

Help Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir shine in Vienna

Cairns Philanthropy Dinner - 14 March 2017

The leader in Australian choral performance, Gondwana Choirs will host a special dinner to raise much-needed funds to take

23 talented young singers from Cairns to Austria to perform with the world-famous Vienna Boys Choir in May.

The Cairns Philanthropy Dinner will be held at the Cairns Pullman International on Tuesday, 14 March from 6:30pm for a

buffet meal, drinks, a silent auction and a spectacular live performance by the Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir.

All proceeds raised will go towards the Vienna-Cairns-Sydney Project – a world-first collaboration between two internationally

renowned children's choirs: Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the Vienna Boys Choir (Wiener Sängerknaben).

The iconic choirs will collaborate throughout 2017, with the project including the creation of a new musical composition based

on traditional Indigenous stories from the Cairns region, to be performed by the two ensembles together in Cairns and Sydney in October.

Gondwana Choirs Founder and Artistic Director Lyn Williams OAM says the project will bring the two world-class ensembles together for a special cross-cultural exchange that will bridge the rich and diverse cultural heritage through a shared love of singing and performance.

"We are enormously excited to announce this unique project and trip to the world capital of music, which is sure to be a life-changing experience for our talented young Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander choristers aged 10 to 17 – many who have never before travelled overseas," said Williams.

In May, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir will travel to Vienna, Austria to rehearse with the Vienna Boys Choir for the first time and to perform in its esteemed venue, the MuTh. The choir will also travel to Frankfurt, Germany and Maribor, Slovenia, for rehearsals and collaborative performances with The European School Frankfurt and Carmina Slovenika.

In October, the Vienna Boys Choir travel to Sydney for final rehearsals with Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, and the

extended massed choirs of the Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana National Choirs. Together they will perform at the

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall on Tuesday, 10 October before travelling to Cairns for further rehearsals and a combined

performance for the local community at the Cairns Convention Centre on Friday, 13 October. Tickets on sale soon.

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir is offered at no cost to the talented young people selected to participate, supported by Principal Partner Rio Tinto, and substantial additional fundraising is already underway to make this project possible. The

Vienna-Cairns-Sydney project is presented in partnership with the Austrian National Tourist Office and the Vienna Tourist Board and proudly supported by events partner, Accor Hotels and TicketSocket. A Plus 1 Funding grant has been awarded from Creative Partnerships Australia, where each individual donation will be matched by CPA up to \$50,000, effectively doubling each contribution.

"We are calling on the local business community and broader community in Cairns to join us at this special event to help us put Cairns on the world stage by making this exceptional opportunity a reality for our dedicated young singers," said Williams.

Tickets to the Gondwana Cairns Philanthropy Dinner are now on sale for \$100 per adult, \$40 for school-aged children. For more information or to purchase tickets or make a tax-deductible donation, please visit gondwana.org.au/special-projects/vienna-cairns-sydney

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About Gondwana Choirs

Gondwana Choirs is the leader in Australian choral performance, shaping the Australian sound through the creation and presentation of innovative new work, and providing opportunities to all talented young Australians aged 10 to 26 through world-class training by leading artists. Founded in 1989, Gondwana Choirs comprises the most accomplished choral groups of young people in Australia and has three distinct arms: The Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana National Choirs and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. Awarded the APRA/AMCOS award for Excellence by an Organisation for its 2014 Artistic Program and significant contribution to Australian music since 1989. gondwana.org.au

NOTES TO EDITORS

EVENT OVERVIEW

Event: Cairns Philanthropy Dinner

Date/Time: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 at 6.30pm-10:30pm

Location: Pullman Cairns International, 17 Abbott Street, Cairns QLD

Tickets: \$100 full; \$40 child (school-age); corporate packages available

URL: <https://tickets.gondwana.org.au/event/cairns>

PROJECT TIMELINE

JANUARY

Gondwana Choirs received grant from Cairns Regional Council to commission a new work for the combined choirs based on a dreaming story of the Yidinji nation. Australian composer Owen Elsley collaborated with Yidinji elder Gudju Gudju Fourmile.

14 MARCH: CAIRNS

Cairns Philanthropic Dinner, Pullman Cairns International.

MAY: FRANKFURT – MARIBOR – VIENNA

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir (GICC) flies from Cairns to Frankfurt for workshops and performances with The European School Frankfurt

GICC travels from Frankfurt to Maribor, Slovenia, for collaborative performances with Carmina, Slovenika

GICC travels to Vienna for rehearsals with the Vienna Boys Choir (VBC) and explore Vienna. New work by Owen Elsley rehearsed in Vienna

GICC to perform at the MuTh, the esteemed home venue of VBC

OCTOBER: SYDNEY

GICC and VBC arrive in Sydney for intensive rehearsal period with massed Gondwana Choirs' ensembles

Performance/collaborations with the Austrian Consulate General and the Austrian Trade Commission

Gala performance in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House, Tuesday, 10 October

OCTOBER: CAIRNS

GICC and VBC travel to Cairns for final rehearsal period and time on country with local indigenous leaders

Exclusive performance by both ensembles at Cairns Convention Centre, Friday, 13 October

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