

FESTIVAL OF VOICES 2022
A PERFORMANCE BY GONDWANA CHORALE AND
CONCORDIS CHAMBER CHOIR
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALL ROOM, THURSDAY 7 JULY 2022

PLEASE BE SEATED

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this very special musical performance by two exceptional choirs as part of the Festival of Voices 2022 program.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

May I also acknowledge:

- Hon Elise Archer MP
- Tim Munro, Chairman of the FOV Board
- Joan Wright, FOV Choral Curator
- Isobel Marmion, FOV Artistic Director

The Festival of Voices was the first of Tasmania's mid-winter festivals. It was designed specifically to embrace the unique experience of winter. Each year there is a rich and varied program showcasing choral, contemporary and cabaret, while a range of educational opportunities and participatory experiences are provided to enliven the darkest of winters. The Festival has built a reputation as a winter school for choirs and attracts people who want to learn new repertoires, improve their singing or just enjoy group singing. The Festival continues to bring enjoyment and warmth to the people of Tasmania. It has also paved the way for the success of other events, such as Dark MOFO.

Now in your seventeenth year, the Festival attracts audiences of thousands over two weeks. On Sunday, we attended the moving performance of Handel's *Four Coronation Anthems* at our Federation Concert Hall. The uplifting effect was obvious on both the choir and the audience.

Tonight's two musical performances will each be around 20 minutes. First, the Cairns based Gondwana Chorale, has members from throughout Australia and range in age from 17 – 26. They will be followed by Concordis Chamber Choir, who started with a group of school leavers but has evolved into a group of more than 40 young men and women from Melbourne and around.

I shall say no more as Joan Wright, Choral Curator, will shortly introduce both choirs.

May I conclude by warmly congratulating everyone involved with the planning and staging of this year's Festival. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work. Also, thankyou in advance to the two choirs as we now move to their musical performances.

David...

[HE moves off stage]