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MEDIA RELEASE
Friday 25 May 2018

Queensland singers called to share stage with stars in special Armistice Centenary Concerts - Voices of Remembrance

The Queensland Government in partnership with Queensland Music Festival (QMF) will stage commemorative concerts – *Voices of Remembrance* – in Toowoomba and Cairns on 9 and 10 November 2018, starring renowned New Zealand baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes and award-winning songstress Katie Noonan.

Choristers will have the chance to join the stars on stage for the *Voices of Remembrance* musical extravaganzas, with Music Director Dr Jonathon Welch – founder of The Choir of Hard Knocks – putting a call out for community choirs and individuals to audition to perform live at the concerts.

QMF is planning for a 200-strong mass choir and a core choir of 30 at each *Voices of Remembrance* concert in Toowoomba and Cairns. From 11 to 29 June, interested choristers can submit an online audition to be part of these special concerts, either with their existing choir, or as individuals.

Choristers all over Queensland can be involved in the *Voices of Remembrance* program by learning the concert repertoire in their own communities. Choirs should showcase their work by performing at pop-up events, community gatherings or formal concerts in the lead up to, or in conjunction with their Remembrance Day services.

Queensland choirs and individuals can register their interest now at qmf.org.au to learn more about how they can be involved, and to receive the concert repertoire when it becomes available online in July 2018.

Those who participate can attend workshops or join rehearsals via livestream with Dr Welch and composer / conductor Gordon Hamilton, Artistic Director of The Australian Voices, to ensure they are in fine voice for their big night.

The repertoire will include First World War-era favourites such as *Keep the Home Fires Burning* alongside modern pieces by contemporary artists who have written song cycles about the women at home and first-hand experiences at the Western Front.

In Toowoomba, a community orchestra conducted by Patrick Pickett, will help bring to life the musical tribute. The concert will feature a distinctively localised musical narrative written by Queensland director Dan Evans, highlighting the contribution of the Australian Light Horse who turned the tide of First World War in Beersheba. In Cairns, the orchestra, also conducted by Patrick Pickett will showcase the role of Indigenous soldiers in the First World War.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan said the concert would be a reflection on war and peace.

“This concert will help everyone reconnect with moving stories from the First World War and celebrate the peace that came with the signing of the Armistice,” Ms Noonan said.

To register your interest in participating in the *Voices of Remembrance* program, visit qmf.org.au.

Voices of Remembrance, Toowoomba

DATE: Friday, 9 November 2018

TIME: 7pm

VENUE: Empire Theatre, Toowoomba

TICKETS: Free, all-ages. Ticket bookings available later in the year.

Voices of Remembrance, Cairns

DATE: Saturday, 10 November 2018

TIME: 7pm

VENUE: Munro Martin Parklands, Cairns

TICKETS: Free, all-ages. Ticket bookings available later in the year.

-ENDS-

Queensland Music Festival is a statewide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music. Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Armistice Centenary Concerts – *Voices of Remembrance* is presented by the Queensland Government and produced by Queensland Music Festival.

The Queensland Government invites all Queenslanders to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice, the historic agreement on 11 November 1918 that led to the end of the First World War.

MEDIA CONTACT

Please click [here](#) to access images.

For further information and interviews please contact:

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