



Friday, 27 March 2015  
MEDIA RELEASE

## **WORLD WAR ONE REMEMBERED IN MUSIC**

Central Coast Chorale presents a memorial program of music inspired by World War One at St Patrick's Church, East Gosford at 2pm Sunday 17 May.

Titled, '1915: God, King and Country', the forty-voice choir, which features local Central Coast singers and led by music director, Christopher Bowen OAM, perform stirring anthems that motivated men to enlist to reflections of sadness of the war's toll on human lives.

Bowen says of the program, "The music of the war era was immensely patriotic and appealed to a soldier's sense of duty to protect families and loved ones.

"Religious faith and national loyalties influenced mothers especially, who ultimately paid a high price for their sons' participation."

The Chorale will perform haunting excerpts from Bowen's 2014 critically acclaimed, 'War Requiem'.

Elke Hook, Mangrove Mountain resident, and Sean Le Breton from Narara, will feature as soloists in a piece written especially for the concert by local composer, Shayne Leslie of Wyoming, based on John 15:13.

The Chorale will perform England's other national anthem, 'Jerusalem', which was specifically written by British composer, Sir Hubert Parry at the request of poet, Robert Bridges in 1916 to "brace the spirit of the nation [to] accept with cheerfulness all the sacrifices necessary."

Other songs featured include Henry Purcell's 'Thou Knowest Lord', Charles Stanford's 'A Song of Battle', John Ireland's 'Greater Love Hath No Man' and Vaughan Williams' 'O How Amiable'.

Concertgoers will get a glimpse of how music stirred patriotism amongst civilian Australians and encouraged them to enlist for God, King and country. It is a must for those who want to honour and remember the fallen.

Tickets are on sale through the Chorale's website or available at the door. The group rehearses Wednesday nights and new members are always welcome. Contact Anne Darlington for more information on 02 4307 9355.

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