

## Music Director Christopher Ryland

Christopher is thoroughly enjoying his second stint as Music Director for Mandurah City Choral Society. He has conducted choirs for over fifty years and still gets a real buzz from making music live!

He has sung with WASO Chorus for fifteen years, and has had many fun music making times since coming to Mandurah in 1999. He hopes you enjoy this concert!



## Accompanist Alexander Scutt

A graduate of the UWA School of Music, Alexander was born and raised in Perth. For the past thirty years he has lived interstate, mainly in Melbourne.

He and his wife Stephanie returned to WA in 2023 and settled in Mandurah and is delighted to be associated with the musical life here in the Peel Region and in particular with the Mandurah City Choral Society.

Alexander is an Anglican priest, currently working in Anglican churches here in this region. While not involved in matters Anglican and matters musical, Alexander enjoys working in the garden, walking in the beautiful environment of the Peel Region, with occasional forays into astrophotography.

## Cellist Jill Cooper

The Violoncello has been a major part of my life.

Starting at 7 years old I studied in England. When my family emigrated as "The Ten Pound Poms" my studies continued in Perth. My two teachers were Zoltan and Louis, who were both Hungarian and I nicknamed them "Budda" and "Pest"!!

At the age of sixteen I passed my Diploma of Performance and my first big musical experience was for Margot Fonteyn and the Royal Ballet who visited Her Majesty's Theatre in Perth.

The next year I auditioned and was accepted by the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and was a member, on and off, to have two beautiful daughters, for 47 years. In that time I was asked to play principle cello and had the opportunity to perform most of the fabulous solos from the repertoire. I was latterly an Examiner for the AMEB, The Education Department and ANZCA. Teaching was always a wonderful part of my life also and I so enjoyed being able to pass on what I had learned and experienced in my professional performance career.

I look forward to playing for you and sharing the wonderful language of music.



A graphic with a teal background. At the center is a black silhouette of a globe. Surrounding the globe are various musical notes and symbols, including a treble clef, a bass clef, and several eighth and sixteenth notes. Below the globe, two black hands are shown in silhouette, palms up, as if holding or presenting the globe. The text 'music all around us' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle. Below it, in a smaller white font, is 'A concert by the Mandurah City Choral Society'. A horizontal teal bar contains the text '2:30 pm | Sunday 5 May | Mandurah Seniors &amp; Community Centre' in white. At the bottom, on a black background, the text 'music direction Christopher Ryland', 'accompaniment Alexander Scutt', and 'featuring cellist Jill Cooper' is written in white.

## music all around us

A concert by the Mandurah City Choral Society

2:30 pm | Sunday 5 May | Mandurah Seniors & Community Centre

music direction Christopher Ryland

accompaniment Alexander Scutt

featuring cellist Jill Cooper

# Message from the President

Welcome to our first concert for 2024 - "Music all around us". Our musical director, Chris Ryland has put together a lovely program of MCCC's favourites and some new works such as *The Seal Lullaby* by Eric Whitacre and *Ubi Caritas* by Ola Gjeilo.

Chris together with our accompanist, Alex Scutt will lead the choir through a journey of beautiful music that includes compositions by John Rutter, Gabriel Fauré, César Franck, Antonin Dvořák, Billy Joel and ABBA. Today we are featuring cellist Jill Cooper, who will be joining the choir in *Panis Angelicus* and *Cantique de Jean Racine* as well as some solos.

So please sit back and enjoy Music all around us.

**Karen Reeves, President**

## Programme notes

We have chosen a set of pieces that are more relaxing and restful today. Go to sleep if you wish, but don't snore too loudly!

John Rutter's choral pieces, always expressive, are ideal choices, as are the two Fauré pieces, one choral, one for cello. Fauré was only a teenager when he won a prize for his *Cantique*. His *Élégie*, however, is a mature work, written in 1880, and is dedicated to the cellist Jules Loeb, who gave its first performance in 1883. Fauré's teacher, Saint-Saens, is represented here by *The Swan*, with Jill Cooper on cello. Jill is also featured in César Franck's well-known *Panis Angelicus*.

The rest of the programme is made up of more recent compositions, from the popular music scene, and from the contemporary classical choral repertoire. Ole Gjeilo's *Ubi Caritas* and Eric Whitacre's *Seal Lullaby* are both evocative in their own way. *Ubi Caritas* creates a hypnotic medieval monastery atmosphere, whilst *Seal Lullaby* (words by Rudyard Kipling), creates a gentle musical picture of protective ocean waves. New Zealand born David Hamilton's *May The Road Rise To Meet You* is a lovely version of the Irish Blessing.

Selected because of their relaxed and expressive qualities, songs such as Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, *What a Wonderful World*, and Mortensen's *Since You Went Away*, are obvious inclusions in this programme, and *Thank You For The Music* (thank you, ABBA!), reminds us that we should thank our creator for giving us music in the first place!

Enjoy!

**Chris Ryland, Music Director**



## Programme

### Look at the World

J Rutter

### Goin' Home

music A Dvořák  
lyrics W Arms Fisher

### Since you went away

O Mortensen, J W Johnson

### What a Wonderful World

GD Weiss, B Thiele  
arr. M Byrmer

### Panis Angelicus

music C Franck  
arr. J Rutter

### Élégie

G Fauré

### Hallelujah

L Cohen  
arr. R Emerson

### All Things Bright and Beautiful

J Rutter

## INTERVAL

### Thank You for the Music

B Ulvaeus, B Andersson  
arr. J Estes

### The Seal Lullaby

E Whitacre  
lyrics R Kipling

### Cantique de Jean Racine

G Fauré

### The Swan (Le Cygne)

C Saint-Saens

### Ubi Caritas

O Gjeilo

### Lullabye (Goodnight, My Angel)

B Joel  
arr. M Huff

### May The Road Rise To Meet You

D Hamilton  
ed. HH Leck