

**RECEPTION FOR THE SING FOR YOUR LIFE! CHOIR  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026**

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome all members and supporters of the Sing For Your Life! Choir to Government House.

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.

It is a pleasure to host you, so we can wish you well for your trip to Ireland. In just over two weeks, you will be at the Cork International Choral Festival – your third time attending this prestigious event and performing in a range of formal and informal settings, including at the grand Cork City Hall and in fun pop-ups across the city.<sup>1</sup>

In Ireland you will be ambassadors not only for Tasmania, but also the rest of our country, as the only choir from Australia attending the Festival this year.<sup>2</sup>

How wonderful that a community choir from our island will be heading to another island on the other side of the world to share in the joy of singing!

Singing with a choir not only creates beautiful music, it also provides tangible health benefits.

Importantly, researchers have found that group singing improves mental health and wellbeing while also helping to forge social bonds.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Information supplied by Jane Christie-Johnston to SMCA, 27 March 2026

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> [Group singing fosters mental health and wellbeing](#), Mental Health and Social Inclusion Vol 15 Issue 2, accessed 31 March 2026

May I wish you well for your upcoming performances on the Emerald Isle. I commend the dedication of your musical director, Jane Christie-Johnston, and thank all your supporters.

We look forward to hearing some of your repertoire shortly. As they say in the performing arts – chookas to all!

David ...