

## WestPhil & River City Voices Mozart Requiem Project

*WestPhil, in collaboration with River City Voices (RCV), is thrilled to offer 14 talented high school performers a once-in-a-lifetime orchestral training opportunity. Join us for an immersive journey into Mozart's Requiem, guided by the acclaimed choral conductor Dr. Sarah Penicka-Smith.*

*This program provides an exceptional chance to work alongside and be mentored by nine of Australia's foremost performers from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) and Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO). It's a unique opportunity to delve deep into one of the most profound pieces of classical music under expert guidance.*

*As part of this program, you'll not only enhance your technical skills and musical understanding but also gain invaluable insights into professional orchestral and choral performance. The experience culminates in a high-quality public concert at the majestic St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, offering you the stage to showcase your talent and hard work.*

*Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to be part of a rich musical tradition and perform Mozart's Requiem in a grand setting.*

14 student positions are available for this unique opportunity:

1 clarinet	5 violins
1 bassoon	2 violas
1 trumpet	1 cello
2 trombones	1 double bass

Enrolment is limited and allotted on a first qualified expression of interest/first served basis. So don't wait to register your [expression of interest here](#).

### River City Voices (RCV)

#### *Mozart's Requiem*

Friday 17 May | 7.30pm  
St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

*Vienna, June, 1791.*

The world's most famous composer, juggling multiple commissions and worsening health, has taken on one work he won't complete: a requiem mass for a beautiful young Countess. By December, at only 35 years old, leaving behind a despairing wife and two young children, he himself will be dead.

Mozart's Requiem in D Minor is a towering monument of the choral repertoire. Let the full force of River City Voices carry you through Mozart's testament of power, faith, awe and hope as the choir joins for the first time with the dynamic young [Western Sydney Philharmonic](#).

Four magnificent soloists and the luscious acoustic of Saint Patrick's Cathedral complete an exquisite performance.

"I am writing this Requiem for myself", Mozart said — but a work this beloved surely speaks to us all.

Don't miss what will be an unforgettable Parramatta premiere!

##### Artists

Alice Girle - Soprano  
Ellena Hicks - Mezzo-soprano  
[Elias Wilson](#) - Tenor  
David Hidden - Baritone

Conductor - Sarah Penicka-Smith  
Western Sydney Philharmonic



[click on picture for link to RCV's website]

You will find information on the following:

- Project Director
- Dates & Timetable
- Venue
- Participation Fee
- Repertoire & Music
- What to Bring
- Concert

## PROJECT DIRECTOR

Dr. Sarah Penicka-Smith



*Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith is the Artistic Director & Principal Conductor of River City Voices, a symphonic choir for Western Sydney combining access to major choral classics with telling local stories. Pioneering programs from 2022 include 'What The World Needs', an album of choral arrangements of work by the neurodiverse musicians of Club Weld, and 'Slam Messiah', where Handel's masterwork meets performance poets. Sarah is also the first Associate Conductor of Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, where her work has included collaborating on the Young Composer Award, and*

*contemporary music programs with physical theatre company Legs On The Wall.*

*In 2022, Sarah was also one of The Cad Factory's four inaugural CASE Incubator artist residents, for contemporary artists with a socially engaged practice. This led to two further 2023 projects in the regional communities of Pinnaroo, SA, and Narrandera, NSW; the second project was in collaboration with the Parkside Cottage Museum.*

*Sarah is an alumna of the 2018 Hart Institute for Women Conductors at The Dallas Opera, with whom she made her international debut.*

*Her opera credits include Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* (the first opera staged by a queer choir, Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir, 2009) & *Dido & Aeneas* (Macquarie Singers, 2017), Korie & Wallace's *Harvey Milk* (Left Bauer/SGLC 2015), Phillip Glass's *Akhnaton* (Ondine Productions, 2013), Campra's *Tancrede* (2010), Cummins' *Anacreontea* (2011) and *Timor* (2015), Krasa's *Brundibar* (2014), Leon's *Monsoon* (2015) and Menotti's *The Medium* (2015), all with Opera Prometheus.*

*Under the banner of Penicka-Smith Arts & Event Management, Sarah and her wife Melanie Penicka-Smith run Pacific Pride Choir, a touring choir founded to travel to regions where LGBTQIA+ rights may be legalised, but not accepted. They have toured to Poland, Vietnam and Cambodia. The Penicka-Smiths are both founding members of the Global Alliance of Queer Choirs, and together began the Lifehouse Volunteer Orchestra, bringing music to patients and their families at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, a Sydney oncology hospital. They are currently touring 'OCDiva', a one-woman opera with mezzo-soprano Yasmin Arkinstall and composer Eve Klein, about Yasmin's experiences living with OCD.*

*Sarah has conducted many Sydney orchestras, including Penrith Symphony Orchestra, Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra and Sydney Youth Orchestra.*

*From 2005-2017, she was the longest-serving Music Director of the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir, and for eleven years she was Director of Music and Head of Creative Arts at St Andrew's College, and Principal Conductor with the Macquarie Singers & Macquarie Chamber Orchestra. Sarah chorusmasters for a range of ensembles and festivals, including Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, and conducted all four years of ABC Sydney's 'Sing Out Sydney' event.*

*As part of the Symphony Australia Conductor Development Program (2012-2015), Sarah worked with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra under the guidance of Maestri Asher Fisch, Johannes Fritzsich, Marko Letonja and Christopher Seaman. Her most recent studies are with Maestro Carlo Montanaro.*

*Sarah is also in demand as an adjudicator and panelist, including serving on the Musica Viva Artistic Review Committee and as a juror for the Vocal/Choral section of the APRA/AMCOS Art Music Awards. In addition to her musical credits, she holds a PhD from the University of Sydney.*

## Dates & Timetable

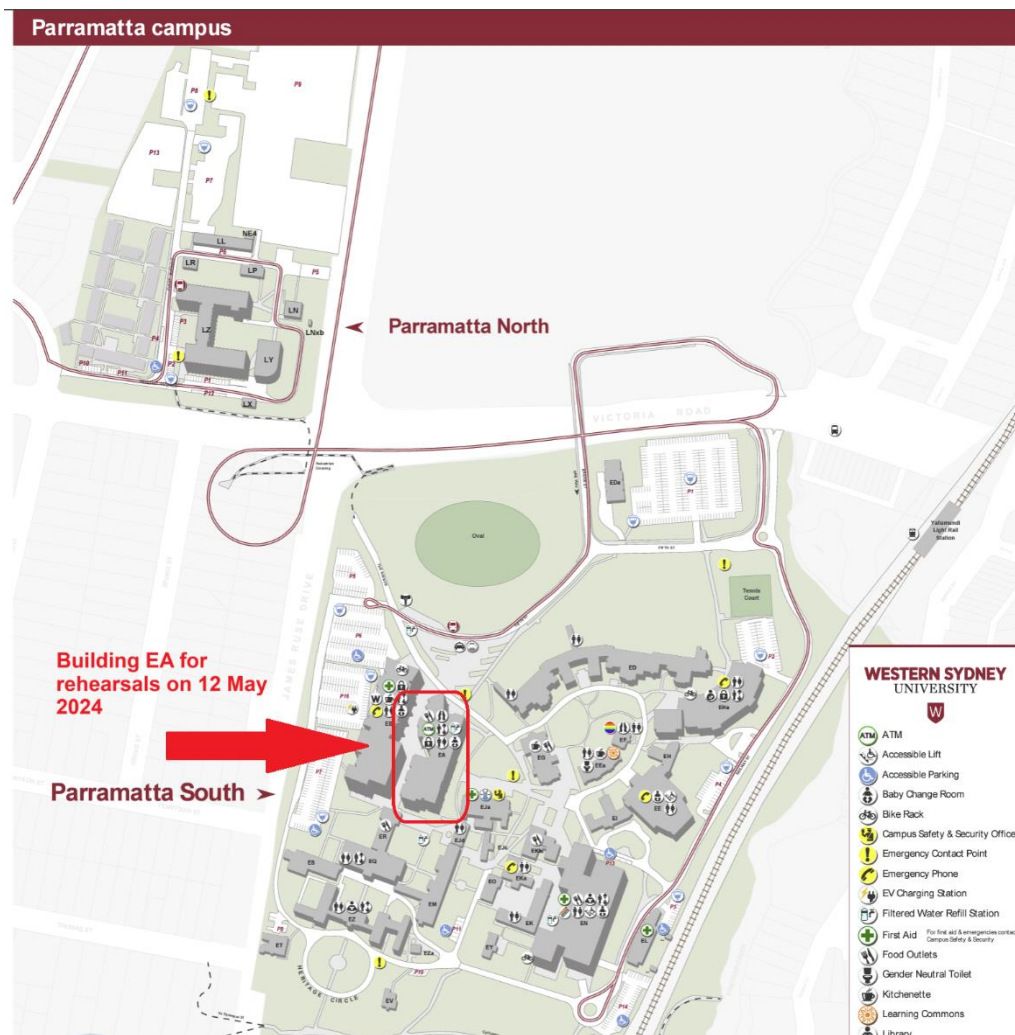
A brief timetable is below. A more detailed timetable will be sent along with parts to confirmed participants.

<b>Monday 6 May at 6:30-9pm * Orchestral Rehearsal</b>	<b>Thursday 9 May, 6.30pm-9.15pm * General Rehearsal (with Choir)</b>	<b>Thursday 16 May, 6.30-9.30pm * Dress Rehearsal</b>	<b>Friday 17 May * 6.30pm-7pm - seating call * 7.30pm-9.00pm - concert</b>
<b>King's School, Recital Room</b>	<b>Cloister's Hall, St Patrick's Parramatta</b>	<b>St Patrick's Parramatta</b>	<b>St Patrick's Parramatta</b>

## VENUES

String Tutorials – Date TBC, but before 6 May  
Western Sydney University (WSU), Parramatta South Campus  
**Building EA**

Car: Entry via Victoria Rd. Plenty of parking available on campus.



Walking:  
Approx.  
15-  
minute  
walk from  
the

Parramatta interchange.

Shuttle Bus: From the Parramatta Station transport hub there is a free Parramatta Shuttle Bus which runs from Parramatta Station and stops on O'Connell Street (near the Parramatta Leagues Club.)

Monday 6 May

The King's School, Parramatta Nth

**Futter Hall** | Click [here](#) for map.

Thursday 9 May, Thursday 16 May & Friday 17 May

**Cloisters' Hall + St. Patrick's Cathedral,**

1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

Entry via Victoria Road.

### PARTICIPATION FEE

The program is heavily subsidised thanks to support from donors and sponsors; nevertheless, there is still a relatively modest \$150 participation fee.

## REPERTOIRE & MUSIC

Mozart's Requiem. We are in the process of preparing practice parts for the program and participants will be emailed their music in the weeks prior to the commencement of rehearsals.

## WHAT TO BRING

- Your instrument
- Your music
- Pencil and eraser
- Please bring any snacks/refreshments you might like to have and a water bottle to rehearsals

Concert Attire: formal black dress or black top and pants.

## CONCERT

The program culminates in a 7:30pm public concert on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

Tickets can be purchased from RCV's own [website](#).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us via email [hello@westphil.org.au](mailto:hello@westphil.org.au) .