

Heal You

Presented in Partnership with Adelaide Festival 2025

Thursday 13 March 2025, 7.30pm

Adelaide Town Hall

ADELAIDE CHAMBER SINGERS

Conducted by Christie Anderson, Artistic Director



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge that we are meeting and making music on Kurna Country, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect First Nations' cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to Kurna people living today. We also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations people.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM



Welcome all to *Heal You*, ACS' solo contribution to the 2025 Adelaide Festival. *Heal You* emerged from our contribution as the offstage chorus in the presentation of the seminal opera *Innocence* by Kaija Saariaho.

Having an ACS performance so close to the raw and intense subject of school shootings, I wanted us to immerse ourselves in music that acknowledges every person's journey. Music about healing, nurture and simple moments in time creates a space where you can just exist, be in the sound world of each composer, on the page with each poet and lyricist.

Our responses to the darkness as well as the light reflect everything we know to be true, from the insurmountable scale of wars, violence, homelessness, our crisis in mental health, to our own personal turmoil and despair. These works and this poetry encompass both the large and the small of living and offer us a respite from the fear of not solving more, not doing more, not being more.

With prayers against violence, tyranny and homelessness with Caroline Shaw's *and the swallow* and Anna Meredith's *Heal You*, a memorial for the Paris bombings of 2015 with Jake Runestad's *Let my love be heard*, and glorious music about what life gives to us with Anne Cawrse's *Night/Light*, Stanford's *The Bluebird*, Ēriks Ešņvalds' *Only in Sleep* and an homage to our time with VOCES8, *This is where I sleep* by British Singer/Songwriter Emeli Sandé, this music is an ode to life and living.

We offer surprise, enchantment and wild dynamism. Sally Whitwell's delightfully unexpected *The Lightness of Being* and American-Hindustani composer Reena Esmail's dynamic *Tuttarana* send us to another place of unbridled joy.

We invite you to lean into the power of music and the poignancy of our most challenging and vulnerable moments. With depth, integrity and superb singing, *Heal You* invokes profound peace and transformation and we are reminded that life is unexpected and each moment precious.

PROGRAM

and the swallow

Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)

The Bluebird

Soloist: Brooke Window

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

Night/Light

Anne Cawrse (b.1981)

Abendlied

Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)

Tuttarana

Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

***now i lay
(with everywhere around)***

Joanna Marsh (b. 1970)

The Lightness of Being

Sally Whitwell (b.1974)

Heal You

Anna Meredith (b. 1978)

Only in Sleep

Soloist: Emma Borgas

Eriks Ēšvalds (b. 1977)

I Am The True Vine

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Peat Brown Hours

Juliana Kay (b.1990)

Let My Love Be Heard

Jake Runestadt (b. 1986)

Where I Sleep

Emeli Sandé (b. 1987) & Shahid Khan (b.1981)
Arranged by Geoff Lawson



ABC Classic – Broadcast Partner

ABC Classic are live broadcasting tonight's concert and it will be available to listen to for the next 30 days on the ABC Classic website.

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

and the swallow

Text: Psalm 84

How beloved is your dwelling place,
o lord of hosts,
my soul yearns, faints,
my heart and my flesh cry out.

The sparrow found a house,
and the swallow, her nest,
where she may raise her young.

They pass through the Valley of Bakka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also covers it with pools.

The Bluebird

Text: Mary Coleridge (1861–1907)

The lake lay blue below the hill
O'er it, as I looked, there flew
Across the waters, cold and still
A bird whose wings were palest blue

The sky above was blue at last
The sky beneath me blue in blue
A moment, ere the bird had passed
It caught his image as he flew

Night / Light

Text: Kate Llewellyn AM (b. 1936) and Fr Andrew M. Bullen SJ

Night is full of light.
The sun still rose and night fell.
Night is full of light.

I planted dahlia rhizomes upside down like bombs
and when they rose they'd turned around.
All flesh is fire
All flesh is fire held in time.
Night is full of light.

Abendlied

Text: Luke 24:29

Bleib bei uns,
denn es will Abend werden,
und der Tag hat sich geneiget.

Bide with us
for evening shadows darken,
and the day will soon be over.

Tuttarana

Text based on the Hindi language

The Lightness of Being

Text: Susie from Hammersmith

In two thousand and six I discovered the circus.
I started learning trapeze - I love it.
It is the lightness of being.

now i lay (with everywhere around)

Text: e. e. cummings (1894–1962)

now i lay (with everywhere around)
me (the great dim deep sound
of rain; and of always and of nowhere) and

what a gently welcoming darkestness —

now i lay me down (in a most steep
more than music) feeling that sunlight is
(life and day are) only loaned: whereas
night is given (night and death and the rain

are given; and given is how beautifully snow)

now i lay me down to dream of (nothing
i or any somebody or you
can begin to begin to imagine)

something which nobody may keep.
now i lay me down to dream of Spring

Heal You

Text: Philip Ridley (b. 1951)

come to me as if wounded
and I will bathe your face with milk
and sew your wounds with silk
and I will heal you

Only in Sleep

Text: Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

Only in sleep I see their faces,
Children I played with when I was a child,
Louise comes back with her brown hair braided,
Annie with ringlets warm and wild.

Only in sleep Time is forgotten:
What may have come to them, who can know?
Yet we played last night as long ago,
And the dollhouse stood at the turn of the stair.

The years had not sharpened their smooth round faces,
I met their eyes and found them mild.
Do they, too, dream of me, I wonder,
And for them am I too a child?

I Am The True Vine

Text: John 15:1–14

I. I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

II. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

III. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

IV. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

V. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

VI. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

VII. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

VIII. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

IX. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

X. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

XI. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

XII. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Peat Brown Hours

Text: Maria Wallace (b.1940)

Peat brown hours
turned to centuries,
toughened
your skin with the soft touch
of nature's forgatherings.
A lullaby the drip and squelch
of wet leavings,
the gossip of grasses,
the winnowing wind
and occasional bird song
rippling over you
like the deepest, final note
of a cello.
And you listening
to all that muted music,
stilled in the hold of roots,
under the brown-veined roof
of your dark sky,
hating the silent tongue
of time.

Let My Love Be Heard

Text: Alfred Noyes (1880–1958)

Angels, where you soar
Up to God's own light,
Take my own lost bird
On your hearts tonight;
And as grief once more
Mounts to heaven and sings,
Let my love be heard
Whispering in your wings.

Where I Sleep

Text: Emeli Sandé (b. 1987)

There's nowhere that I wouldn't follow,
There's nothing that I won't do for your kiss,
I love you like there's no tomorrow,
For nothing ever felt like this.

There's nothing I won't steal or borrow,
I'll travel on a boat or aeroplane,
I'll explore a world of sorrow,
For when I find you I know, I know I will be okay.

See the times are changing,
I'm sure of nothing that I know,
Except this is us, and this is love, and this is where I'm home.
In a world that's breaking, where nothing is for keeps,
Oh this is us, this is love, and this is where I sleep.

I'm from a generation undecided,
I'm restless and I can't help changing things,
But in all the noise and the excitement,
Your love is all that will remain.

I said all of my goodbyes to ego,
I gambled all I got, there's no plan B,
It's the first time that I've learned to let go,
It's the only place I feel, only place I feel like me.

See the times are changing,
I'm sure of nothing that I know,
Except this is us, and this is love, and this is where I'm home.
In a world that's breaking, where nothing is for keeps,
Oh this is us, this is love, and this is where I sleep.

CHRISTIE ANDERSON

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

A singer and award-winning conductor, Christie Anderson became the Artistic Director and Conductor of Adelaide Chamber Singers in 2022 – a choir that has been her home and heart for many years. Additionally, Christie has been Artistic Director of the youth choir school Young Adelaide Voices since 2010. She has sung, conducted and presented numerous times on the national and international stage.

At the 2022 Adelaide Festival, Christie was Musical Director and Conductor of the award-winning production, *Watershed: The Death of Dr Duncan*, with ACS, composer Joe Twist, director Neil Armfield AM, and librettists Alana Valentine and Christos Tsiolkas. In 2023, Christie was Chorus Master of *Messa da Requiem* with Zurich Ballet (Adelaide Festival), conducted Aurora's solo debut at WOMADelaide, and ACS' first *Dark Mofo* performance.

In 2024, in addition to the stunning ACS concert program, Christie has worked with and conducted the Dortmund Women's Chorus for performances of *The Pulse* at the Ruhrspielfest in Germany, and toured to the south of France for two choral festivals with Young Adelaide Voices. She was guest Artistic Director of The Song Company for their September 2024 season. Most recently, Christie was nominated for an Adelaide Critics Circle Individual Professional Award.

In 2025, she was Chorus Master and offstage conductor for the opera *Innocence* and will tour to South Korea and Dubai with Aurora and *The Pulse*. She will also celebrate 40 amazing years with ACS!

ADELAIDE CHAMBER SINGERS

SOPRANOS

Emma Borgas
Victoria Coxhill
Georgie Simmons
Imogen Tonkin
Brooke Window

TENORS

Martin Penhale
Kit Tonkin
Rhys Williams
Graham Yuile

ALTOS

Rachel Bruerville
Courtney Day
Sophie Schumacher
Emma Woehle

BASSES

Andrew Bettison
Jonathan Bligh
Aidan Foyel
Christopher Gann
Nikolai Leske



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS 1985 - 2025

Adelaide Chamber Singers (ACS) is widely respected as Australia's finest chamber choir – the embodiment of the art of choral chamber singing. Founded in 1985, ACS have been passionate and innovative contributors to music-making for 40 years.

Led by Artistic Director Christie Anderson, the ensemble's membership is drawn from amongst Adelaide's best and most experienced ensemble singers, many of whom are also conductors, soloists, teachers and independent artists.

Since the beginning, ACS has existed to showcase the highest order of musical interpretation, to transport our audiences to new heights, and to challenge the very boundaries of what choral music can be. Our combined voices echo the majesty of the great cathedrals and concert halls of the world, but our sound and our soul is proudly grounded in the intimacy and warmth of our home city of Adelaide.

ACS have been honoured by a number of awards including an Arts South Australia Ruby Award for "sustained contribution by an organisation" (2011), and a Ruby Award for the world premiere season of *Watershed: The Death of Dr Duncan* (2022) at the Adelaide Festival. ACS' eight international tours have also garnered international accolades including "Choir of the World at Llangollen 2013" at the Welsh International Musical Eisteddfod.

ACS is frequently invited to support and collaborate with a wide range of artists including The Rolling Stones, The Tallis Scholars, Kronos Quartet, Hilltop Hoods, Greta Bradman, and Katie Noonan. As part of the UKARIA A Capella Academy, ACS has worked with two incredible British ensembles, The Gesualdo Six (2023) and VOCES8 (2024). A strong and consistent advocate for Australian music, ACS has proudly commissioned over 30 new works from established and emerging composers.

Recent achievements include the launch of Rising Voices – a high-level training ensemble conducted by both Christie Anderson and ACS Founder and Conductor Emeritus Dr Carl Crossin OAM, with mentors from the core ensemble.

In October 2023, ACS hosted the inaugural Adelaide Chamber Choir Festival to tremendous success, cementing Adelaide's place as "the choral capital of Australia" (InReview). Most recently ACS were collaborators in the 2025 Adelaide Festival Opera - *Innocence*.

ACS's future plans include exciting collaborations with inspirational artists and a goal to embark on an international tour, showcasing the exceptional skill and sharing the aural magic that has made ACS renowned on the global stage.

Find out more at adelaidechambersingers.com

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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All donations over \$2 made to the Adelaide Chamber Singers Supporters Fund are tax deductible.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Adelaide Chamber Singers are grateful to the following:

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Toby Chadd, Kylie King and the staff at Adelaide Festival

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Andrew Georg – Repetiteur
Mat Noble – Marryatville High School

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