



## May 2025 Newsletter

### Welcome back for Term 2!

Welcome back to choir after a long string of school holidays and public holidays! This term sees our Main Choir + YVMen doing a few smaller performances and everyone joining together on Sunday 22 June for our annual Winter Concert.

### Slight time change for 29 May gig

Main Choir/YVMen please note a start time correction in the calendar for the 29th May. We are to meet at 4:45 at the Melbourne Town Hall, not 5:00 as previously advised.

### Thursday rehearsal locations:

Due to the theatre setup at St Catherine's over the next few weeks, our Thursday rehearsals will be as follows:

- 1 May: Toorak Uniting Church
- 8 May: Toorak Uniting Church
- 15 May: Toorak Uniting Church
- 22 May: St Catherine's School
- 29 May: Melbourne Town Hall, 4:45 - 8:15pm

### Do you know any small children near Prahran?

Very Young Voices of Melbourne (ie baby YVM) has just opened up a new early childhood music class in Prahran! If you know or have any small people aged 0-5, send them our way! Details here: <https://yvm.com.au/very-young-voices-of-melbourne/> (There are also still spots in the Caulfield South classes too)

### Europe tour: detailed itinerary released

New details for our Europe trip are at the bottom of the newsletter. We are still waiting on our Vienna timetable from the Vienna festival organisers, but everything is in place. Big thanks to Tour Manager Mark for putting this all together. Just two months to go!

# Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: All choir members are expected to attend all choir concerts. If it is impossible for you to attend please make a written apology, at least one month prior to the concert. This is essential for our concert planning, as missing persons may necessitate us changing the repertoire for concerts, arranging replacement singers etc.

CHOIR = Main Choir (trebles)  
BTC = Beginning Training Choir  
JTC = Junior Training Choir  
STC = Senior Training Choir

Banking details: Young Voices of Melbourne Inc BSB: 013355 Account: 308027832

<b>Saturday 17 May</b>	Kodaly in Action: The Art of Teaching What: workshop and short performance for a music teachers' seminar Where: Camberwell Grammar School, Mallinson Music School When: 11:40am-2:00pm Wear: long-sleeve black shirts, bring music bag	CHOIR YVMen
<b>Thursday 29 May</b> <b>**start time update**</b>	YPA Awards Gala What: Corporate gig, followed by rehearsal Where: Melbourne Town Hall When: 4:45-8:15pm Wear: long-sleeve black shirts, bring music bag	CHOIR YVMen
<b>Thursday 5 June</b>	Europe Tour info night for touring families Where: St Catherine's School When: 8:00 - 8:30pm Non-touring singers may go home at 8pm	CHOIR YVMen
<b>Monday 9 June</b>	King's Birthday - no choir	everyone
<b>Sunday 22 June</b>	YVM Winter Concert Rehearsals from 1:30pm Concert 3:00 - 4:15pm James Tatoulis Auditorium, MLC, Kew	everyone
<b>July 5-22</b>	YVM Europe Tour: England, Italy, Vienna	CHOIR YVMen
<b>Sunday 7 September</b>	Training Choirs Concert, St Johns Southgate Rehearsals from 2pm, concert 3-4pm	BTC JTC STC
<b>Saturday 25 October</b>	Penelope What: guest children's choir in a performance of Sarah Kirkland Snider's song cycle <i>Penelope</i> Where: Magdalen Laundry, Abbotsford Convent When: arrive 6pm for a 7:30pm show	CHOIR YVMen
<b>Saturday 6 December</b> <b>**Date Change**</b>	Christmas/end-of year concert Where: Wesley Church Melbourne Rehearsals from 1:30pm Concert #1: 3 - 4:15pm (everyone) Concert #2: 5:30 - 6:30pm (Choir/YVMen and Exaudi only)	everyone



## **Europe Tour 2025 Itinerary Update 4<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Saturday 5th July**

- 11.00am      Meet at Melbourne Airport International Terminal, wearing casual clothes. Bring some lunch from home or some money to buy something at the airport.
- Proceed through security and passport control.  
We will collect your passports when you get on the plane. Before you hand it to us, make sure you have written your passport details in your tour book.
- 1.25pm      We depart on Malaysian Airlines flight MH148 to Kuala Lumpur. (7 hours and 45 minutes)
- 8.10pm      Arrive Kuala Lumpur.
- 11.30pm      Depart to London on Malaysian Airlines flight MH2 to London. (13 hours and 35 minutes)

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

- 5.55am      Land at London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 4 at 5.55am. Collect luggage and meet our bus from Haywards Coaches. Travel into London for some sight seeing.
- 10.30am      Watch the famous Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, and then walk up Pall Mall to Trafalgar Square for a short visit to the National Gallery, London. (Entry booked for 12.00pm)
- 1.00pm      Walk to Covent Garden Market (10 mins) via Duncannon St and Southampton St for lunch and shopping.  
We will give you monies for lunch!

3.15pm      Leave on the bus to drive to our accommodation outside of London.  
(1 hour and 30-45 mins drive)

We are staying at the Streatley-on-Thames Youth Hostel in Reading Rd, Streatley. We will have it all to ourselves.

Mark, Julia, Archie, Isaac and Bhanuka will be staying at the Bull Hotel, 300 metres away (but will be coming to the hostel for meals.)

6.00pm      Dinner at the hostel.

Free evening for resting, walking along the River Thames and  
An early night.

## **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

8.00am      Breakfast at the hostel.

11.10am     Meet in reception ready for rehearsal – bring your music!  
Pick up a packed lunch to bring with you.

Walk to the Goring Village Hall (10 mins)

11.30am     Rehearsal in the Goring Village Hall

1.00pm      Lunch

2.00pm      Rehearsal in the Goring Village Hall

3.00pm      Finish rehearsal, and walk back to the hostel.  
Free time to explore the area.

6.00pm      Dinner at the hostel.

Free evening for resting, walking along the River Thames and  
an early night.

## **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Celia's Birthday**

8.00am      Breakfast at the hostel.

10.00am     Pickup from the hostel, for a day in Oxford (40 minute drive).  
Bring your uniform, packed lunch and everything you need for the  
Evensong with the Oxford Youth Choir.

Oxford, England's oldest university city, traces its origins to the late 11th century when scholars began teaching there. Officially established in 1096, the University of Oxford gained prestige as a center of learning, producing influential thinkers like John Wycliffe and later, luminaries such as J.R.R.

Tolkien and Stephen Hawking. Its colleges developed over centuries, each with unique traditions and architecture. Oxford played key roles in religious reform, political conflict, and scientific discovery. Beyond academia, the city grew around the university, rich in history, culture, and literary heritage. Today, Oxford remains a symbol of intellectual excellence worldwide.

Walking Tour of Oxford – at our leisure which might include:

St Mary's Church, High St  
Radcliffe Camera  
Bodleian Library  
Bridge of Sighs  
Sheldonian Theatre  
Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archeology

12.00pm Free time at the the Covered Market and Cornmarket Street  
Shopping and lunch stop (packed lunch from the hostel)

1.30pm Meet back together and head off for a quick look at  
Christ Church Cathedral and then a walk via the Broad Walk to the  
Magdalen Bridge Boat House.

2.00pm We are going punting on the River Cherwell.  
This will be a 30 minute chauffeured punt.

Punting in Oxford has a rich history dating back to the Victorian era, evolving from practical transportation to a beloved leisure activity. While flat-bottomed boats were used for cargo and fishing for centuries, pleasure punting gained popularity in the 1800s, especially on the Cherwell due to its shallow, slow-moving waters. The activity became associated with leisurely pursuits, particularly for young ladies, and has since become a quintessential part of Oxford's cultural identity.

3.00pm Time for a rest and afternoon tea in Oxford Botanic Gardens

4.00pm Walk up to University College Chapel, Oxford

4.30pm Rehearsal with Oxford Youth Choir for Evensong  
Evensong is a traditional Anglican service of evening prayer, which is more than 450 year old. It was formalized in 1549 with the first Book of Common Prayer, compiled by Thomas Cranmer during the English Reformation. Blending scripture, prayer, and choral music, Evensong quickly became a cornerstone of Anglican worship, often sung by choirs in cathedrals and colleges. Its rich musical heritage includes settings by composers like Thomas Tallis and Herbert Howells. Though originating in England, Evensong is now observed worldwide, offering a reflective close to the day through sacred music and liturgical beauty.

5.45pm	Break
6.00pm	Chapel Service with singers from the Oxford Youth Choir. Repertoire:
7.00pm	Finish
8.00pm	Dinner at the hostel, and early night. Big day in London tomorrow!

## **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

8.00am	Breakfast at the hostel.
9.00am	Pickup from the hostel, for a day in London (2 hour drive). Bring your uniform, packed lunch and everything you need for the Concert with the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Schola Cantorum
11.15am	<p>Visit the Tower of London</p> <p>The Tower of London, founded by William the Conqueror in 1066, began as a symbol of Norman power. Over centuries, it evolved into a royal residence, prison, treasury, and armory. Notorious for imprisoning and executing figures like Anne Boleyn and Guy Fawkes, it became a symbol of royal authority and intrigue. The Tower also housed the Royal Mint and, famously, the Crown Jewels, which remain there today. Despite its grim past, it's now a major historic site and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ravens, kept by tradition, guard its legacy—ensuring the monarchy's safety, according to legend. The Tower of London is the centre of many spooky legends. One of the most chilling is that of the two young princes—Edward V and his brother Richard—who were imprisoned in the Tower in 1483 and mysteriously vanished. Believed to have been murdered by their uncle, Richard III, their ghosts are said to haunt the Bloody Tower. Guards and visitors have reported hearing children's whispers, laughter, and even seeing ghostly figures in white nightshirts wandering the halls. The mystery remains unsolved, deepening the Tower's reputation as one of Britain's most haunted places.</p> <p>We will explore the tower in friendship groups.</p>
12.30pm	Packed lunch at the Tower of London (or at your leisure)
2.30pm	Leave Tower of London to drive to our concert venue for rehearsal.
3.00pm	Rehearsal at St John the Baptist Church, Holland Rd, London.
4.00pm	Rehearsal with the boys from the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Schola Cantorum.

- 5.30pm Dinner at the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School.
- 7.00pm Concert with Schola Cantorum  
Repertoire:
- 8.00pm Drive back to hostel (2 hours)
- 10pm Arrive back at the hostel and bed!

## **Thursday 10th July**

- 4.30am Out of bed. Arghhh...
- 5.00am Pack the bus to head to the airport (2 hour drive – keep sleeping)  
Packed breakfast from the hostel.
- 7.00am Arrive at Stansted Airport
- 10.05am Depart Stansted Airport to Bologna (Ryanair FR194)  
The flight is 2 hours and ten minutes.  
Lunch on the plane – you have £10.45 to spend from the inflight menu.  
This is pre-paid, so don't waste it. Feed your friends or stock up on  
snacks if you aren't hungry.
- 1.10pm Arrive at the Bologna Guglielmo Marconi Airport, Italy  
Transfer to the Best Western Soave Hotel in San Bonifacio, near Verona.  
(159km, ca 1 hour and 40 minutes)
- 3.15pm Checkin at the hotel, and time for a short rest.
- 4.30pm Bus pickup to take us to the opening ceremony and dinner of the  
Verona Garda International Choral Festival at the Al Fiore restaurant in  
the beautiful city of Peschiera del Garda, on the shores of Lake Garda.  
(50km, 40 mins drive)  
  
Wear uniform and bring concert things.
- 5.30pm Opening Ceremony of the Festival and dinner for all the choirs. The  
choirs will be introduced and each choir will sing one song for  
everyone.
- 7.30pm Leave the restaurant to head to the nearby city of Lasize (9km, 15mins)
- 9.00pm Concert with the "Hashira" Choir of the Jewish Community of Novi Sad  
(Serbia)  
Repertoire (30 mins):  
  
Back to the hotel after the concert for a big sleep. It's been a long day!

## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Little sleep in and breakfast at the hotel

10.00am Depart on the bus to visit the famous city of Verona.(30km, ca 30mins)

10.45am Arrive at Piazza Bra (Brà Square)  
Free time to explore the centre of Verona.

12.30pm Lunch at the Nastro Azzuro restaurant in Piazza Bra.

2.00pm Guided tour of the Verona Arena (TBC)  
The Verona Arena is a Roman amphitheater built in the first century AD in Verona, Italy. Originally used for gladiatorial games and public spectacles, it could seat over 30,000 spectators. Remarkably well-preserved, it survived earthquakes and centuries of changing use. During the Middle Ages, it hosted tournaments and public gatherings. In the modern era, it became world-renowned for open-air opera performances, beginning in 1913 with Verdi's *Aida*. Today, it remains a symbol of Verona's cultural heritage and Roman legacy, attracting visitors worldwide for concerts, operas, and historical admiration. The Arena exemplifies ancient engineering and enduring artistic tradition.

3.00pm Leave Verona to return to our hotel for a rest.

6.45pm Depart on the bus for dinner and a concert.  
Wear uniforms and bring all concert things.

7.00pm Dinner at Cangrande Restaurant.

8.00pm Depart from dinner on the bus.

9.00pm Concert in the church of Porto de Legnago with the  
Oratorium Choir Heiloo (Netherlands) and the Coro Monte Dosso (Italy)  
Repertoire:

We each sing a 25 minute set and then Ode an die Freude and  
Signore delle Cime together.

Refreshments after the concert with the other choirs and then return to  
our hotel.

## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Big sleep in and breakfast at the hotel



- 12.00pm Depart on the bus for lunch, swimming in Lake Garda and a concert. Bring uniform, concert things and swimming things. (52km, 40 mins)
- 1.00pm Arrival at Peschiera del Garda for an afternoon on the lake beaches.
- 6.30pm We can get changed out of our beach gear at Al Fiore restaurant.  
7.00pm Dinner at Al Fiore Restaurant.
- 8.00pm Walking departure for the Church in Peschiera del Garda
- 9.00pm Concert with Angelica Women's Chamber Choir (USA) and Oratorium Choir Heiloo (Netherlands)  
Repertoire:  
  
We each sing a 25 minute set and then Ode an die Freude and Signore delle Cime together.  
  
Refreshments after the concert with the other choirs and then return to our hotel.

## Sunday, July 13

- Breakfast at the hotel.  
Include a motion sickness pill if you get boat sick.
- 9:15am Depart on the bus for Sirmione, "the pearl of Lake Garda" (60km, 45mins)
- 10.30am Fast boat tour of the promontory of Sirmione,  
And then free time to explore the city centre.
- 1.00pm Depart on the bus for lunch at Al Fiore restaurant in Peschiera del Garda.
- 2.45pm Return to the hotel (45mins) and a short rest.
- 4.30pm Depart on the bus for concert and dinner. Wear uniforms and bring all concert things.
- 5.15pm Arrive in San Bortolo delle Montagne, a small but wonderful village in the Lessini Mountains. We will be greeted here by a demonstration of firing the Trombini, traditional firearms used since ancient times for signaling and intimidating purposes. Welcome refreshment.
- 6:30pm Concert with 4 other choirs in the Church of San Bortolo delle Montagne, and the festival closing ceremony.

Angelica Women's Chamber Choir (USA)  
Oratorium Choir Heiloo (Netherlands)  
Royale Union Wallonne (Belgium)  
“Hashira” Choir of the Jewish Community of Novi Sad (Serbia)  
Repertoire:

We each sing a 15 minute set and then Ode an die Freude and  
Signore delle Cime together.

8.00pm      Final festival dinner for all the choirs with traditional local products, and  
then return to the hotel.

## **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

Breakfast at the hotel.

9.30am      Depart on the bus for a day in Venice. (92km, 1 hour)  
Bring uniform and all concert things.

Venice, a city built on water, boasts a rich history dating back to the 5th century when refugees fled the mainland during the Lombard invasions. It emerged as a major maritime power by the 10th century, becoming a central player in the Crusades and the spice trade. For nearly a millennium, Venice was an independent republic, renowned for its artistic and architectural achievements. Venice and it's lagoon is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city's decline began in the 18th century, followed by Austrian rule and eventual incorporation into Italy. Today, Venice is a popular tourist destination, famous for its canals, gondolas, and cultural heritage.

10.30am      Arrive in Venice  
Walking tour which might include:

Rialto Market  
Rialto Bridge  
St Mark's Square and Basilica (free entry)  
Gallerie dell'Accademia – art gallery (free for under 18s)  
Views from Accademia Bridge  
Libreria Aqua Alta – the most beautiful bookshop in the world  
Vivaldi's church - Chiesa di Santa Maria della Pieta

12.30pm      Lunch (packed lunch made in the morning)  
  
Free time to explore Venice

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 5.30pm | Meet our festival guide at the Bell Tower in St Mark's Square, and head to our concert venue, the Chiesa di San Nicolò da Tolentino, commonly known as the Tolentini Church. |
| 7.00pm | Concert with Angelica Women's Chamber Choir (USA)<br>We each sing a 30 minute set and then Ode an die Freude and Signore delle Cime together.                                |
| 8.00pm | Dinner in Venice, before we head back to the bus and back to the hotel.  |

## **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Breakfast at the hotel, and pack up to leave.

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 10.00am | Pack the bus, and depart for Susgana, via Treviso (110km, 70 mins)                       |
| 11.30am | Free time to explore Treviso and have lunch.   |
| TBA     | Leave Treviso to head to Susegana to check into Phi Hotel Astoria, Via Vigna 29 Susegana |
| TBA     | Rehearsal and Concert in Susegana and dinner with our host choir.                        |

## **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Leo's Birthday**

Breakfast at the hotel, and pack up to leave.

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|----------|--|
| 9.00am   | Pack the bus, and depart for Vienna (600km)  |
|          | It is 6.30 hours driving time to Vienna, but we will have breaks along the way and a lunch stop, so it will take longer. |
| ca5.30pm | Arrive in Vienna and settle into the the B&B Hotel St Marx in Vienna, Litfasstrasse2, Vienna, 1110                       |

## **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

World Peace Choir Choral Festival – final itinerary yet to be provided but will include:

Opening Ceremony of the festival in the Austria Centre Vienna.

Concerts in venues such as the Votivkirche, St Peter Kirche and MuTh, the Concert Hall of the Vienna Boys Choir and the Rotunda of the United Nations Headquarters with choirs from all around the world.

Performances in various retirement homes in Vienna.

Workshops in venues including the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna and Urania. (details TBA)

Attendance at a concert with the Vienna Boys Choir  
Evening Gala Concert at the famous Golden Hall of the Musicverein

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Sophie's Birthday**

Festival activities to be advised

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

Festival activities to be advised

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Festival activities to be advised

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

3.00am	Out of bed. Double arghhh...
3.15am	Pack the bus to head to the airport
3.30am	Depart for Vienna Airport Terminal 1 (16km, 30mins)
4.00am	Arrive Airport.
6.30am	Depart on Air France AF 1239 to Paris (Arrival Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport 8.40am)
11.25am	Depart on Malaysian Airlines MH21 arriving Kuala Lumpur 6.10am Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July.

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

9.20am	Depart on Malaysian Airlines MH129 to Melbourne arriving 7.15pm.
	Bye, Bye everyone!