

FESTIVAL OF VOICES 2025 – A CHORAL SOIRÉE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2025

VICE REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I am delighted to warmly welcome you all to Government House for A Choral Soirée as part of this year's Festival of Voices program.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

This Festival of Voices concert is the fifth I have hosted here at Government House. These events are highlights of our calendar.

Tonight, we have another wonderful program in store as we welcome back the beautiful voices of Sjaella, all the way from Germany. After their performance here in 2023, I know that we all look forward to hearing their soaring harmonies in our grand ballroom once again as they present their program 'Among the Branches'.

This year is a very special one for the Festival of Voices, as it celebrates 20 years of bringing Tasmanians together through song in deep midwinter.

Once again, organisers have put together a magnificent mix of concerts, workshops, pop-ups and community events right across Tasmania.¹ There is something for everyone to enjoy.

¹ [Festival of Voices 2025 Program](#), accessed 20 June 2025

In this anniversary year, and on behalf of all Tasmanians, may I commend everyone associated with our Festival of Voices. Thank you to Nadine Rowell, the General Manager, and Tim Munro, Chair of the Board, who are with us tonight.

May I congratulate Senior Choral Producer, Joan Wright, on her retirement. Thank you, Joan, for all your considerable work with the Festival over the past 20 years.

Your efforts, along with those of your colleagues, in gathering such widespread support from the community and musicians around the world, are a testament to the power of singing to bring people together.

Thank you.

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