

**FESTIVAL OF VOICES 2024– A CHORAL SOIRÉE**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 1 JULY 2024**

**[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]**

Good evening, everyone, and a warm welcome to Government House for a wonderful Festival of Voices program: *A Choral Soirée*. We are in a perfect setting for this program here in this grand Ball Room.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I 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, we certainly have another enticing program. Two famous choral groups, the Brisbane Birralelee Voices and the Luminescence Chamber Singers are performing.

The Luminescence Chamber Singers will perform across a range of genres, from the Renaissance to new Australian music and to Nordic Pop; an eclectic and varied mix by any measure!

Luminescence will contrast with the acclaimed children's choir, the Brisbane Birralelee Voices. They will present an interpretation of Australian compositions that reflect our varied landscape. So, there will be something for everyone to enjoy in their performances.

This year's Festival of Voices is, as ever, a great celebration of voices – nearly 70 events across the ten days of performing. These events range from workshops to performances, to the Corporate Choir Challenge, and are being held across our State. The primary events in Hobart began on 23 June and will conclude next Sunday with the Grand Finale Concert at the Federation Concert Hall.

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 Festival singers and performers.

So, on behalf of all Tasmanians, I warmly congratulate everyone associated with the Festival of Voices. Thank you to Joan Wright and colleagues, who work so hard to garner so much support from the community and from musicians from around Australia to celebrate the power of singing that brings people together.

Thank you.

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