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MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

QUEENSLAND COMMEMORATES THE ARMISTICE CENTENARY WITH MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Tickets and registrations are now available for two free commemorative concerts in Toowoomba and Cairns in November, which will see renowned New Zealand baritone **Teddy Tahu Rhodes** and award-winning songstress **Katie Noonan** leading a mass community choir through iconic songs that reflect on the First World War experience.

Voices of Remembrance is a musical memorial—presented by the Queensland Government in partnership with Queensland Music Festival (QMF)—commemorating the centenary of the signing of the Armistice that led to the end of the First World War. This momentous event is one of the final anniversaries to be observed during the Anzac Centenary period, 2014–2018.

Specially selected by music director **Dr Jonathon Welch AM**, founder of The Choir of Hard Knocks, the repertoire includes anthems that reflect on war, peace and the enduring legacy of the Anzac spirit.

In addition to a world premiere by revered Australian composer **Gordon Hamilton**, musical highlights of the two-hour concert include favourite songs from the era, *Keep the Home Fires Burning* and *It's A Long Road to Tipperary*, through to contemporary works such as Kristin Berard's *A Mother's Plea* and Eric Bogle's *And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda*.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan said each concert would feature a distinct musical narrative, written specifically for Toowoomba and Cairns locales by award-winning Queensland playwright and director **Daniel Evans**, a past recipient of the Queensland Premier's Drama Award.

"*Voices of Remembrance* spotlights the history and legacy of the community during the First World War, and acknowledges the vital role of Indigenous soldiers and the Australian Light Horse, whose actions helped turn the tide of war in favour of the allies," Ms Noonan said.

"These powerful concerts will help everyone reconnect with moving stories from the First World War, and pay tribute to the peace that came with the signing of the Armistice."

Toowoomba Anglican College and Preparatory School's Director of Performing Arts, **Nerida Eckert**, said she was proud to perform as part of the Toowoomba core choir alongside her husband and members of her local community.

"*Voices of Remembrance* is a worthy celebration of Australian history and an important event to reflect on the sacrifice of ordinary Australians to provide us with a better quality of life," Ms Eckert said.

"It is a wonderful experience to perform with high calibre conductors, soloists and musicians alongside my fellow choristers."



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Community choirs all over Queensland have been rehearsing the *Voices of Remembrance* concert repertoire in their own communities and will showcase their work with performances at pop-up events, community gatherings or formal concerts in the lead up to, or in conjunction with, their Remembrance Day services.

Many groups from across the state have embraced this opportunity, with groups from Mount Isa, across to Charters Towers and down to Cunnamulla and Scenic Rim already confirming their local performance details.

The free *Voices of Remembrance* concerts in Toowoomba and Cairns are part of a broad and inclusive suite of Armistice Centenary commemorations across the state to ensure the Anzac legacy is preserved for future generations.

For the full program of Armistice Centenary commemorations visit qld.gov.au/remembrance

Voices of Remembrance, Toowoomba

DATE: Friday, 9 November 2018

TIME: 7pm

VENUE: Empire Theatre, Toowoomba

TICKETS: Free, all-ages.

INFORMATION & TICKETS: www.qld.gov.au/remembranceday

Voices of Remembrance, Cairns

DATE: Saturday, 10 November 2018

TIME: 7pm

VENUE: Munro Martin Parklands, Cairns

INFORMATION & REGISTRATIONS: www.qld.gov.au/remembranceday

NOTE: While the performance in Cairns is not ticketed, attendees are encouraged to register their interest ahead of the event.

-ENDS-

Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide 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.

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.

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