduate Singers was thrilled to join the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Elder Conservatorium Chorale to perform *Prayer for the Living*, the Adelaide Festival's closing event, presenting works by Lili Boulanger, Francis Poulenc, and Pëteris Vasks.

Upcoming engagements include joining the Elder Conservatorium Chorale and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra once again for two performances of Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9 'Choral'*, the finale of the ASO's journey across all nine of the great composer's symphonies.



DON'T FORGET YOUR GRADS CD

Grads' CD is available from our website and in the foyer at interval and after the concert. It features many of our favourites and the first recording of Carl Crossin's *Jubilate in Musica*, commissioned and premiered in 2017 to celebrate our 40th birthday. At \$25 each or \$40 for two, why not get one for home, one for the beach house, then grab a few more as gifts!

"... pillar of Adelaide's choral scene ... well-turned performances ... rapturously beautiful ... definitely worth hearing" – *The Australian*.

Karl Geiger conductor

Karl Geiger is a pianist and conductor who relishes creating music with others. As a young musician, he was drawn to one of the first collaborative activities he was exposed to—choral music—and hasn't looked back since.



Moving from chorister to accompanist to conductor was a natural progression. With this complimentary set of skills, he often wears several hats, moving with ease between the podium and the keyboard. As a choral accompanist, Karl's principal long-term roles include the First Concert Choir of Young Adelaide Voices (2010–2016) and the choirs of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, in particular the Elder Conservatorium Chorale (since 2011).

A versatile accompanist, Karl regularly performs as pianist, organist and harpsichordist. He was the inaugural winner of the Diana Harris Prize for Accompanying, and the winner of the 2010 Geoffrey Parsons Award for Accompaniment. Karl was Organ Scholar at St Peter's Cathedral for two years, and has had extensive experience as a collaborative pianist and orchestral continuo player.

Karl first studied conducting under Carl Crossin, OAM at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. He participated in the Gondwana National Choral School conductor's development program, and has conducted in masterclasses with the King's Singers, Stephen Cleobury (Choir of Kings College, Cambridge), and Stephen Layton (Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge).

Karl's principal role as a choral conductor has been as Director of Music of Graduate Singers since 2012. In this time, Karl has enjoyed conducting the choir's annual subscription concerts, as well as numerous other engagements, highlights of which include chorus-mastering for the 2015 *Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular*, and for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's *Harry Potter in Concert* series.

THANKS TO TOP NOTE!

Since 2016, Graduate Singers has been sponsored by McLaren Vale winery, Top Note, who generously donated many beautiful bottles for our concert interval drinks. Top Note closed its cellar door in late 2021, but still has some of their wonderful wines available to purchase – if you enjoyed a glass or two at one of our concerts and are keen for more, head over to www.topnote.com.au – but get in quick, there is limited stock and it is selling out!

We sincerely thank Cate and Nick for their generosity, enthusiasm, and support of Graduate Singers over the last six years – we've loved every minute of our collaboration. Here's cheers!

Michael Ierace pianist



Cited as having ‘an exceptional gift’, Adelaide-born Michael Ierace had much success in local and national competitions before receiving the prestigious Elder Overseas Scholarship enabling him to move to London to study at the Royal College of Music. He was selected as an RCM Rising Star and was later on staff as a Junior Fellow in Piano Accompaniment.

In the UK, he won several competitions including the Keyboard Prize and the Accompanist Prize in the Royal Over-Seas League Competition and regularly performed in London and throughout the UK.

Since moving back to Australia, Michael has established himself as one of the most sought-after associate artists for national and international guests. He is currently working at the Elder Conservatorium.

Alongside his ‘classical’ duties, Michael is also the keyboard player for the Tributes in Concert Band, consistently praised as one of the best in the business after making their US debut in 2019.

Acknowledgements

We’d like to thank everyone who helped bring this concert to fruition, particularly:

Carl Crossin OAM, our patron

Aldis Sils for taking some of our rehearsals

Matīss Reinholds from Latvian Hall, our rehearsal venue

St Peter’s Cathedral for providing us an alternative rehearsal venue

Verity Colyer and Graham Yuile for loaning their pianos for rehearsals

Michael Ierace for serving as répétiteur for our rehearsals

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Grads Committee—Nicky Bevan, Susan Brooke-Smith, Riana Chakravarti,

Ashleigh Geiger, Nadia Gencarelli, Sarah O’Brien, Genevieve Spalding,

Madeline Turnbull and Michelle Zweck

and all our front-of-house volunteers