



Program

Presented by Big Sing McLaren Vale
Sunday 24 September, 2023 • Tatachilla Lutheran College • 3pm
Conductor • Graham Abbott
Adelaide Concert Orchestra
Big Sing Chorus & Adelaide Philharmonia Chorus
Soprano Ruth Blythman • **Tenor** Robert Macfarlane • **Bass** Pelham Andrews

Duration: 1 hour 40 Minutes with 20 minute interval
The Big Sing Bar will be open in the foyer during interval and after the performance

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Big Sing Patron: Andy Clappis of Our Place@Willunga
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Big Sing McLaren Vale Committee
Julie Morgan (Chair), Greg John (Music Director), Carolyn Colling & Mark Lloyd, Martin Morgan, Jo Pike, Josh Smart

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It's well over forty years now that I, as a wet-behind-the-ears undergraduate conductor wannabe, first attempted to conduct Haydn's sublime masterwork. Now, at around the same age as Haydn was when he wrote it, I'm overjoyed to be conducting it for the tenth time in my career at the Big Sing in McLaren Vale.

The sheer colour and heart-on-sleeve panache of Haydn's music make it a perfect choice for a community choral celebration. We still experience the wonder that the first audiences in Vienna experienced in the 1790s, amazed that mere instruments and voices could make us see the sun, moon and stars, feel storms and snow, smell flowers, hear beasts, and wonder at the Garden of Eden.

The Creation is arguably Haydn's greatest achievement, in a long life full of great achievements.

It's a privilege to share it with you today.

Graham Abbott

Save the Date: Big Sing on Broadway
Sunday May 19th 2024 • Tatachilla Lutheran College • 3pm
Sign up for info at bigsing.org.au

THE CREATION by Joseph Haydn

Text: Gottfried van Swieten

PART ONE

1. Introduction – The Representation of Chaos

THE FIRST DAY

RAPHAEL

In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth; and the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

CHORUS

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters; and God said: Let there be Light, and there was Light.

URIEL

And God saw the Light, that it was good: and God divided the Light from the darkness.

2. URIEL

Now vanish before the holy beams the gloomy, dismal shades of dark; the first of days appears! Disorder yields and order fair prevails. Affrighted fly hell's spirits, black in throngs; down they sink in the deepest abyss to endless night.

CHORUS

Despairing, cursing rage attends their rapid fall. A new-created world springs up at God's command.

THE SECOND DAY

3. RAPHAEL

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament, and it was so. Outrageous, dreadful storms now arise; as chaff by the winds impell'd are the clouds. By heaven's fire the sky is enflamed and awful roll the thunders on high. Now from the floods the steams ascend, reviving showers of rain, and dreary wasteful hail, the light and flaky snow.

4. GABRIEL

The marvellous work beholds amaz'd the glorious hierarchy of heaven, and to the ethereal vaults resounds the praise of God, and of the second day.

CHORUS

And to the ethereal vaults resounds the praise of God, and of the second day.

THE THIRD DAY

5. RAPHAEL

And God said: Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so. And God called the dry land: earth, and the gathering of waters called he seas; and God saw that it was good.

6. RAPHAEL

Rolling in foaming billows uplifted roars the boisterous sea. Mountains and rocks now emerge; their tops into the clouds ascend. Through open plains, outstretching wide in serpent error rivers flow. Softly purling, glides on through silent vales the limpid brook.

7. GABRIEL

And God said: Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth; and it was so.

8. GABRIEL

With verdure clad the fields appear delightful to the ravished sense; by flowers sweet and gay enhanced is the charming sight. Here vent their fumes the fragrant herbs, here shoots the healing plant. By load of fruits the expanded boughs are hung; to shady vaults are bent the tufty groves; the mountain's brow is crowned with closed wood.

9. URIEL

And the heavenly host the third day proclaimed, praising God and saying:

10. CHORUS

Awake the harp, the lyre awake! In shouts and joy your voices raise! In triumph sing the mighty Lord! For he the heavens and earth has clothed in stately dress.

THE FOURTH DAY

11. URIEL

And God said: Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night, and to give light upon the earth; and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days, and for years. He made the stars also.

12. URIEL

In splendour bright rises now the sun, and darts his rays; an amorous joyful happy spouse, a giant proud and glad to run his measured course. With softer beams and milder light steals on the moon through silent night. The space immense of azure sky innumerable host of radiant orbs adorns, and the sons of God announced the fourth day, in song divine, proclaiming thus his power:

13. CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of God. The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL

To day, that is coming; speaks it the day; the night that is gone, to following night.

CHORUS

The heavens are telling...

GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL

In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood.

CHORUS

The heavens are telling...

PART TWO

THE FIFTH DAY

14. GABRIEL

And God said: Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

15. GABRIEL

On mighty pens uplifted soars the eagle aloft, and cleaves the sky in swiftest flight to the blazing sun. His welcome bids to the morn the merry lark and cooing, calls the tender dove his mate. From every bush and grove resound the nightingale's delightful, liquid notes. No grief affected yet her breast, nor to a mournful tale were tun'd her soft enchanting lays.

16. RAPHAEL

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, and God blessed them, saying: Be fruitful all, and multiply! Ye winged tribes, be multiplied, and sing on every tree! Multiply, ye finny tribes, and fill each watery deep! Be fruitful, grow, and multiply! And in you God and Lord rejoice! And the angels struck their immortal harps, and the wonders of the fifth day sang.

17. GABRIEL, URIEL, RAPHAEL

Most beautiful appear, with verdure young adorn the gently sloping hills. Their narrow, sinuous veins distill in crystal drops the fountain fresh and bright. In lofty circles play and flutter through the sky the cheerful hosts of birds. And in the flying whirl the glittering plumes are dyed as rainbows by the sun. See flashing through the wet in thronged swarms the fry on thousand ways around. Upheaved from the deep, the immense Leviathan sports on the foaming wave. How many are thy works, O God! Who may their numbers tell?

18. TRIO & CHORUS

The Lord is great, and great his might; his glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

20 MINUTE INTERVAL

The Foyer Bar is open during the interval

THE SIXTH DAY

19. RAPHAEL

And God said: Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind; cattle and creeping thing, and beasts of the earth after their kind.

20. RAPHAEL

Straight opening her fertile womb, the earth obeyed the word, and teemed creatures numberless, in perfect forms and fully grown. Cheerfully roaring, stands the tawny lion. In sudden leaps the flexible tiger appears. The nimble stag rears up his branching head. With flying mane, and fiery look, impatient neighs, the sprightly steed. The cattle in herds already seek their food on fields and meadows green. And o'er the ground, as plants, are spread the fleecy, meek and bleating flock. Unnumbered as the sands, in whirl arose the host of insects. In long dimensions creeps with sinuous trace the worm.

21. RAPHAEL

Now heaven in fullest glory shone; earth smiles in all her rich attire. The room of air with fowl is filled; the water swelled by shoals of fish; by heavy beasts the ground is trod. But all the work was not complete. There wanted yet that wondrous being that God's creation should admire, with heart and voice his goodness praise.

22. URIEL

And God created man in his own image. In the image of God created he him. Male and female created he them. He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

23. URIEL

In native worth and honour clad, with beauty, courage, strength adorned, to heav'n erect and tall he stands, a man, the lord and king of nature all. The large and arched brow sublime of wisdom deep declares the seat, and in his eyes with brightness shines the soul, the breath and image of his God. With fondness leans upon his breast the partner for him form'd, a woman fair, a graceful spouse. Her softly smiling virgin looks, of flow'ry spring the mirror, bespeak him love, and joy, and bliss.

24. RAPHAEL

And God saw everything that he had made; and behold, it was very good; and the heavenly choir in song divine thus closed the sixth day.

25. CHORUS

Achieved is the glorious work; the Lord beholds it and is pleased. In lofty strains let us rejoice, our song let be the praise of God!

26. GABRIEL, URIEL & RAPHAEL

On thee each living soul awaits; from thee, O Lord, they beg their meat. Thou openest

thy hand, and sated are they all. But when, O Lord, thy face is hid, with sudden terror they are struck. Thou tak'st their breath away; they vanish into dust. Thou lett'st thy breath go forth again, and life with vigour fresh returns. Revived earth unfolds new force and new delights.

27. CHORUS

Achieved is the glorious work, our song shall be the praise of God! Glorious be his name for ever; he sole on high, exalted, reigns. Alleluia.

PART THREE

ADAM AND EVE IN EDEN

URIEL

In rosy mantle appears, by tunes sweet awak'd, the morning, young and fair. From the celestial vaults pure harmony descends on ravish'd earth. Behold the blissful pair, where hand in hand they go! Their flaming looks express what feels the grateful heart. A louder praise of God their lips shall utter soon. Then let our voices ring, united with their song!

29. EVE and ADAM

By thee with bliss, O bounteous Lord, the heav'n and earth are stored. This world, so great, so wonderful, thy mighty hand has fram'd.

CHORUS

For ever blessed be his pow'r! His name be ever magnified!

ADAM

Of stars the fairest, O how sweet thy smile at dawning morn. How brighten'st thou, O sun, the day, thou eye and soul of all!

CHORUS

Proclaim in your extended course proclaim the almighty power of God!

EVE

And thou that rules the silent night, and all ye starry host, spread wide and everywhere his praise in choral songs about!

ADAM

Ye strong and cumbrous elements who ceaseless changes make, ye dusky mists and dewy steams, who rise and fall thro' th'air:

EVE, ADAM and CHORUS

Resound the praise of God our Lord! Great his name, and great his might.

EVE

Ye purling fountains, tune his praise, and wave your tops, ye pines! Ye plants exhale, ye flowers breathe on him your balmy scent!

ADAM

Ye that on the mountains stately tread, and ye that lowly creep, ye birds that sing

at heaven's gate, and ye that swim the stream,

EVE, ADAM and CHORUS

Ye living souls, extol the Lord! Him celebrate, him magnify!

EVE and ADAM

Ye valleys, hills, and shady woods, our raptured notes ye heard; from morn to eve you shall repeat our grateful hymns of praise.

CHORUS

Hail, bounteous Lord! Almighty, hail! Thy word call'd forth this wond'rous frame. Thy power adore the heav'n and earth; we praise thee now and evermore.

30. ADAM

Our duty have we now perform'd, in off'ring up to God our thanks. Now follow me, dear partner of my life! Thy guide I'll be, and every step pours new delights into our breast, shews wonders evrywhere. Then may'st thou feel and know the high degree of bliss the Lord allotted us, and with devoted heart his bounty celebrate. Come, follow me! Thy guide I'll be.

EVE

O thou, for whom I am! My help, my shield, my all! Thy will is law to me; so God, our Lord ordains. And from obedience grows my pride and happiness.

31. ADAM

Graceful consort! At thy side softly fly the golden hours. Every moment brings new rapture, every care is put to rest.

EVE

Spouse adored! At thy side purest joys o'erflow the heart. Life and all I am is thine; my reward shall be thy love.

EVE and ADAM

The dew-dropping morning, O how she quickens all! The coolness of evening, O how she all restores! How pleasing is of fruit the savour sweet! How charming is of fragrant bloom the smell! But without thee, what is to me the morning dew, the evening breeze the sav'ry fruit, the fragrant bloom? With thee is every joy enhanced, with thee delight is ever new; with thee is life incessant bliss; thine it all shall be.

32. URIEL

O happy pair, and always happy yet, if not, misled by false conceit, ye strive for more than granted is, and more would know, than know ye should!

33. CHORUS

Sing the Lord, ye voices all! Utter thanks, ye all his works! Celebrate his power and glory! Let his name resound on high! The Lord is great; his praise shall last for aye. Amen.

**ADELAIDE CONCERT
ORCHESTRA**

Concertmaster:
Carolyn Lam

Violin 1

Carolyn Lam
Marta Sutora
Anna Freer
Elinor Warwick
Tom Helps
Rob Wallace

Violin 2

Erna Berberyan
Matej Sutora
Ivan Skawronski
Natalia Beos
Alison Giles
Mae Napier-Traeger

Viola

Asha Stephenson
Georgina Price
Rachel Hicks
Natalie Maegraith

Cello

Jacqui Finlay
Louisa Giacomini
Samantha Greer
Anna Piland

Double Bass

Gustavo Quintino
Allan McBean

Flute

Linda Pirie
Karen Fletcher

Oboe

Jo Bridgman

Clarinet

Damien Hurn

Bassoon

Angas McBride

French Horn

Nicola Baker
Heath Parkinson

Trumpet

Timothy Frahn

Percussion

Simon Varga

Harpsichord

Graham Abbott

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Chorus Repetiteur

Nerissa Pearce

**ADELAIDE PHILHARMONIA
CHORUS • Director: Aldis Sils**
Alto solo • Mary Tatchell

SOPRANO

Rosemary Bonner
Belinda Card
Olga Chernova
Elizabeth Jarvis
Heather Karmel
Janine Langsford
Annette Lever
Tania Madigan
Margaret May
Veronika Mohor
Annie Murray
Christine Olsen
Caroline Pearson-Wright
Lisa Robson
Nella Schulz
Coraine Sopru
Angela Sullivan
Helen Yakovleff

ALTO

Jo Ankor
Rebecca Bailey
Penny Baker
Ruth Beach
Liliana Ciobanu
Michelle Davis
Kerri Greening
Hilary Hamnett
Monica Han
Elizabeth Holbert
Judy Holds
Charlotte Holmes
Suzanne Kovacs
Michelle Lai
Chris Lockwood
Anne Lonie
Liz Mackenzie
Joanna McInerney
Heather Miller
Christine Naudin
Charlotte Rischbieth
Mary Tatchell
Clare Tizard

TENOR

Lisa Buttery
Nick Carroll
Gregory Dayman
Henry Rischbieth
Malcolm Scott
Judy Szekeres
Junia Vaz de Melo

BASS

Michael Beamond
Greg Beml
Ian Brown
John Cassidy
Chris Davies
Gurney Khera
David Rapkin
Rick Shortridge
David Stevenson
Michael Tatchell
Andrew Taylor-Gammon

BIG SING CHORUS

SOPRANO

Anna Beach
Irene Bragg
Catherine Bullock
Helen Carrig
Kaye Fitton
Lynne Flavel
Catherine Gaughwin
Patti Greethead
Meredith Hams
Kate Hanna
Ela Hardy
Pamela Hargreaves
Rosalind Hewton
Margaret Hosking
Emily Hughes
Sue Irvine
Janice Jones
Jackie Kitschke
Kate Leeson
Bonnie Marriott
Erika Martens
Belinda Martus
Jennifer McDonell
Nadia McLaren
Beatrix Molanus-Winkel
Catherine More
Rosa Nistico
Sue Petty
Renata Ratzer
Lisa Robson
Christabel Saddler
Amara Seabrook
Josephine Stirna
Elizabeth Swaine
Gillian Triance
Tori Wade
Liz Wilson
Margaret Wilson
Janet Worth

ALTO

Kerstin Andersson
Lyn Barnett
Tania Black
Mary Boyd Turner
Alison Campbell
Rebecca Carline
Monica Christian
Terri Clark
Judi Comrie
Pia Drew
Julia Drought
Alison Dutton
Deej Eszenyi
Julie Farrell
Elaine Finlay
Robyn Fuller
Franka Gerlach
Marjolijn Haraghey
Deb Hepworth
Margo Holt
Sarah Hughes
Annette Johnston
Robyn Lakos
Jemimah Lanyon
Bonita Mason

Elizabeth Jane McNeil
Gillian Powis
Helen Schulz
Kate Schulze
Marion Statton
Susan Tonkin
Nynke van der Schaaf
Dianne Willson

TENOR

Gunther Andersson
Judith Barr
Jonathan Billington
Robin Brown
Alistair Campbell
Sue Fraser
Marianne Frommer
Rosie Knott
Carol Lee
Beate Linckelmann
Pam Luscombe
Michael Manders
Andrew Mathison
Jude McBain
Jo Pike
Rob Ranzijn
Alan Telford
Nigel Uppill
Liz Westwater-James

BASS

Michael Bleby
Anthony Burton
Geoffrey Cornish
David Gill
Lukas Heck
Ian Hughes
Jeremy Hughes
Greg John
Tim Lloyd
Chris Luscombe
Mark Mager
Peter Martin
Bruce Marriott
Peter Martin
Stephen Matthew
Michael Piovesan
Leigh Powis
Timothy Readman
Geoff Roe-Phillips
Alex Roose
Greg Strutt
Terry Williams
John Wilson
Craig Woodward

*Thanks to choir directors Alex
Roose (Fleurieu Singers) and
Richard Black (Voices in the
Wilderness).*

BIG SING

McLAREN VALE



Graham Abbott

A graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium, Graham Abbott has been Conductor-in-Residence at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide, Musical Director of Adelaide Chorus, Associate Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Musical Director of Melbourne Chorale, and Music Advisor to Chamber Made Opera, Melbourne. He also served as acting Chorus Master of the Chorus of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducting performances with the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and the Ulster Orchestra.

In a career spanning more than thirty years, Graham has conducted all the major Australian symphony orchestras, State Orchestra of Victoria (now Orchestra Victoria), the Adelaide Chamber Orchestra, Adelaide Chamber Singers, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, The Australian Classical Players and many new and early music ensembles.

This year Graham will continue in his role as Artistic Director for Hayllar Music Tours and his work with the Melba Trust Artists. He will also return to the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra to conduct a program of Mozart

and Haydn, to Festival of Voices for Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and will also run choral workshops with the Oriana choir.

Most respected as a conductor of, and enthusiast for, the music of Handel, he has conducted *Messiah* more than eighty times with all the major Australian orchestras as well as in the UK and New Zealand and given the first Australian performances of major Handel works including *Athalia*, *Ariodante*, *Agrippina* and *La resurrezione*.

Highlights in recent years include conducting *The Barber of Seville*, *The Pearlfishers* (also for Opera Queensland) and *Don Giovanni* for State Opera South Australia; Handel's *Water Music* (Tasmanian Symphony) and *Coronation Anthems* (Adelaide Philharmonia Chorus); *Unwrap the Music* performances for Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra; semi-staged performances of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* for Opera Queensland; *Israel in Egypt* and Rachmaninov *Vespers* with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs; and Beethoven's *Eroica Symphony* with Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and Camerata (Brisbane).

Photo: Headshots Adelaide

BIG SING

McLAREN VALE



Ruth Blythman

Ruth Blythman is a festival director, creative producer, and soprano. Her performances are marked by a unique blend of grace, power, and emotional resonance. She gained a classical music degree from Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and received further training under scholarship at Finland's Sibelius Academy. As an Australia Council funded musician from 2018-2020, Ruth was based in Germany where she coached and worked across Europe at notable organisations including Royal Opera House, London, Staatsoper Unter den Linden and Komische Oper. In Australia, Ruth has particularly enjoyed lending her voice as Queen of the Night in The Magic Flute and in Pergolesi's Stabat Mater as well as working with numerous esteemed ensembles including the Australian Ballet Company, and Orchestra Victoria. Ruth was a Herald Sun Aria (Australia) and Neapolitan Masters Competition (Italy) finalist.

Photo: Victoria Cadisch



Robert Macfarlane

Robert Macfarlane studied at the Elder Conservatorium, Adelaide and the 'Felix Mendelssohn-Bartoldy' Hochschule für Musik, Leipzig, and has performed principal roles with Graz, Leipzig and Lyon Operas. Winning the Richard Wagner Society of Victoria's Young Artist Award, enabled him to attend the Bayreuth Festival. Recent engagements include Mime in *Das Rheingold* and *Siegfried* in Wagner's Ring Cycle for Melbourne Opera, a recital in Adelaide, directing Handel's *Acis and Galatea* (performing Acis) for Genesis Baroque; directing and singing in The Song Company's *The Arms of Love* tour; IOpera/Melbourne Opera's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*; Evangelist in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with Melbourne Bach Choir and Sydney Philharmonia; and Schubert's *Die Winterreise* for Geelong Chamber Music Society. Further career highlights include directing *Radamisto* (Handel) for Apollo Opera Collective; *Boy (Madeline Lee)* for State Opera South Australia; Bob Boles (*Peter Grimes*) with Sydney Symphony Orchestra; Steve Hart (*Ned Kelly*) with Lost and Found Opera; and *Messiah* across New Zealand and Australia.



Pelham Andrews

Pelham Andrews has performed as soloist for the major Australian symphony orchestras, Auckland Philharmonia, Aalborg Symphony, Opera Australia, State Opera South Australia, Victorian Opera, English National Opera and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. His performances range from the core Italian, French, German and English repertoire, to lesser-known classical and contemporary and traditional works. His roles with State Opera South Australia and Opera Australia include Friedrich Bhaer (*Little Women*), Padre Guardiano (*Forza del Destino*), Tio Sarvaor (*La Vida Breve*), Timur (*Turandot*), Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*), Basilio (*The Barber of Seville*), Lodovico (*Otello*), Nourabad (*Pecheurs de Perles*), Lester Lamb (*Cloudstreet*), Bonze (*Madama Butterfly*), Mikado (*The Mikado*), and Ben (*Madeline Lee*). Pelham's most recent appearances have been Banquo (*Macbeth*), Judd/Bonner in *Voss*, Colline in *La Bohème* and Baron Douphol in *La Traviata* for SOSA; *Watershed: The Death of Dr Duncan*, *A Child of Our Time*, and Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Adelaide Festival; Mozart's *Requiem* for Queensland Symphony; and Don Fernando in *Fidelio* for Sydney Symphony.