

**FESTIVAL OF VOICES – A CHORAL SOIRÉE**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2023**

**[Vice-Regal Salute is played]**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for a wonderful Festival of Voices program: A Choral Soirée.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

We have enjoyed hosting Festival of Voices programs for some years now. This evening's program certainly looks rather enticing, including the Surprise Ensemble!

I am pleased to say that this beautiful Ball Room has hosted quite a few musical performances recently. We plan to continue with our musical programs.

Over the past month or so we have hosted and enjoyed:

- A Lady Cross Open Pianoforte Concerto competition on behalf of the City of Hobart Eisteddfod Society
- Thylasing, a witty name for an a cappella choir
- A King's Birthday fundraising concert for our Hobart Women's Shelter featuring Ingrid Leibbrandt, Allison Farrow and Johanna Selleck
- A Glenorchy Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, featuring the Croon trio, and pianist Sheng-Yuan Lynch
- And also, a delightful performance by a seven-member Australian Army Band Tasmania wind ensemble.

We love music here, not least given the exceptional acoustic of this grand room. We are delighted to be hosting the three groups who will perform shortly.

This year's Festival of Voices is, as ever, a great combination of voices – some 55 events across the ten days of performing in Hobart, our east coast and Launceston.

To attract so much support as you do and in winter, is a testament to the skills of Joan Wright and her colleagues, and, of course, to the singers and performers.

So, on behalf of all Tasmanians, I warmly congratulate everyone associated with the Festival of Voices.

Thank you.

David ... [invites Joan Wright to respond and introduce the performances]