



NEWSLETTER SEP 2025

PENELOPE – MEZZOS & PERFORMING CHOIR

Alongside Alta Collective, the Mezzo Yarra Voices and Performing Choir will be performing *Penelope* by Sarah Kirkland Snider, a powerful song cycle reimagining *The Odyssey* through themes of memory and homecoming. This will be the world premiere of Juliana Kay's new choral arrangement, supported by the composer, scored for treble voices, children's choir, string quintet, percussion and electronics.

You can read more about the project here: www.altacollectivemusic.com/penelope
Yarra Voices families can use discount code CHILDRENSCHOIR for 20% off. Tickets are already selling quickly and may sell out - please book soon! www.trybooking.com/DDQIU

Rehearsals & Schedule Update - *Sunday 12 Oct rehearsal is cancelled*

- Instead, we will rehearse **Saturday 18 Oct at St Christophers Parish Glen Waverley**, so we can join forces with Young Voices of Melbourne, Melbourne Youth Chorale, the band and Alta Collective. (The church is a 12 minute walk from Syndal Train Station)
- St Christophers is a 35 minute drive from Fitzroy North (this was to also accommodate Melbourne Youth Chorale who are travelling from Berwick)
- I've made up a carpooling spreadsheet for any families that require support to get their children to rehearsal can pop their name down. If you can also help with carpooling please write this on the spreadsheet [HERE](#)
- If it will be impossible for your child to make this rehearsal, please contact Renee asap
- Please make use of the rehearsal recordings here: [PRACTICE RECORDINGS](#)

Costume Details:

- Black performance pants and shoes (same as you would wear to YV concert)
- Plain black, light blue, navy, royal blue t-shirt etc. (no logo)–**parents/choristers to source**

Extra rehearsals:

- Thurs 9 Oct – 6–7pm, 75 Reid Street
- Sat 18 Oct – 3.30–5pm, St Christophers, 5 Doon St, Glen Waverley (**new date**)

Concert details:

- Sun 26 Oct – Magdalen Laundry, Abbotsford Convent
- 5:45pm Call | 6pm Rehearsal | 7:30–8:30pm Concert



GREAT BIG TREE – CHILDREN’S OPERA DEVELOPMENT

We are so excited to begin the development of *GREAT BIG TREE*, a brand new children’s opera by Alice Chance and directed by Julie Ritchey. Alice and Julie will be working alongside the children during this special two-day workshop at **Fitzroy North Library**.

Schedule

- **Wed 2 Oct** – 9am–2pm (singing call, lunch, theatre call)
- **Thu 3 Oct** – 10am–4pm (singing call, lunch, theatre call & touch ups)
→ **Mini showcase for parents & friends at 4.30pm**

If any singers **Year 4 and older** who haven’t contacted me already would like to join us, they must be available on both dates. Please email renee@theyarravoices.com

AUDITIONS FOR OUR 2026 PROGRAMS

Enrolments are open for new choristers to audition in November for our 2026 programs. If you know any young people that love singing, please feel free to send them this google form to complete > [HERE](#)

2026 INTENTIONS – DUE NOVEMBER 1

Thank you for a wonderful year so far with a lot of joyous music making! Please fill out the following google form with your intentions for next year. We will have a lot of new

children auditioning for a place in YV in 2026, so need to know who is planning on continuing with us next year so we have an idea of how many spots to offer.

If continuing, you should plan what group your child is in for 2026 in advance. All children will go automatically up into their respective age group's choir in 2026 unless you've had a conversation with Renee in advance.

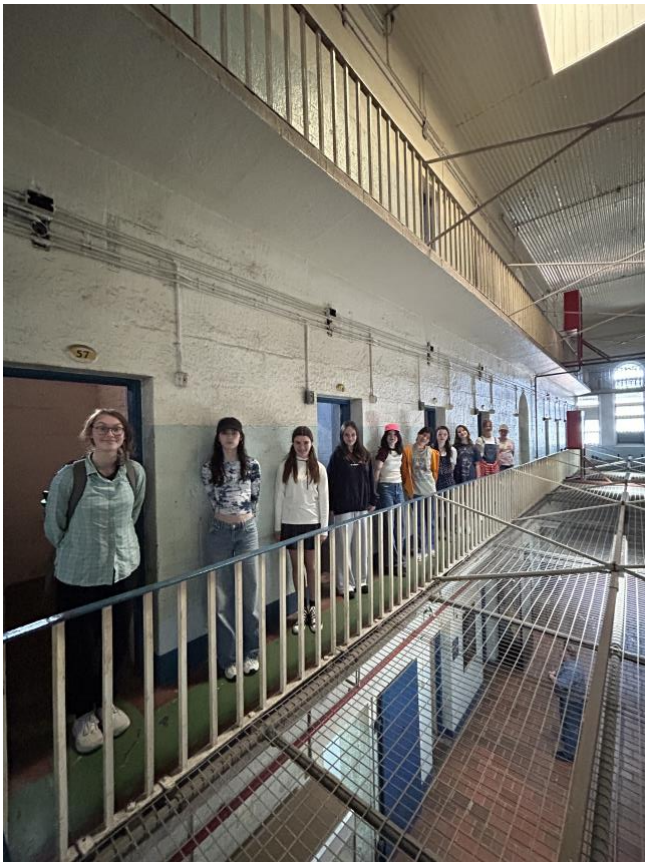
YV Kids (Year 1-2), Junior Yarra Voices (Year 3-4), Mezzo Yarra Voices (Year 5-6) & Performing Choir (Year 7-12)

As always, we ask all families that wish to hold a spot for their child in the 2026 program to pay a \$50 holding fee. This amount will be deducted from your Sem 1 2026 fees so you will not be out of pocket if your child continues with us. This allows us to get a clearer picture of how many children will continue with us next year, how many places we have to offer from auditions and to cover admin fees. Intention forms are due by November 1st. Fill out 2026 Intentions [HERE](#)

GEELONG DAY TOUR – SEP 6

Our performing choir had an amazing time visiting Geelong Waterfront, Old Geelong Gaol Museum and doing workshops and performing with NORTH Children's Choir. Here are some highlights of the day.





YARRA VOICES BUSH DANCE FUNDRAISER @ FITZROY TOWN HALL

Save the date! We've booked the Fitzroy Town Hall for a fun-filled Sunday afternoon Bush Dance on **Sunday, November 16 at 3pm** and you won't want to miss it. There'll be live music from a bush band, tasty refreshments, games and lots of dancing! Please contact us if you have any business contacts (or even run a business yourself) that might be interested in donating to our raffle!

CHILD SAFETY

The Yarra Voices is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. We have a page set up on our website that has our Child Safety Policy attached. Over the coming term this will be further updated with other documents and links that you and your children can access. www.theyarravoices.com/current-parents

If you have any concerns with anything child safety related you are always free to contact any of the Yarra Voices Staff or Belinda Ashe, one of our YV board members, who is our official child safe contact at yarravoicesboard@gmail.com

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Don't forget to like our Facebook & Instagram accounts for photos, videos from concerts & events! www.facebook.com/theyarravoices
www.instagram.com/theyarravoices/

COMMITMENT AND COMMUNICATION REMINDER

We expect all singers will be at every performance, camp and choir activity unless we have heard from you. We understand that sometimes it is not possible to attend and if that is the case we need to know as soon as possible, and not last minute, so check the calendar and let us know asap if you have any clashes. Also, just a reminder that students are to arrive **5-10 minutes** before rehearsal starts so they are ready to start warmups with us as soon as rehearsal begins. As I tell the kids, 'Early is on-time and on-time is late!' There are so many important social things that happen before rehearsal starts too, and it's a lovely chance for the kids to make friends and have a bit of a play and laugh before we get started.

SINGING LESSONS

We often have people contact us about private vocal lessons for their child and two of our Yarra Voices staff are excellent singing teachers. Our administrator Margie Francis, who lives in Northcote and our tutor Marjorie Butler who lives in Brunswick East.

If you are interested in finding out more about private vocal tuition reach out to Marj at contact@marjoriehannah.com or Margie at margaret-francis@outlook.com

2025 Calendar – any new events or date changes highlighted

Sep 17/18	Last rehearsal for Term 3
Oct 2-3	<i>GREAT BIG TREE</i> - Children's Opera Development Fitzroy North Library
Oct 8/9	First rehearsal for Term 4
Thurs Oct 9	PENELOPE rehearsal 75 Reid St, Auditorium 6-7pm MEZZOS & PERFORMING CHOIR ONLY
Sat Oct 18	PENELOPE rehearsal (NEW) St Christophers Parish Church, 5 Doon St. Glen Waverley 3.30-5pm MEZZOS & PERFORMING CHOIR ONLY
Sun Oct 26	PENELOPE with Alta Collective (Australian Premiere) Magdalen Laundry – Abbotsford Convent

5.45pm call time – 7.30pm concert
MEZZOS & PERFORMING CHOIR ONLY

Thurs Oct 30 Conducting workshop with Dr Katharine Parton (during rehearsal)
PERFORMING CHOIR ONLY

Sun Nov 16 YV Bush Dance Fundraiser
Fitzroy Town Hall
3pm (TBC)

Sat Dec 6 A Star Passed Over – Summer Concert
Christ Church South Yarra
Rehearsals from 12.30pm
Concert at 3.30pm
ALL CHOIRS

2026 Calendar

March 28-29 Choir Camp (compulsory)
Camp Manyung – Mt Eliza
MEZZO YARRA VOICES & PERFORMING CHOIR ONLY

April 10-12 ANCA CHORALFEST – Geelong
MEZZO YARRA VOICES & PERFORMING CHOIR ONLY