



Media Release

William Barton to premiere his Sacred Song With The Queensland Choir

- William Barton has composed *Sacred Song* for The Queensland Choir – the State choir – to premiere at QPAC on June 4 – **his birthday**. To follow, The Queensland Choir will stage another Australian premiere when it performs *Missa Pacifica* by David Hamilton – a New Zealand composer.
- The event will see close to 400 musicians on stage in the Concert Hall of QPAC: William Barton, The 100 + voices of the State choir, Soprano Amy Wilkinson, Alto Georgia Hawes, approximately 300 school choristers from Queensland State and Independent Secondary schools and a 35 piece orchestra.

William says, “The aboriginal text is based on that of my own, the Kalkadunga language of the Mount Isa region - the piece is based a song I wrote when I was 15 years old and is about the passing of knowledge around the campfire in the night from the elders to the younger generation. You will find that there are some repeated phrases in some parts, what I am doing is imitating the rhythms of the didgeridoo for the voice I will then interact with the didgeridoo around these set rhythms.

There is another version of my language song for string quartet, didgeridoo and solo voice which I composed last year. The piece was recorded and performed live in Italy with an Italian string quartet along with my mother improvising and my Irish soprano friend Suzanne Savage during my residency with Fabrica in Treviso.

- Kevin Power OAM (Music Director, The Queensland Choir) says, “the choir has been enjoying rehearsing both William Barton’s and David Hamilton’s compositions. The combination of both makes for a perfect event”. Power also notes that it is not often that choristers are able to work with the composers of their performance pieces and this is one of those very rare occasions.
- The Queensland Choir (formerly Queensland State & Municipal Choir) – is Queensland’s State choir (established in 1872). Every year, The Queensland Choir builds at least one major performance into its Education Program. This gives music students across the State the opportunity to work with professionals from around the world and to perform great works in the company of others who share their passion for singing. This year, David Hamilton will go into schools and workshop with the participating students and their teachers before the performance. In the recent past other performances that have been a part of The Queensland Choir’s Education Program have included: Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana* , David Fanshawe’s *African Sanctus*, and Scott Joplin’s *Treemonisha* .

- 2 Performances – Brisbane and Ipswich

Brisbane

Date	- 2pm Sunday June 4, 2006
Venue	- Concert Hall, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, South Bank
Cost	- \$40 A Res, \$35 B Res, \$30 Con (booking fee applies)
Bookings	- QTIX on 136 246 or www.qtix.com.au

Ipswich

Date	- 7.30pm Saturday June 17, 2006
Venue	- Ipswich Civic Hall, Cnr Limestone & Nicholas Sts, Ipswich
Cost	- \$30 Adults, \$27 Concessions, \$20 Children (booking fee included)
Bookings	- 3810 6699 – Ipswich Civic Hall



For further information or to arrange interviews with performers please contact:

William Barton - composer / didgeridoo artist | E: barton@atwone.com | T: 0413 935549

David Hamilton - composer E: david@dbhmusic.co.nz | T: +64 9 638 9226 | F: +64 9 623 2053
(will be in Australia between 27 May and 4 June) - contactable through The Queensland Choir

Kevin Power OAM - Music Director | E: musicaldirector@qldchoir.com | T: 07 3852 1059 or 0408 079 088

Amy Wilkinson - Soprano | alw77@hotmail.com 3396 4942 or (0423) 376 531

Georgia Hawes – Alto | Tel: 3862 7339 or (0402) 637 509 | georgiahawes@hotmail.com

Emma Di Muzio - General Manager, The Queensland Choir | 0413 223977 or 3895 8188

Additional information follows...

William Barton

William Barton is widely recognized as one of Australia's finest traditional didgeridoo players and a leading didgeridoo player in the classical world after growing up surrounded by many forms of Indigenous and contemporary music. He is also a teacher, and composer for the instrument committed to enhancing the instrument's profile to a wider classical audience and other music genres. William has appeared at music festivals around the world and with symphony orchestras. He has also recorded a number of orchestral works. He has worked with many artists and orchestras/chamber groups including: The Phoenix Symphony Orchestra 2004, Australian Chamber Orchestra 2003, Tommy Emmanuel 2000, James Judd and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra 2003, The Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra 2000, *Maestro Werner Andreas Albert and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra*.

In 2005/2006 William will be collaboratively working with orchestras, choral Directors and composers in Australia, America and Europe developing new commissions for the didgeridoo and creating a strong and positive sustainable future for the instrument and Australia's Cultural Heritage. www.williambarton.com.au

Missa Pacifica

- "Missa Pacifica" was commissioned by Auckland Choral to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2005.
- It premiered in N.Z. on November 6th, 2005.
- It will receive two performances by the Queensland Choir, on June 4th 2006 in Brisbane, and on 17th June, 2006 in Ipswich.
- The performances will feature two different groups of school choirs.
- "Missa Pacifica" is also scheduled to be performed in Dunedin in October, 2006.
- William Dart, critic for N.Z. "Herald" called the work "a triumph of innovation and vibrancy"

The Queensland Choir (concert chorus)

The Queensland Choir, with a history that dates back to 1872 when it began as 'The Brisbane Musical Union' is more than just Queensland's premier choir, it is one of a handful of great choirs in Australia. Known also in its recent past as 'The Queensland State and Municipal Choir' the choir has led the development of choral performances in this State for more than a century.

The Queensland Choir, including its Chamber Choir, presents its own annual series of concerts to an audience of thousands at venues in Brisbane and surrounding areas. The choir's repertoire ranges from standard choral classics and opera choruses to musical comedy choruses and rarely performed works. Highlights throughout the choir's history include performances at the Federation of Australia, State and Royal visits, commemoration ceremonies of wars and peace, Brisbane Festival, Queensland Music Festival, the opening of the Brisbane City Hall, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, and the Brisbane Casino.

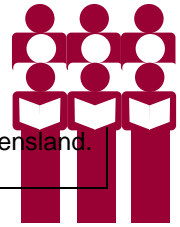
Over 100 volunteer choristers audition every year to be part of the choir that brings people, of diverse ages and cultural backgrounds, together to sing. Under the direction of Kevin Power OAM, one of Australia's most eminent musicians and outstanding chorus masters, The Queensland Choir works to

Statement to the Media

Subject: William Barton to premiere *Sacred Song* with The Queensland Choir on Sunday 4 June
20 May 2006

For Immediate Release

professional standards to bring world class choral performances to the State of Queensland.
www.qldchoir.com



Kevin Power OAM (concert conductor)

Kevin Power is one of Australia's most eminent musicians and outstanding chorus masters. He began his musical career with a scholarship to the Queensland Conservatorium of Music where he studied piano under the celebrated Australian pianist Nancy Weir. In 1973 (to 1978), Kevin moved to London to further his piano studies with the Swiss pianist Albert Ferber, and chamber music studies with Walter Gerhardt. Kevin Power has been associated with The Queensland Choir since 1970 when he first became the choir's accompanist. On his return to Australia in 1979, he resumed this role whilst teaching at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music (1979 to 1995). In 1981, Kevin was invited to become Chorus Master. In this position, he has prepared the choir for all of its performances. He has also conducted the choir for major performances including Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, Handel's *Israel in Egypt* and *Messiah*, the Requiems of Mozart and Fauré, Haydn's *Missa in Tempore Belli* and *Te Deum*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

Kevin has had a long and active involvement with community music organisations in Queensland and has been State President of the Music Teachers' Association of Queensland (1982-1987), President of the Bach Society of Queensland (1983-1986), President of the Accompanists' Guild of Queensland (1993-1996) and Vice-President of the Haydn Society of Queensland (1981).

Kevin Power is an acclaimed accompanist and chamber musician and is a member of the highly successful chamber group Southern Cross Soloists, which maintains a busy schedule of appearances in Australia and internationally. He has performed in many parts of the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. In Australia Kevin has frequently appeared as soloist with The Queensland Orchestra (and its predecessors - the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra), given many broadcasts for the ABC as solo pianist, accompanist and chamber musician, and performed many solo and chamber recitals.

In 1996 Kevin was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his services to choral music.

David Hamilton (composer – *Missa Pacifica*)

Born 1955 in Napier (New Zealand), with most schooling in Taupo. Attended Auckland University 1974-1979, gaining Master of Music (1st class honours) and Bachelor of Arts degrees. Principal composition teachers were Douglas Mews and John Rimmer. Attended Auckland Teachers College in 1980, and joined the staff of Epsom Girls Grammar School the following year - appointed Head of Music in 1986. There is also extensive involvement nationally with music education including prescription writing, moderation, and as a member of the Music expert panel guiding the implementation of the new National Certificate in Educational Achievement. Currently Deputy Musical Director of Auckland Choral Society. Appointed as Composer-in-Residence with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra for 1999, with leave from school extended through 2000 to pursue a number of composition projects. Returned to full-time teaching in 2001, resigning at the end of the year to devote more time to composition while maintaining active involvement in music education on a part-time basis. Continued as conductor of the highly regarded girls choir 'Opus' from Epsom Girls Grammar School until the end of 2003. Now working part-time as a composition tutor in several Auckland schools.

Early recognition as a composer came through winning three national competitions in 1978, and another in 1979. Winner of Wellington Youth Orchestra's composers competition twice (1978 and 1981), and Dunedin Sinfonia's competition (1987). Recent awards include first prize in the 2000 choral composition competition organised by the University of Bologna (Italy), first prize in the 2003 orchestral composition competition organised by New Zealand's New Plymouth Orchestra, and first prize in the NUVOVOX Choral Award in the USA in 2005 for "Deus, Deus Meus",

Works have been commissioned by most major New Zealand groups including Radio New Zealand, NZ Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Choral Society, Chamber Music NZ, the NZ Youth Choir, and the Auckland Philharmonia. Works are increasingly being performed outside New Zealand, with recent performances in Melbourne and Canberra (Australia), Vancouver and Banff (Canada), Seattle (USA), Manchester (England),

Statement to the Media

Subject: William Barton to premiere *Sacred Song* with The Queensland Choir on Sunday 4 June
20 May 2006

For Immediate Release

and Galway (Ireland).



There is a particular affinity for choral music, with well over a hundred works for this medium, many of which are widely and regularly performed throughout New Zealand. In late 1991 a CD of a dozen choral works was released under the title "Noises, Sounds and Sweet Airs" (performed by Auckland choir Viva Voce). A substantial number of choral works have been published in Finland by SULASOL, and in the USA by Colla Voce Music, Walton Music, Neil Kjos Music, BriLee Music and earthsongs, with works recorded in North America, Ireland and Finland. Current major influences are from the contemporary American scene: especially the minimalist composers (Glass, Reich, Adams, Torke etc).

Amy Wilkinson (soprano soloist)

A resident of Brisbane since her childhood, Amy Wilkinson was born in Fremantle, Western Australia. Having begun vocal training while still in her teens she currently studies with Dr. Margreta Elkins in Brisbane as well as with Ruth Falcon in New York and Professor Soutrios Papulkas in Germany. Last year she graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree. In her second year of studies, she was awarded the Sir Mostyn Hanger Opera Scholarship and earned a High Distinction Award for her performance in the title role of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. Other roles undertaken during her studies include Frasquita in *Carmen* and Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Earlier she had performed Rose in *Ruddigore*, Elsie in *The Yeomen of the Guard* and Yum-Yum in *The Mikado* for Queensland Musical Theatre.

Amy Wilkinson has participated in Master Classes with several distinguished teachers including Sarah Walker (at the Australian National Academy of Music), Sir Donald McIntyre, Graham Pushee and Jeffrey Black (at the University of Queensland). She has also undertaken courses in French and Italian at the University of Queensland and in German at the Moreton Institute.

As a Young Artist with Opera Queensland in 2003, she appeared as soloist in a variety of concert programmes including *Opera in the Rainforest*, *Music Beneath the Stars* and *Moonlight and Mozart and the Movies*. A highlight of 2003 was a Proms concert with The Queensland Orchestra under the baton of Michael Christie. She has also performed two recitals for 4MBS - Jane Austin: *The Music of her Time* and a Schubertiade in their Festival of Classics series. Other appearances include a concert with the Australian Army Band - *Music at Midday* and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

In 2004 Amy Wilkinson made her role debut as Pamina in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music as part of the Brisbane Festival. In that year she was also awarded the Brisbane Club Award, was a finalist in the McDonald's Aria competition, a finalist in the MBS Young Performers Award and she won the recording prize of the Australian Singing Competition.

As a result of winning the much coveted Metropolitan Opera Auditions Award at the Sydney Opera House in 2004, she has recently completed 3 months of study at the Metropolitan Opera, New York. She recently played the role of Barbarina in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* for Opera Queensland and is currently working for Opera Queensland.

Georgia Hawes (alto soloist)

Georgia Hawes completed her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance with First Class Honours at The Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 2003. She has been a member of the Opera Queensland Chorus for the past three years and has performed in their productions of *The Damnation of Faust*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Opera Under The Stars*, *Andrea Chénier*, Verdi's *Requiem*, *Tosca*, *The Creation*, *Carmen* and *Un Ballo in Maschera*. In 2003 she performed the role of Ino for the Queensland Conservatorium's production of Handel's *Semele* and was a feature artist at their Opera Fundraising Dinner.

As a soloist Georgia has performed for The World Rotary Convention, The American Chamber of Commerce Forum, "Opera Showcase" in conjunction with Opera Queensland, The Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra and in an extensive range of recitals and concerts, including the role of Maddalena in "Opera in the Park" (May 2003) and the mezzo soprano solos in Haydn's *Harmoniemesse* (April 2003), Bach's *St John's Passion* (April 2004), Bach's *Magnificat* (Bangalow Festival, August 2004), Mozart's *Coronation Mass* (September 2004), Vivaldi's *Gloria* (November 2004) and Handel's *Messiah* (December 2004).

p: +61 - 7 - 3895 8188 f: +61 - 7 - 3895 8199 e: enquiries@qldchoir.com w: <http://www.qldchoir.com>

Level 2, The Gabba Towers | 411 Vulture Street Woolloongabba | Qld 4102

Statement to the Media

Subject: William Barton to premiere *Sacred Song* with The Queensland Choir on Sunday 4 June
20 May 2006

For Immediate Release



In 2004 she was one of Opera Queensland's Developing Artists and she made her professional role debut as Idamante in the Auckland Opera Studio's production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*. She also performed in a concert at the Brisbane Masonic Lodge to benefit the Leukemia foundation with internationally renowned artists Lisa Gasteen, Leanne Kenneally and Jeffrey Black. She was a semi finalist in the Australian Singing Competition's 2004 Mathy Awards, in which she received the Tinkler Award.

In 2005 she appeared as Mrs Herring in the Queensland Conservatorium's Production of *Albert Herring*, in Opera Queensland's production *La Boheme* and as the mezzo soloist for Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Christ*.

In the future she hopes to undertake post-graduate studies overseas and to pursue a career as an opera singer and concert/oratorio performer.

Secondary Schools (youth choir)

Brisbane Performance – 4 June

ACGS (Churchie)
Cavendish Rd SHS
Centenary SHS
Coorparoo SHS
King's Christian College - Gold Coast
Marist College Ashgrove
Moreton Bay College
The Gap SHS

Secondary Schools (youth choir)

Ipswich Performance – 17 June

Bremer SHS
Ipswich Girls' Grammar School
St Mary's College Ipswich