



Thankyou for your enquiry regarding the Young Voices of Melbourne. Please find enclosed information about the musical opportunities we have to offer young people interested in singing with us. Should you require further information, or wish to make an audition time, please do not hesitate to contact the Director, Mark O'Leary on 0418 327426 or [mark@yvm.com.au](mailto:mark@yvm.com.au). The following general information is designed to provide you with a brief summary of our organisation.

## General Information

Founded by Mark O'Leary OAM in 1990, the Young Voices of Melbourne exists to create choral music of a high standard and to foster excellence in music education in the community. Young Voices of Melbourne Inc currently runs five choirs catering for boys and girls aged 6 - 30, including the YVM Training Choirs, Young Voices of Melbourne, YVMen for secondary school age boys and EXAUDI youth choir. Entry is by audition, and auditions are held each November, or at other times depending on availability of places.

Young Voices of Melbourne is a child-focussed choir. Our first priority is to provide experiences for our members that are enjoyable, stimulating and educational in the broadest sense. Founder and Director Mark O'Leary is recognised Australia-wide as an authority on children's choirs and Kodaly music education.

Young Voices of Melbourne is a non-profit organisation, governed by a Committee of Management. Costs are covered by Tuition Fees, performance fees and fund raising activities. The choir is listed on the Federal government's register of Cultural Organisations, and as such can offer tax deductability to its donors.

Rehearsals are held at the music department of Caulfield Grammar School, Glen Eira Road Caulfield. Entry to the music department is from Loch Avenue, at the rear of the school. (EXAUDI rehearses at Melbourne High School in South Yarra.)

Young Voices of Melbourne is a small, friendly organisation. Each week we work with around 200 singers but group sizes are small and each member receives the individual attention he or she needs to fulfil his or her potential. Strong bonds are formed between choir members as they share new experiences and strive together for excellence.



# Rehearsal Groups

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Young Voices of Melbourne currently operates five rehearsal groups; a Junior Training Choir, Senior Training Choir, main Choir, YVMen and Exaudi youth choir. Following their audition with the Director of Music, singers are allocated to the appropriate group for their age and ability. New members are only asked to make a commitment to the choir once they have attended enough rehearsals for them to be sure that they are happy to continue. Entry to all groups is by audition, and promotion from one group to another is entirely at the discretion of the Director of Music, and depends on age, maturity, progress in acquiring musical skills (through the Training Programme), the availability of a place and general readiness. All groups rehearse in Caulfield, except Exaudi Youth Choir which rehearse in South Yarra.

## Junior Training Choir

<u>Approximate age level:</u>	6 - 8 years (school grades 1 - 3)
<u>Number in group:</u>	approximately 25
<u>Music Education Programme:</u>	Emphasis is placed on the development of confidence and enjoyment in music making. Children develop skills in singing technique, ear training and music reading in a way which encourages personal expression in a relaxed and fun environment. Children begin work on the Sight Singing School resources using books and a web site.
<u>Performances:</u>	The Junior Training Choir is more educationally oriented than performance oriented. However the Junior Training Choir does generally perform 3 or 4 times during the year, sometimes combined with the Senior Training Choir or main Choir.
<u>Rehearsal time:</u>	Once each week on Monday afternoons during the state school term, from 4.30 - 5.30pm.
<u>Teachers:</u>	Marion Stafford and Elizabeth O'Leary (with tutors Amelia Alder and Ciara McCoppin)

## Senior Training Choir

<u>Approximate age level:</u>	9 - 12 years (school grades 4 - 6)
<u>Number in Group:</u>	from 30 - 40 singers
<u>Music Education Programme:</u>	Emphasis at this level is on the further development of skills in singing technique, ear training and music reading, as well as the development of good rehearsal skills, proficiency in part singing and personal confidence.
<u>Performances:</u>	The Senior Training Choir performs 4 or 5 times each year, sometimes combined with the main Choir or the Junior Training Choir.
<u>Rehearsal time:</u>	Once each week on Monday evenings during the state school term from 5.15 to 6.45pm. Senior Training Choir members also attend a residential weekend rehearsal camp each year.
<u>Teachers:</u>	Mark O'Leary and Elizabeth O'Leary (with tutors Amelia Alder and Ciara McCoppin)

# Rehearsal Groups (Continued)

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## Choir

Approximate age level: 12 - 18 years  
Number in Group: from 45 - 60 singers  
Repertoire/Music Education Programme:

The Choir aims to give its members an excellent aesthetic education by performing a variety of good choral music at a very high standard. Repertoire is chosen from the best music suitable for young voices composed over the last five hundred years, as well as good arrangements of folksongs from many countries, and other appropriate material. Contemporary Australian and international choral music is central to the choir's repertoire. Much emphasis is also placed on the development of personal skills in vocal technique, ear training and music reading. These skills are developed through our Sight Singing School program, which is the basis for the choir's music education programme. We also encourage the development of personal skills such as organisation, self-discipline, reliability, responsibility, co-operation and initiative as these skills are all important in choral music making.

Performances: The choir is normally involved in approximately eight performances each year, and tours each year. A list of the last couple of years activities can be found on the next page.

Rehearsal commitments: All members of the main Choir rehearse weekly during the state school term, on Thursday evenings from 5.30 - 8.15pm, or 6.15 - 9.00 depending on whether they attend an early or late small group session. The small groups sessions are held each week either before or after the main rehearsal (6.15 - 8.15). The choir also has one residential weekend rehearsal camps each year which all members are expected to attend, and normally tours locally, interstate or overseas each year. Our touring program has of course



# Rehearsal Groups (Continued)

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been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but Choir and YVMen will be touring to Festival of Voices in Hobart in July 2022.

If due to illness or important school or family commitments a rehearsal cannot be attended, choristers should phone or email Mark before the rehearsal to make an apology and catch up on any news.

Conductors:

Mark O'Leary and Juliana Kay

## YVMen

Approximate age level:

12 - 18 years for boys with changed or changing voices.

Conductor:

Amelia Alder (and Mark O'Leary, Juliana Kay)

Repertoire, Music Education Programme and Rehearsal Commitments:

YVMen works closely with Choir, rehearsing at the same time, attending camp, and usually performing and touring with Choir. YVMen members also attend the same small group rehearsals as the Choir.

YVMen performs often with the Choir, but also has its own repertoire and sometimes performs with Exaudi Youth Choir.

## EXAUDI youth choir

Approximate age level:

18 - 28 years

Conductor:

Mark O'Leary

Our young adult choir rehearses on Monday nights from 7.30 - 9.30 in South Yarra, performs in its own concerts as well as at YVM events and tours each year. More information is available separately.





# Young Voices of Melbourne Activities 2017 - 2019

## Young Voices of Melbourne 2017 Program Summary

February-March	Rehearsal Camps	For YVM, Exaudi and Senior Training Choir as above
3rd April	YVM Concert	Exaudi Pre-Tour Concert (Church of all Nations, Carlton)
14th - 17th April	Tour	Exaudi Tour to National Folk Festival (Canberra)
18th May	Invitation Concert	Concert with Ensemble Liaison (Melbourne Recital Centre)
4th June	YVM Concert	YVM Winter Concert (Robert Blackwood Hall)
		Visit from SYC Ensemble Singers (Singapore)
4th August	Festival	Training Choirs at the Kodaly Junior Choral Festival
25th August	Festival	Exaudi and Choir performance at the Kodaly Choral Festival
10th September	YVM Concert	Training Choirs Concert (St John's Southgate)
13th September	Invitation Performance	Performance for State Government Water Use Event
16th September	YVM Concert	Exaudi Ten Years On Concert (St Kilda Town Hall)
22nd Sept - 5th Oct	Tour	YVM Japan Tour
14th October	Invitation Performance	Exaudi concert in Bendigo with the Women of Note
2nd November	Invitation Performance	Training Choirs Music Count Us In launch
3rd December	YVM Concert	Young Voices of Melbourne Christmas Concerts
9th December	Invitation Performance	Exaudi performance with The Austrian Singers
10th December	Invitation Performance	Exaudi Carols at Jells Park (City of Monash)

## Young Voices of Melbourne 2018 Program Summary

February-March	Rehearsal Camps	For YVM, Exaudi and Senior Training Choir as above
2nd - 5th March	Hosting	Visit of ESTudio Youth Choir, Estonia
4th March	YVM Concert	Concert with ESTudio Youth Choir
30th March - 7th April	Tour	Exaudi Tour to Darwin and Katherine (NT)
3rd June	YVM Concert	YVM Winter Concert with SYC Ensemble Singers (Singapore)
8th - 15th July	Tour	YVM Festival of Voices Tour (Tasmania)
16th - 18th July	Hosting	Hosting Luminescence choir from Canberra
17th July	YVM Concert	YVM and Friends with Luminescence and The Yarra Singers
August	Recording	YVM and Exaudi recording sessions for new CDs
9th September	YVM Concert	Training Choirs Concert (St John's Southgate)
12th September	Invitation Performance	YVM performance for AMEB's Orchestra Online Project.
14th September	YVM Concert	Exaudi Gathering Voices Concert (Glen Eira Auditorium)
29th September	Recording	Exaudi women for Melbourne University
29th, 30th October	Invitation Performance	YVM small group with US-UK band Foreigner (Hamer Hall)
11th November	Invitation Performance	Exaudi at Remembrance Day Ceremony (The Shrine)
2nd December	YVM Concert	Young Voices of Melbourne Christmas Concerts
4th December	Invitation Performance	Christmas Concert with The Yarra Singers
9th December	Invitation Performance	Exaudi Carols at Jells Park (City of Monash)

## Young Voices of Melbourne 2019 Program Summary

8th - 10th February	Rehearsal Camp	Choir Rehearsal Camp (Candlebark Farm)
22nd - 24th February	Rehearsal Camp	Exaudi rehearsal Camp (Lyrebird Camp, Yellingbo)
16th March	Invitation Performance	Senior Training Choir at Multicultural Arts Victoria dinner
22nd - 24th March	Rehearsal Camp	Senior Training Choir Camp (Candlebark Farm)
7th April - 17th April	Tour	YVM and YVMen Tour to Western Australia for Choral Fest
13th April	Invitation Performance	Senior Training Choir performance for Basement Jaxx
19th May	Invitation Performance	YVM performance at Yarrowonga Festival of 1,000 Voices
25th May	Invitation Performance	Exaudi performance at Windfire Festival (Geelong)
22nd June	YVM Concert	Picture Book Concert - Exaudi and YVM
23rd June	YVM Concert	Little Picture Book Concert - YVM and Training Choirs with Malcolm Dalglish (James Tatoulis Auditorium, MLC)
29th June - 14th July	Tour	Exaudi Tour to Scotland and Ireland with Malcolm Dalglish
2nd August	Festival	Training Choirs at the Kodaly Junior Choral Festival
24th August	Festival	Exaudi and YVM performances at Festival in Bendigo
29th August	Festival	Exaudi and Choir performance at the Kodaly Choral Festival
8th September	YVM Concert	Training Choirs Concert (St John's Southgate)
14th September	YVM Concert	Exaudi Gathering Voices Concert (Glen Eira Auditorium)
1st December	YVM Concert	Glorious Love Songs Christmas Concert - Exaudi, YVM
8th December	YVM Concert	YVM Christmas Concert - YVM and Training Choirs
14th December	Invitation Performance	YVM and YVMen Concert with The Idea of North

# 2022 Tuition Fees and Other Costs

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## Tuition Fees

The Young Voices of Melbourne is a non-profit making organisation. Tuition fees are paid to make a contribution towards the cost of staff, administrative and office expenses, venue hire, insurance, music purchase, training materials, performance uniforms and general running costs. YVM is registered for GST but there is no GST levied on tuition fees.

### 2022 Fees:

Beginning Training Choir & Junior Training Choir: \$390 per half year(semester)  
Senior Training Choir: \$555 for first semester \$390 for second semester  
Choir and YVMen: \$605 for first semester \$440 for second semester  
(Senior Training Choir and Choir/YVMen semester 1 fees include weekend rehearsal camp costs.)  
Exaudi youth choir: \$220 per semester (not including rehearsal camp costs)

Invoices are issued, and a \$30 fee may be applied to late payments.

Tuition fees do not have to be paid until a new member has attended 2 or 3 rehearsals. Please note however, that once paid tuition fees are not refundable. New choir members will be asked to pay a non-refundable \$60 deposit to secure their place. (This deposit is deducted from the first tuition fees.)

## Other Costs

### A440 Tuning Fork (main Choir only)

Main choir members are required to obtain an A440 tuning fork for use in rehearsals and in practice at home. These are available from choir for \$14.00 or from many music shops.

### Music Bag

All choir members need to purchase a YVM music bag (\$13.00).

### Performance Uniforms

All choir members are required to purchase a pair of black uniform performance trousers, a choir T-shirt and fleece or windcheater. Main choir members also need to purchase a choir jacket. Please see uniform guidelines sheet for details of costs. (Casual clothes are worn at rehearsals).

### Weekend Rehearsal Camps

Senior Training Choir, main Choir and YVMen members attend one rehearsal camp each year. Attendance is compulsory, and cost is included in tuition fees. No refunds are given for singers who are not able to attend camp.

### Tours (main Choir and YVMen)

While going on tour does involve cost to choir members, tours are subsidised by the Touring Fund, supported by fund raising activities and sponsorship. Hence tours are always very good value. For example the 2010 Europe tour was \$4,700 for 3 weeks, the 2012 tour to Adelaide and Kangaroo Island was \$600 for a week, the 2013 USA tour was \$4,400 for 3 weeks, the 2015 New Zealand Tour was \$1,800 for 10 days and the 2017 Japan tour \$2,600 for 2 weeks, and the 2019 WA Tour was \$1,600. All costs are all inclusive.

## Music folders, Training Programme booklets and Music

Each member of the Young Voices of Melbourne is issued with a folder in which to store music and sight Singing School booklets. These, together with three pencils and an eraser, must be brought to every rehearsal. Music issued to choir members is on loan only, and must be paid for if lost or damaged.



# Uniform Items

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## Beginning Training Choir, Junior and Senior Training Choir Performance Uniform

	Approx. cost
Uniform black dress pants:	Ordered through choir \$45.00
Red YVM T-Shirts	Available from choir \$15.00
Black YVM Fleece	Available from choir \$45.00
Black socks	
Low-heeled black shoes ( <u>T-Bars, Runners or boots are not acceptable.</u> )	
Red hair ribbons	

## Main Choir Uniform Items Required

Red YVM polo shirt	Available from choir	\$25.00
Black YVM performance T-shirt (short-sleeved)	Available from choir	\$37.00
Black YVM performance shirt (long-sleeved)	Available from choir	\$40.00
Black YVM Fleece	Available from choir	\$40.00
Red YVM Jacket	Available from choir	\$60.00
Uniform black dress pants, to be purchased from:	Ordered through choir	\$45.00
Black socks		
Black flat-heeled shoes (not T-bars or boots)		
Red and black hair ribbons		

Choir members should always turn up to performances in the requested uniform items, and should come changed whenever possible, with hair done.

**All prices are approximate, and are provided to choir members at cost. Exact prices depend on current availability.**

**Please make sure clothing is clearly named!**

## Staff Information

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### **Mark O'Leary OAM: Founder and Director**

Mark O'Leary OAM is well known in Australia, widely respected for his work with Young Voices of Melbourne, Exaudi and Gondwana Voices. He has made 38 tours with YVM and Exaudi to all states and territories of Australia as well as Europe, the United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the USA, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Samoa, New Zealand and Japan, and recorded 13 CDs with these choirs. With Gondwana Voices he has made 5 international tours to Europe, North America, China and Taiwan and conducted the choir on 3 CD recordings. Mark is a regular guest conductor and presenter at choral festivals and music education conferences around the country. He publishes Australian choral music in the Young Voices of Melbourne Choral Series and is the creator of the Sight Singing School books and website used in more than 50 countries. He has three degrees from the University of Melbourne, is a Churchill Fellow, and an Honorary Life Member of the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia. In 2018 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to education and choral music.

### **Amelia Alder: YVMen Conductor**

Amelia is a passionate performer, experienced music educator and conductor. As the director and co-founder of Vocal Australia (Australia's Contemporary A Cappella Hub) Amelia has also founded AUS-ACA Australian A Cappella Awards, GET VOCAL Festival and released three compilation albums featuring the best of Australian a cappella. Amelia has been a Head Judge for the Singapore International A Cappella Competition, the Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards, has presented workshops at international festivals, and is the Australian Ambassador for the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America. With an Australian Kodaly Certificate, Amelia is an accredited Kodaly lecturer who has directed vocal groups at numerous schools, universities and organisations, and currently teaches violin and viola at Caulfield Grammar School.

### **Juliana Kay: EXAUDI and Choir Assistant Conductor**

Juliana Kay (BA, MTeach) - teacher, conductor and composer with a lifelong interest in choirs and choral music. Outside of Exaudi and YVM, she directs the innovative chamber choir Choral Edge and teaches music in secondary schools. Juliana has sung and toured with some of Australia's finest chamber choirs, including Ensemble Gombert, Polyphonic Voices and The Australian Voices. Her experiences as a singer and conductor inspired her to turn to composing and she now writes regularly for children and community choirs across Australia.

### **Elizabeth O'Leary: Junior and Senior Training Choir Assistant Conductor**

Elizabeth is a passionate music educator, conductor and choral performer. She is currently on staff at Ruyton Girls School where she teaches Early Learning and Primary Classroom Music, directs ensembles and teaches Flute and Musicianship as part of the Instrumental Program. Elizabeth also works at Young Voices of Melbourne, team-teaching the Junior and Senior Training Choirs. Elizabeth grew up in Young Voices of Melbourne and has performed as a soprano in many Melbourne-based choirs including Exaudi, Choral Edge and Ensemble Gombert. She is currently a member of ALTA chamber choir. Elizabeth was awarded the Australian Kodaly Certificate (AKC) in 2012 and is an accredited Kodaly lecturer.

### **Marion Stafford: Junior Training Choir Teacher**

Marion is an outstanding Kodaly teacher, with much experience teaching at all primary school levels. She has been Head of Music in the Junior Schools of St Michael's Grammar School and Mentone Grammar, and is currently head of Junior Music at Caulfield Grammar School Wheeler's Hill Campus. Marion is an Honorary Life Member of the Kodaly Music Education Institute of Australia.





# The Kodály Concept of Music Education

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## Kodály Philosophy

Zoltan Kodály (1882 - 1967) was a prominent Hungarian composer and teacher who revolutionised music education in Hungary, and whose ideas are now used in many countries world-wide.

- He believed that singing is the foundation of all music education - the voice being the most accessible and inexpensive of instruments.
- He believed that true music literacy is something everybody can enjoy.

## Kodály Teaching

- Music education ideally starts in early childhood, with the pre-literate abilities - listening, singing through imitation and movement to go with the singing - offering the most natural way.
- Singing games involve children in musical activities which both entertain and train them.
- Only great music is used, so that children develop good taste in music.
- Older students without prior experience, would-be professional and adult amateurs may also be trained.
- The curriculum is sequential and developmental.
- Pitch skills are developed by the use of solfa syllables, handsigns and a system of moveable 'doh'.
- Basic time names are used to express rhythms in the early stages.
- Aural skills, musical memory, part-singing skills and general vocal confidence are all developed.

For more information visit [www.kodaly.org.au](http://www.kodaly.org.au)

## Kodály and Young Voices of Melbourne

Kodály teaching methods are used in the music literacy and aural training of all members of Young Voices of Melbourne. All children are taught 'moveable doh' solfa and handsigns, as well as rhythm time names and music staff reading. YVM's sight singing program, developed by Mark O'Leary is Kodaly based and children work through a series of graded sight singing exercises by using a series of books or our online program. As Sight Singing School this program is used by singers in more than 50 countries around the world.

## Expertise

All are staff are trained and experienced Kodaly practitioners. Mark O'Leary has been actively involved in the Australian Kodály movement for many years, having served on the National Council of Kodály Australia, and being a long term member of the Victorian Branch committee, of which he was President for fifteen years from 2005 - 2020. Mark has organised the Kodály Choral Festival and Kodály Junior Festival for more than 25 years, and is convenor of many events for the organisation. Our Junior Training Choir teacher Marion Stafford and our accompanist Julia Piggitt are both lecturers in Kodály Teaching Methodology, and are recognised as experts in this area. Elizabeth O'Leary is an aural musicianship lecturer for Kodály Australia, Marion, Mark and Julia are all honorary life members of the Kodály Australia.



## Other Information

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### Parental Involvement

There is much scope for parental involvement in the Young Voices of Melbourne. The choir is proud to be a community organisation which is strengthened by the involvement of parents and friends of the choir. Volunteer involvement helps to keep costs low, and provide extra opportunities for our young singers.

Following is a list of ways that interested parents can become involved:

- fund-raising: project organisation or helping out with specific fundraising activities
- supervision of choir members: at rehearsals, concerts, camps and tours
- medical assistance: nurses and doctors often travel with the choir on tour
- catering: help with food is needed at choir functions and on tours and camps
- clerical tasks: assistance is often needed to help with postouts, photocopying, collating and other basic office tasks
- library: the choir has a music library that needs to be kept in order
- front of house duties: manning the box office, distributing programmes, ushering etc
- uniform: uniforms need constant maintenance and assistance with washing, ironing, making and repairing is always appreciated
- design skills: assistance with graphic design for choir publications
- marketing and public relations: help can range from distributing leaflets to planning marketing strategies
- internet advice: help in maintaining and improving the choir's internet web site.
- Parents may also apply to serve on the Management Committee which governs the choir's activities.

### Attendance

All members of the Choir and Training Choirs are expected to make every effort to attend every rehearsal and performance. This is essential if a high standard is to be maintained. If due to illness or important school or family commitments a rehearsal (or performance) cannot be attended, choristers should contact Mark on [mark@yvm.com.au](mailto:mark@yvm.com.au) or 0418 327426 before the rehearsal to make an apology and catch up on any news. It is also important for safety reasons that children not at rehearsals are accounted for. If choir members are only mildly unwell, it is recommended that they attend rehearsal in a non-singing capacity as much can be learned by listening. Children who do not regularly attend rehearsals and who miss performances for unacceptable reasons will be asked to re-consider their commitment to the choir.

### Parking-Transportation

Caulfield Grammar School (Caulfield Campus) music department is located on the first floor of the Cripps Centre. Entry is from Loch Avenue, East St Kilda and plenty of parking is available in this street. (Parking is not permitted on school grounds, including the car park off Loch Ave.) A reception desk is generally set up in the foyer of the Cripps Centre. Older children can walk to Caulfield Grammar from Rippon Lea Railway Station (in daylight hours).

### Application Procedure

If having read these information sheets you would like to audition for the Young Voices of Melbourne, please contact Mark on [mark@yvm.com.au](mailto:mark@yvm.com.au) or 0418 327426. Auditions are normally held in November, but are sometimes held at other times if there are vacancies to be filled. As places are limited in our groups, it is sometimes necessary to have to wait some time for an audition. New members are welcome to attend a couple of rehearsals before making a final commitment to join.

**Contact Mark O'Leary**  
**[info@yvm.com.au](mailto:info@yvm.com.au)**



# Young Voices of Melbourne: Profile

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The Young Voices of Melbourne was founded in February 1990 by Mark O'Leary OAM, following his return from a Churchill Fellowship study tour of outstanding children's choirs in England, Hungary, Finland, Canada and the U.S.A. It is now regarded as one of Australia's finest children's choir programmes.

The choir was created to produce choral singing of excellence in an environment which is challenging, creative, enjoyable, innovative and above all educational. Young Voices of Melbourne has its own unique Kodaly-based training programme which develops skills in music reading, ear training and vocal skills. Young Voices of Melbourne currently operates five rehearsal groups; a Junior Training Choir, Senior Training Choir, main Choir, YVMen and EXAUDI youth choir catering for all singers aged from 6 to 30 years. All choirs rehearse once each week, and all rehearsal groups are of a size that all members of the choir receive the individual attention they require to fulfil their potential.



Since its first rehearsals in February 1990 the Young Voices of Melbourne has maintained a busy programme of activities. As well as producing its own concerts, the choir has performed for various organisations in many venues around Melbourne. The choir has also been successful in competition, has performed on national television and radio, and has established strong links with other young choirs in Victoria, interstate and overseas. Early interstate tours led the way to the choir's first international tour in July 1996, with concerts in Germany, England and Hungary. In 1997 the choir toured Queensland, and in 1998 travelled abroad again, this time performing at the 23rd World Conference of the International Society for Music Education Conference in Pretoria, South Africa in July. In 1999 the choir toured outback Australia from Adelaide to Alice Springs, and in April 2000 the choir undertook a Great Places in Victoria Tour, singing in spectacular locations around the state with American hammer-dulcimer virtuoso and composer Malcolm Dalglish. In May 2001 the choir performed Mahler's 8th Symphony with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and other Australian choirs, and in July 2001 toured Canada and the USA, where it was invited to perform at Festival 500 in St John's Newfoundland. In September 2002 the choir toured Queensland, and in July 2003 performed at the International Kodaly Symposium and Festival of Young Voices in Newcastle NSW. In 2004 the choir toured the United Kingdom and the Canary Islands, where it was invited to sing at the 26th International Society for Music Education World Conference, and where it was awarded 2nd place at the prestigious Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. In 2005 Young Voices of Melbourne undertook a ten day tour of Tasmania where it performed at the inaugural Festival





## Profile (continued)

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of Voices in Hobart, and was also heard widely across Australia singing the theme music for the Chris Lilley's popular television mockumentary "We Can be Heroes". ( We also recorded the theme for "Summer Heights High" in 2007). In 2006 the choir performed in the opening ceremony of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, and also staged a major performance of Karl Jenkins' Songs of Sanctuary (Adiemus) in Federation Square for Festival Melbourne 2006 for the Games. In September 2006 the choir toured the Top End of Australia and in 2007 toured Western Australia, Singapore and Thailand where it was awarded two first prizes in the A Voyage of Songs International Choral Festival, as well as a prize for the most outstanding conductor of the festival. In 2008 YVM performed once again with Malcolm Dalglish at the Port Fairy and National Folk Festivals as well as on tour to NSW and Brisbane, and Malcolm again joined the choir for a Tasmanian tour in 2009. In 2010 the choir toured to Italy, Slovenia, Hungary and the UK and in 2011 had its first pacific island tour to Samoa. In July 2013 the choir undertook a big tour to the USA performing in New York, San Francisco, Disneyland and at festivals in Idaho and Montana. YVM returned to Tasmania and Festival of Voices again in 2014 and 2018, undertook it's first New Zealand tour in 2015, headed to Australia's northern Territory for a Top End tour in 2016 and visited Japan for the first time in 2017. YVM was a featured choir at The Australian National Choral Association's Choralfest in Fremantle in 2019. YVM had planned a tour to Italy and the UK to celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2020 but this was cancelled due to the pandemic. A tour to Festival of Voices in Hobart is planned for July 2020.



The choir performs a wide variety of the best music written for young voices over the past 500 years, including music by living Australian composers, and many songs in original languages. The choir has a strong commitment to Australian music and performs much music by living Australian composers. Young Voices of Melbourne has released eleven CD recordings: Mostly Australian Songs in October 1995, International A Cappella in December 1997, Mixed Fortunes in May 1999, YVM-Y2K in April 2000, Christmas in May 2002, Journeys in 2004, Spin me 'round in 2007, Into the Sky Tour (live) in 2008, YVM at King's, recorded live in the Chapel of King's College Cambridge in 2010, Out There, released in 2014 and Mosaic recorded in 2018.

Young Voices of Melbourne's music can also be heard on the Australian A Cappella CD, a collection of Australia's finest a cappella groups released by The Boite in Melbourne. YVM has also sung on eight CDs made by children's educators-entertainers Susie Davies-Splitter and Philip Splitter and can also be heard on the CD of the music for the opening ceremony of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, and on a Christmas Cd for comedy trio Tripod.



[www.yvm.com.au](http://www.yvm.com.au)



## Profile (continued)

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The choir's name has become well known throughout Australia through the Young Voices of Melbourne Choral Series, published by Mark O'Leary. The Choral Series consists of arrangements by Mark O'Leary of Australian folksongs, Christmas carols and other songs as well as songs by local Australian composers including Carl Vine, Suzanne Palmer-Holton, Frank York, Paul Jarman, Ian Harrison, Harley Mead, Michael Atherton, Peter Butler, Troy Rogan and Julia Piggin. Choirs all around Australia have performed pieces from the Young Voices of Melbourne Choral Series. There are currently 125 titles in the series, and new pieces are being added all the time. The choir is also well known for the professional development activities it runs for choral music educators. Young Voices of Melbourne has presented three national Choir Conductor's Conferences attended by delegates from all over Australia. The choir also regularly runs choral workshops throughout Australia. Since 1995, more than 170 workshops have been held in places including Hobart, Devonport, Launceston, Canberra, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Darwin, Alice Springs, Rockhampton, Cairns, Mackay, Townsville, Melbourne, Albury, Geelong, Terang, Sale, Horsham, Bendigo, Swan Hill, Hamilton, Warrnambool, Lismore and Bundaberg.

Young Voices of Melbourne is a non-profit making incorporated association funded by tuition fees paid by parents, performance fees, concert profits and fund-raising activities. The Management Committee consists of music staff, choir parents and other interested persons. Mark O'Leary is the choir's full-time Director and Administrator. Under Australian tax law Young Voices of Melbourne is an Income Tax Exempt Charity and a Deductible Gift Recipient, enabling the choir to accept tax deductible donations of \$2.00 or more. Enquiries regarding the Young Voices of Melbourne should be directed to Mark O'Leary at 0418 327426 or [mark@yvm.com.au](mailto:mark@yvm.com.au)



### **Mark O'Leary: Founder and Director of Music**

Mark O'Leary OAM graduated top of his year from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1983. In 1985 he was awarded a Commonwealth Postgraduate Research award, and since then has completed a Master of Music degree, passed with honours, and a Bachelor of Music Education degree. He has also studied conducting with Robert Rosen as a private student and was the recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 1989. He is Principal Guest Conductor of Australia's first truly national children's choir, Gondwana Voices (directed by Sydney Children's Choir's Lyn Williams) and has recorded three CDs with Gondwana. Mark toured the United States and Canada with Gondwana Voices in 2003 and 2011, to China in 2012 to perform at the World Choral Summit in Beijing, to Taiwan in 2014 and Europe in 2017. Mark is an honorary Life Member of the Kodaly Music Education Institute of Australia. His arrangements for young choirs are published in the Young Voices of Melbourne Choral Series and are performed and recorded by choirs all around Australia. His Sight Singing School online sight singing program is used by singers in more than 45 countries. Mark is a frequent presenter on choral music education at conferences and workshops throughout Australia, and a regular guest conductor at children's choir festivals.