

HUNTER SINGERS



HIGHLIGHTS

Hunter Singers was established in 1989 by Music Director, Kim Sutherland as the Hunter Region Department of Education Choir.

The choir has had many highlights, including international tours, commissioned works and wonderful concerts. Members of Hunter Singers have forged lifelong friendships and in November 2009, over 100 current and former members joined together for a phenomenal 20th Anniversary Concert. The atmosphere was electrifying as the wonderful sound of the singers filled Newcastle City Hall.

Hunter Singers is well known for its commitment to Australian music, with many commissioned works including Michael Atherton's *Inside the Storm*, Stephen Leek's work for choir and orchestra, *Glasshouses*, and works by Dan Walker, Gordon Hamilton, Rosalind Carlson, Wendy Ireland and Matthew Orlovich.

Hunter Singers has performed with many outstanding artists including Afro Moses, Barry Manilow, Rhonda Burchmore, Newtown High School of Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra, the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir, Young Voices of Melbourne and The Australian Voices.

Some members of Hunter Singers were also involved in a recording project with Daniel Johns and Paul Mac from The Dissociatives.



Hunter Singers has released three compact discs – *Kondalilla* (2005), *Hunter Singers: Carols and Songs* (1996) and *Hunter Singers: 10 Years* (2000). The CD of the 20th Anniversary concert will be released in 2010.



INTERNATIONAL TOURS

2009 - Austria and Germany

2007 - England, Belgium, France

2005 - Canada

2003 - Italy

2001 - New Zealand

1999 - Austria, England, Wales

1992 - USA

HUNTER SINGERS



Where are they now ...

Former members of Hunter Singers are making their mark in a variety of fields across the globe. An incomplete list includes: teacher, classical singer, occupational therapist, parent, Qantas pilot, singer on cruise ships, performer in musicals, photographer, secretary, speech pathologist, chef, nurse, composer, conductor, priest, banker, lawyer, music director, singer in a band, recording artist, manager of a women's refuge, journalist, graphic designer, trainee events manager, marketing manager, insurance call centre manager, actor, director, nurse, paramedic, producer, physiotherapist, circus performer, human resources, lifeguard, public servant, youth worker, yoga teacher, accountant, dental practice manager, childcare worker, port officer, country singer, scientist, electronics technician - Royal Australian Navy, travel agent, apprentice plant mechanic and environmental activist.

Commissioned Works

Castles by Gordon Hamilton (2009)
Visions of Vastness by Stephen Leek (2009)
Morpheus by Dan Walker (2008)
Known Unto God by Paul Jarman (2007)
Ezekiel by Matthew Orlovich (2004)
Into the Night by Gordon Hamilton (2004)
Falling Down by Wendy Ireland (2003)
Tree Song by Gordon Hamilton (2002)
Newcastle Flyer by Rosalind Carlson (2001)
Glasshouses by Stephen Leek (2000)
Coolongolook by Peter Brock (1999)
Inside the Storm by Michael Atherton (1998)

Works written for Hunter Singers

- *Obachule* by Carlos Villanueva (2002)
- *Lullaby* by Robert Constable (2001)
- *Falling of the Leaves* by Gordon Hamilton (2000)
- *Kyrie* by Sam Donovan (1998)
- *Island Songs* by Stephen Leek (1994)

As every former and current member of Hunter Singers knows, the incomparable sense of identity and group cohesion that has always been typical of the Hunter Singers is due to Kim Sutherland's tireless dedication to the singers - both in a musical and personal sense.

But not only does the organisation provide a terrific musical and social experience for the young people involved, it also continues to make a positive mark on the culture of choral music - both at home and abroad - through regular commissioning of new Australian works, published recordings and participation in international festivals.

Gordon Hamilton

Awards ...

- First prize at the Citibank Open Choral Award at the City of Sydney Performing Arts Challenge in 1997, the only children's choir ever to win the event
- Joint winners of the Australian National Choral Championships, Youth Section in 1993
- Second prize at the 2009 Summa cum Laude International Youth Music Festival in Vienna. Hunter Singers was invited to perform in the Gala Prizewinners Concert in the Musikverein, home to the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.
- Two major prizes in the 2003 Verona International Choral Competition, competing against 34 choirs from 11 countries, winning the gold cup award and a special jury prize for the best performance of a contemporary work