

**YOUNG VOICES OF HOBART 5TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024, BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for the performance by the Young Voices of Hobart Choir and to mark your 5th birthday.

May I acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

The philosopher, Plato, is reputed to have said, "Music... gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, and life to everything. It is the essence of order and leads to all that is good..."¹² This quote sums up why we are all here.

Choirs are not just groups of voices. Choirs have an ability to bring people together regardless of age, background, or belief. They form bonds between the singers and unite them in a shared experience.

Renowned neuroscientist, Professor Alan Harvey, believes that music is an important part of education, facilitating social and cognitive development with permanent effects such as increased motor skills, improved memory, and verbal and literacy skills to name just a few.³

Young choir members develop their musical talents and learn valuable life skills. They learn the value of teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and they experience camaraderie and a sense of belonging.

¹ Wordsworth Dictionary of Musical Quotations, 1991, p. 45

² <https://ianchadwick.com/blog/plato-music-and-misquotes/>

³ https://www.ted.com/talks/alan_harvey_your_brain_on_music/transcript

Aaron Powell founded Young Voices Hobart in 2019 with the aim to have an impact on people, provide an outlet for their creativity and expression, build their confidence and self-esteem, and improve mental health.

Since then, over 125 young choristers have enjoyed the benefits of being a member of this choir.⁴ That is certainly worth celebrating.

Over the past five years, your choir has entertained many audiences. From local community events to prestigious competitions interstate. You have performed at MONA, at corporate events, and annually at the Festival of Voices.

These accomplishments are testament to the commitment and hard work of every member of your choir. It is also indicative of the support provided by families, teachers, and supporters of the choir. You provide much of the logistics. Well done to you all.

May I conclude by wishing you all Happy 5th Birthday. Now I am very much looking forward to hearing the choir perform and meeting you all after the performance.

Thank you.

⁴ Email Aaron Powell/Paula Chatwood 6 May 2024