

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Ein deutsches Requiem

THE STAR CHORALE AND ORCHESTRA



MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

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Dr Kathleen McGuire, Music Director

Shauntai Batzke, Soprano

Lucas de Jong, Baritone

Sunday 30 July 2017

Melbourne Recital Centre, Southbank

Ein deutsches Requiem

A German Requiem, to Words of the Holy Scripture, Op. 45 [1865 – 1868], by Johannes Brahms [1833 – 1897]

Brahms' largest work, which he commenced writing at the age of 32, was intended for concert performance rather than inclusion in church services. His mother died in February 1865, so it reasonable to assume his loss and grieving inspired the Requiem.

Departing from the traditional Roman Catholic requiem Mass text in Latin, Brahms instead sets music to German text (hence the title of the work), with words derived from the German Luther Bible. His interpretation is humanistic, focused upon the living rather than the dead and filled with promise rather than despair: "Blessed are they that bear suffering, because they shall be comforted." Indeed, Brahms said he would gladly have called the work *Ein menschliches Requiem* ["A Human Requiem"].

The seven movements create an emotional arch not unlike the five stages of grief posited by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross in 1969. Movements I – III deal with the struggle of acceptance; movement IV, a joyous cornerstone, recognises the departed souls in God's "dwelling place"; movements V – VII represent reconciliation with and victory over death.

Brahms died 120 years ago, yet his music and humanistic themes remain highly relevant. You are encouraged to follow along with the literal translation of the text – provided by Star Chorale's own Hannah Goller – and perhaps consider someone you have lost. Allow the music and the words to bring you solace: "Yes, the spirit speaks, that they shall rest from their labours, because their works follow after them."

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Dr Kathleen McGuire

Music Director



With an exceptional career spanning more than three decades as a conductor, composer and educator in six countries, Melbourne-born Dr McGuire commenced her leadership of Star Chorale in 2017.

Leading orchestras and choirs, as well as opera, musical theatre and ballet productions, she has conducted at such renowned venues as Melbourne Recital Centre, Sydney Opera House,

the Kennedy Centre and Carnegie Hall. Studying with and receiving mentoring from some of the world's finest conductors, her qualifications include: B.Mus (Melbourne Conservatorium of Music), Diploma of Arts in Music (Victorian College of the Arts), GradDipEd (Monash University), M.Mus with Distinction (University of Surrey, UK), Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting (University of Colorado, USA).

Kathleen has devoted much of her career advocating for social justice causes, for which she has received acclaim including San Francisco mayors Gavin Newsom and Edwin Lee each designating "Kathleen McGuire Day" (2010 and 2013) on behalf of the City. In 2017 she received the inaugural University of Surrey's Vice Chancellor Alumni Achievement Award.

Returning permanently to Australia in 2013 after 19 years abroad, Kathleen is now Music Director of both the Star Chorale and the Tudor Choristers, teaches music at Brunswick Secondary College and the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, and lectures at Australian Catholic University in the Faculty of Education and Arts. Her compositions — published by Wirripang, Shawnee Press and Tresona Music — are performed widely and she appears frequently as a guest conductor and presenter at festivals and conferences.

Shauntai Batzke

Soprano



Wiradjuri soprano Shauntai Batzke is touching the hearts of Australian and overseas audiences with her strong stage presence and luscious voice. In September 2016, Shauntai made her Sydney Opera House debut in the role of Old Alice in Short Black Opera's fifth season of acclaimed opera *Pecan Summer* by Deborah Cheetham AO. The Sydney Opera House performance—which is now an SBS film—resulted in two BroadwayWorld Australia-Sydney Award

nominations for Shauntai as Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress in an Opera.

Shauntai is a developing artist with Short Black Opera Company, Australia's national Indigenous opera company. She was the proud recipient of the 2014 and 2015 Harold Blair Scholarship with the Melba Opera Trust after and whilst completing a B.Mus degree at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne. In July 2015, Shauntai had the privilege of singing at the inauguration of the new Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, at Government House in Melbourne.

Shauntai participated in Canto De Las Americas vocal workshops at the Belle Arti Center for the Arts, New York. After intensive training with industry leaders from The Metropolitan Opera, Shauntai performed at the Steinway & Sons showroom, New York. In 2016 Shauntai was invited back to Belle Arti Center for the Arts for further training and is planning another return in 2017 to work with Belle Arti and Veronica Villaroel, Lucy Arner, Fransisco Casanova and Simon Saad and the Queens Symphony Orchestra.

Shauntai has participated in master classes and has received coaching with some of the world's greatest international maestros, repetiteurs, directors and singers. She has appeared in

The Beginning of Nature at WOMADelaide 2016 with Australian Dance Theatre; *RICERCAR*, Present Tense Ensemble; *Fidelio*, Melbourne Opera; *Showboat*, The Production Company; *Corrugation Road*, Black Swan Theatre. Shauntai is also an established inspirational and gospel singer/songwriter, appearing regularly on Wesley Impact TV, Channel 9 & ACC Foxtel. In 2012, Shauntai was featured in Archie Roach's album and in the official video clip of "Song to Sing". In 2017 she recorded on Bart Willoughby's upcoming album. Shauntai is thrilled to be making her Melbourne Recital solo debut today with Star Chorale and Lucas de Jong under the baton of maestro Kathleen McGuire.

Lucas de Jong

Baritone

Lucas de Jong studied at the Melba Conservatorium, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne University and at the National Opera Studio, London.

He has performed with leading international companies including Opera Australia, Victoria State Opera, appeared as Count Almaviva in *The Marriage Of Figaro* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera



and for Welsh National Opera, as Morales in *Carmen* for the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, sung the title role in *Don Giovanni* for Opera Atelier in Toronto and in *Eugene Onegin* for Holland Park Opera and appeared as Marcello in *La Boheme*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, Escamillo in *Carmen* and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*; all for European Chamber Opera.

Performances in recent years for Opera Australia include Zurga in *The Pearlfishers* in The Domain in Sydney and in the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne, Sharpless in *Tosca*, Silvio in *I Pagliacci*, Escamillo in *Carmen* and St. Brioche in *The Merry Widow*.

Lucas also appeared as Valentin in *Faust* for WA Opera and Ping in *Turandot* for Opera Qld.

His concert engagements include Brahms' Requiem for the London Oriana Choir, Mozart's Mass In C, Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and *Carmina Burana* for the Melbourne Chorale.

The Star Chorale

Sopranos:

Jacqueline Brockbank, Heather Clarke, Joy Darbyshire, Jo de Carteret, Adrienne Ellis, Kim Foo, Amanda Galt, Roza Ganser, Helen Gibbins, Hannah Goller, Roswitha Horgan, Susan Hurley, Louise James, Melissa Karakaltsas, Margaret Mayers, Vicki McLachlan, Barbara McLaughlin, Megan McLaughlin, Liz McLeish, Joan McMeeken, Lyn Miller, Colleen Mosley, Jackie O'Neal, Anita Panayiotou, Veida Paul, Nancy Pizzi, Jacinth Powell, Carol Pullar, Maren Rawlings, Audrie Sexton, Anny Shaw, Sue Thomas, Barbara Tippett, Jillian Thorpe

Altos:

Fiona Beale, Peta Begum, Kim Cahill, Liz Clarke, Jane de Chantal Ward, Margaret de Paiva, Judy Downie, Sally Draper, Rosemary Elgani, Heather Evans, Robyn Fraser, Janet Hall, Angela Harris, Samantha Hills, Elaine Hobbs, Trish Johnson, Tracey Kelly, Laura Kininmonth, Bronwen Lane, Rosemary Leslie, Roseanne Loh, Janet Matthew, Ann Matthews, Fiona Matthews, Jo Metcalf, Clare Morton, Renuka Potter, Judy Prowse, Jennifer Richardson, Jill Sanguinetti, Margaret Sherburn, Deidre Smith, Samantha Szeredi, Dianne Vale, Nell White, Suzanne Whyte, Barbara Williams

Tenors:

Abe Ata, Alan Bailey, David Bevan, Denis Bittisnich, Peter Blackwood, Chris Davie, Houston Dunleavy, Helen Funston, Richard Hedding, Peter Hutchinson, Clive Kings, Julian de Kretser, David Mason, John McCallum, Reg Polson, Ross Walker, Peter Weiss, Michael Wishaw, Robert Wright

Basses:

Richard Ballantyne, Sidney Bloch, Colin Burrows, Jeff Castles, David Cotterill, Lindsay Cracknell, Christopher Ellis, David Grigg, Tom Lane, Darrell Nam, Tony Parsons, Joshua Perrin, Bill Potter, Andrew Rawlings, Tony Reitwyk, Keith Robertson, Colin Robertson, Rohitha Rupesinghe, Peter Saville, Vic Say, Laurance Splitter, Peter Watson

Orchestra

Violin 1: Edwina Kayser (Concert Master), Loretta Meagher, Emma Rodda, Moira Yffer, Chantal Roddy

Violin 2: Meredith Kolos, Sophie Dunn, Keli Chow, Peter Samsonidis, Andrew Cook

Viola: Peter Neustupny, Rosalind Burns, Rosia Pasteur, Daniel Neumann

Cello: Megan Smithies, Rosemary Ingram, Christine Vincent

Double Bass: Ivan Sultanov, Patrick Lyons

Oboe: Bob Millar, Felicity Hardiman

Clarinet: David Laity, Chris Ondaatje

Bassoon: Linda Pearson, Sara Rafferton

Flute: Barbara Kerr, Samantha Cooke, Anne Rose

French Horn: Cate Waugh, Stuart McGregor, Mark Papworth, Laura Clisby

Trumpet: Robert Harry, Amber Lomanowicz

Trombone: Steven Jones, John Marks, Kiran Samuel

Timpani: Ben Dickson

Tuba: Per Forsberg

Harp: Katia Mestrovic

Program

I

Choir

Selig sind, die da Leid tragen

Blessed are they, who bear suffering

II

Choir

Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras

Because all flesh, it is like grass

III

Baritone and Choir

Herr, lehre doch mich daß ein Ende mit mir haben muß

Lord, so teach me, that I must have an end

IV

Choir

Wie lieblich sind Deine Wohnungen, Herr Zebaoth

How lovely are your dwelling places, Lord of Hosts

Program

V

Soprano

Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit

You now have sadness

Choir

Ich will euch trösten, wie einen seine Mutter tröstet

I want to comfort you, as one will be comforted by his mother

VI

Choir

Denn wir haben hie keine bleibende Statt

Because we have here no resting place

Baritone

Siehe, ich sage Euch ein Geheimnis

See, I tell you a mystery

VII

Choir

Selig sind die Toten die in dem Herrn sterben

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

Lyrics

Many thanks to chorister Hannah Goller for this line-by-line literal translation from German into English.

Ein Deutsches Requiem

nach Worten der heiligen Schrift

I.

Selig sind, die da Leid tragen,
denn sie sollen getröstet werden.
—*Matthäus 5:4*

Die mit Tränen säen,
werden mit Freuden ernten.
Sie gehen hin und weinen
und tragen edlen Samen,
und kommen mit Freuden
und bringen ihre Garben.
—*Psalms 126: 5,6.*

II.

Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras
und alle Herrlichkeit des Menschen
wie des Grases Blumen.
Das Gras ist verdorret
und die Blume abgefallen.
—*1. Petrus 1, 24*

So seid nun geduldig, liebe Brüder,
bis auf die Zukunft des Herrn.
Siehe, ein Ackermann wartet
auf die köstliche Frucht der Erde
und ist geduldig darüber,
bis er empfahe [empfangen]
den Morgenregen
und Abendregen.
So seid geduldig.
—*Jakobus 5:7*

A German Requiem

according to the words of holy scripture

Blessed are they, who bear suffering,
because they shall be comforted.
—*Matthew 5:4*

They who sow in tears
Will harvest with joy.
They go away and cry
and carry precious seeds
and come with joy
and bring their sheaves
—*Psalms 126: 5,6*

Because all flesh, it is like grass
and all magnificence of humans
like the flowers of the grass.
The grass is withered
and the flowers have fallen.
—*1 Peter 1,24*

So be now patient, dear brothers,
till the future arrival of the Lord.
See a field worker waits
for the delicious fruit of the earth
and is patient about it
until he receives
the morning rain
and evening rain.
So be patient.
—*James 5:7*

Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras
und alle Herrlichkeit des Menschen
wie des Grases Blumen.
Das Gras ist verdorret
und die Blume abgefallen.

Because all flesh, it is like grass
and all magnificence of humans
like the flowers of the grass.
The grass is withered
and the flowers have fallen.

Aber des Herrn Wort bleibt
in Ewigkeit.
—1. Petrus 1: 24. 25

But the Lord's word remains
in eternity.
—1. Peter 1: 24. 25

Die Erlöseten des Herrn werden wieder-
kommen und gen Zion kommen mit
Jauchzen; - Freude, ewige Freude,
wird über ihrem Haupte sein;
Freude und Wonne
werden sie ergreifen,
und Schmerz und Seufzen wird
weg müssen.
—Jesaja 35: 10

The redeemed of the Lord will return
again and come towards Zion
rejoicing; - joy, eternal joy
will be upon their heads;
Joy and gladness
will take hold of them
and pain and sighing will
have to go away.
—Isiah 35: 10

III.

Herr, lehre doch mich,
daß ein Ende mit mir haben muß.
und mein Leben ein Ziel hat,
und ich davon muß.
Siehe, meine Tage sind
einer Hand breit vor Dir,
und mein Leben ist wie nichts vor Dir.

Lord, so teach me,
That I must have an end.
and my life has a destination
and I must perish.
See, my days are
only a hand width for you,
and my life is like nothing to you.

Ach wie gar nichts sind alle Menschen,
die doch so sicher leben.
Sie gehen daher wie ein Schemen
und machen ihnen viel
vergebliche Unruhe;
sie sammeln und wissen nicht,
wer es kriegen wird.
Nun Herr, wes soll ich mich trösten?

Oh, like nothing are all human beings,
who live so protected.
They go around like shadows
and make a lot of
useless anxiety;
They gather and don't know
who will receive it.
Now Lord, what shall comfort me?

Ich hoffe auf Dich
—Psalm 39: 5-8

My hope is in you.
—Psalm 39: 5-8

Der Gerechten Seelen sind
in Gottes Hand
und keine Qual rühret sie an.
—*Weisheit Salomos 3:1*

The righteous souls are
in God's hands
And no torment touches them.
—*Wisdom of Solomon 3:1*

IV.

Wie lieblich sind Deine Wohnungen,
Herr Zebaoth!
Meine Seele verlangt und sehnet sich
nach den Vorhöfen des Herrn;
Mein Leib und Seele freuen sich
in dem lebendigen Gott.
Wohl denen,
die in Deinem Hause wohnen,
die loben Dich immerdar.
—*Psalms 84:2.3.5*

How lovely are your dwelling places,
Lord of Hosts!
My soul desires and is longing
for the forecourts of the Lord;
my body and soul are rejoicing
for the living god.
Well to those,
who live within your house,
they praise you for evermore.
—*Psalms 84:2.3.5*

V.

Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit;
aber ich will euch wiedersehen,
und euer Herz soll sich freuen,
und eure Freude soll
niemand von euch nehmen
—*Johannes 16 22*

You have now sadness;
but I want to see you again,
and your heart shall be joyful,
and your joy
nobody shall take away from you.
—*John 16:22*

Ich will euch trösten,
wie einen seine Mutter tröstet.
—*Jesaja 66:13*

I want to comfort you,
as one will be comforted by his mother.
—*Isiah 66:13*

Sehet mich an:
Ich habe eine kleine Zeit
Mühe und Arbeit gehabt
und habe großen Trost [ge]funden.
—*Jesus Sirach 51:35*

Look at me:
I have had a little time
trouble and labour
and I have found great comfort.
—*Ecclesiastes 51:35*

VI.

Denn wir haben hie,
keine bleibende Statt
sondern die zukünftige suchen wir.
—*Hebräer 13:14*

Because we have here,
no resting place
But for the future place we search.
—*Hebrews 13:14*

Siehe, ich sage Euch ein Geheimnis:
Wir werden nicht alle entschlafen,
wir werden aber alle;
verwandelt werden
und dasselbige plötzlich,
in einem Augenblick
zu der Zeit der letzten Posaune.

Denn es wird die Posaune schallen
und die Toten werden auferstehen
unverweslich;
und wir werden verwandelt werden.
Dann wird erfüllet werden das Wort,
das geschrieben steht.
Der Tod ist verschlungen in den Sieg.
Tod, wo ist dein Stachel?
Hölle, wo ist dein Sieg?
—1 Korinther 15:51,52,54,55.

Herr, Du bist würdig
zu nehmen Preis und Ehre und Kraft,
denn Du hast alle Dinge erschaffen,
und durch Deinen Willen haben sie
das Wesen und sind geschaffen.
—Offenbarung Johannis 4:11

VII.

Selig sind die Toten,
die in dem Herren sterben,
von nun an.
Ja, der Geist spricht,
daß sie ruhen von ihrer Arbeit;
denn ihre Werke folgen ihnen nach.
—Johannis 14:13

See, I tell you a mystery:
Not all of us will pass away,
but we all
will be transformed
and this,
in a sudden moment
at the time of the last trombone.

Because the trombone will resound
and the dead will rise again
incorruptible;
And we will be transformed.
Then the word will be fulfilled,
that is written.
Death is swallowed by victory.
Death, where is your sting?
Hell, where is your victory?
—1 Corinthians 15:51,52,54,55.

Lord, you are worthy
to take praise and honour and might,
because you have created all things,
and through your will they have
their being and are created
—Revelation 4:11

Blessed are the dead,
who die in the Lord,
From now on.
Yes, the spirit speaks,
that they shall rest from their labours;
Because their works follow after them.
—John 14:13

About the Choir



StarChorale

Founded in 2000 by Jane Elton Brown OAM, the choir was named Star Chorale in 2004. It is a Melbourne-based community choir dedicated to continuing and enhancing a tradition of excellence in the performance of choral music. The choir comprises, but is not limited to, former students, staff members and families of students or friends of MLC (Methodist Ladies' College) in Kew, Victoria. Since the choir's first performance it has delighted audiences with many performances of significant choral works. For more details, please visit our website at starchorale.org.

The Star Chorale welcomes new members. We do not hold auditions, but the ability to hold a tune is essential, and the ability to read music is highly desirable. We present three concerts annually, including a major work mid-year. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at MLC.

If you would like to join the Choir, please visit starchorale.org/membership.

Future Events

Our next performance will be the Christmas Concert in December 2017, featuring John Rutter's beautiful Magnificat as well as traditional carols.

Please visit our website at www.starchorale.org, "like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on LinkedIn for details of forthcoming events, or contact secretary@starchorale.org to be included in our email list.

The Star Chorale Committee

Dianne Vale (President), Suzanne Locadou-Wells (Vice-President), Christopher Davie (Secretary), Alan Bailey (Treasurer), Dr. Jeff Castles, Robyn Fraser, David Grigg, Jill Sanguinetti, Jennifer Stengards.

Life Members of the Star Chorale

Leonie Thompson

Judy Downie

Jane Elton Brown OAM

The Star Chorale wishes to acknowledge its exceptional founder and leader, Jane Elton Brown OAM, whose passion and ethos shaped the choir it is today. Her drive for excellence, profound musical knowledge and attention to detail created The Star Chorale's reputation as one of Melbourne's leading choirs.

The choir owes its very existence to Jane's commitment to authenticity in performance. In 1991, as MLC Music Director, she recruited students' fathers and brothers and created the MLC Male Voice Choir. That way "her" girls could perform choral works such as Handel's "Messiah", which requires male voices.

That male voice choir amalgamated with the MLC Old Collegians Choir in 2000, forming a choir with a name almost too long to put on a poster. By 2004 it was known as "The Star Chorale".

Jane Elton Brown remains the most memorable of teachers, regularly inspiring singers to master choral works they had barely heard of previously and singing them to exacting performance standards. Since leaving Star Chorale in 2016, she continues to inspire in her work directing and conducting the Glen Eira City Choir.

The members of The Star Chorale wish to record their gratitude to their former Music Director for her dynamic leadership in the sixteen years of musical pleasure shared with her.

Acknowledgements

The choir extends its heartfelt gratitude to:

- our music director Dr Kathleen McGuire;
- rehearsal pianist Sue Goessling;
- soloists Shauntai Batzke and Lucas de Jong;
- Methodist Ladies' College;
- the staff of the Melbourne Recital Centre;
- Marshall White & Co, Woodward's and Noel Jones real-estate agencies for publicity boards, and those who kindly agreed for boards to be erected on their property;
- Jennifer Stengards for the wonderful job she did in putting together the orchestra;
- our choir librarian Lyn Miller;
- Angela Harris for her hard work publicising the concert, providing concert day sustenance for the Music Director and soloists (and for the wonderful cakes and slices she prepares!);
- Elaine Hobbs for her tireless efforts in providing choir refreshments each week.
- Samantha Szeredi for help with organising real-estate boards;
- Hannah Goller for her help with German pronunciation, for the literal translation of the lyrics and for publicity among the German community of Melbourne;
- David Grigg for technical assistance with our website and TeamApp, and for the design and production of publicity materials;
- Melissa Karakaltsas for leading sectional rehearsals;
- part leaders: Megan McLaughlin, Roseanne Loh, John McCallum, Lindsay Cracknell;
- the many choir members who make a special contribution to our enjoyment, well-being and presentation;
- all the volunteers assisting at the concert.

The cover photo is of a statue in the cemetery at Engesohde, Hannover, Germany, taken by x1klima on Flickr.

Please visit our website:
www.starchorale.org