

The National Spiritual Assembly warmly acknowledges the Guringai people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We pay respect to the elders of the Guringai nation, past, present and future.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia welcomes you to this service celebrating the sacredness of life and music. We particularly welcome the many singers from throughout Australia who have come to perform today as part of the 2018 Australian Bahá'í Choral Festival.

Honouring the sacredness of life is a common element among the religions of the world. In most traditions, music plays a special part in uplifting our souls and worshipping the Divine. Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, wrote:

“We, verily, have made music as a ladder for your souls, a means whereby they may be lifted up unto the realm on high.”

The Bahá'í House of Worship is a place of prayer and meditation that is open to people of all beliefs. Like all services in the House of Worship, today's program comprises singing and reading of excerpts from the sacred texts of the world's religions. No musical instruments may be used: it is a space reserved for voice alone.

For Bahá'ís, living a sacred life is vital. Elevating our thoughts daily to God and His high aspirations for us is what drives us to make “each morn be better than its eve and each morrow richer than its yesterday.” Prayer and meditation, often set to music, provides spiritual nourishment for the soul. Bahá'ís are encouraged – indeed, it is considered a religious obligation – to pray and meditate every day.

We hope you enjoy this special service from the 2018 Australian Bahá'í Choral Festival.

NOTICE OF VIDEO RECORDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

This event will be video-recorded and photographed for publication in print and electronic media, including web-based publication. The choir will be the primary focus, but audience members may be captured as well. If you have any concerns about this, please consult with an usher.



O THOU BY WHOSE NAME

MUSIC BY CHARLES WOLCOTT
CONDUCTED BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD

O Thou, by whose Name the sea of joy moveth and the fragrance of happiness is wafted! I ask Thee to show me, from the wonders of Thy favour, that which shall brighten my eyes and gladden my heart. Verily, Thou art the Giver, the Generous.



E TE ATUA

MUSIC BY TARA MAKIRERE
CONDUCTED BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD

(Cook Islands Maori)

O God, guide me, protect me, make of me a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful.



KODOMO NO INORI

MUSIC BY YOSHIE KOSHIKAWA, ARR WEBER
CONDUCTED BY PIERRE WEBER

(Japanese)

O God, guide me, protect me, make of me a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful.

You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

Christian Scripture, Bible, New International Version (NIV),
1 Thessalonians 5:5-8

Since good and evil cannot be equal, repel thou evil with something that is better - and lo! he between whom and thyself was enmity may then become as though he had always been close unto thee, a true friend!

Islamic Scripture, The Qur'án, Surah 41:34

They that will not have the Right in their thought, from them shall the Good Abode be far. These men of evil action who spurn the holy Piety, precious to thy wise one, O Mazda, through their having no part in Good Thought, from them Right shrinks back far, as from us shrink the wild beasts of prey. The man of understanding has instructed people to cling to action of this Good Thought, and to the Holy Piety, creator, comrade of Right – wise that he is, and to all hope, O Ahura, that are in thy Dominion, O Mazda.

Zoroastrian Scripture, Zend-Avesta, Yasna 34:8-10

For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

Christian Scripture, Bible, King James edition,
1 Corinthians 9:10



MUSIC BY AMELI DZIEMBA
CONDUCTED BY ERICA DAVIDSON

(Arabic)
God is Most Glorious



SANCTIFIEZ VOS ÂMES

MUSIC BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD
CONDUCTED BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD

(French)

Sanctify your souls, O peoples of the earth, that haply ye may attain that station which God hath destined for you.

All glory be to this Day, the Day in which the fragrances of mercy have been wafted over all created things, a Day so blest that past ages and centuries can never hope to rival it, a Day in which the countenance of the Ancient of Days hath turned towards His holy seat. Thereupon the voices of all created things, and beyond them those of the Concourse on High, were heard calling aloud: 'Haste thee, O Carmel, for lo, the light of the countenance of God, the Ruler of the Kingdom of Names and Fashioner of the heavens, hath been lifted upon thee.'

Bahá'í Scripture, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 1

We will present fair praise unto the Mighty One, our hymns to Indra in Vivasvan's dwelling-place; For he hath ne'er found wealth in those who seem to sleep: those who give wealth to men accept no paltry praise. Giver of horses, Indra, giver, thou, of kine, giver of barley, thou art Lord and guard of wealth: Man's helper from of old, not disappointing hope, Friend of our friends, to thee, as such we sing this praise. Indra, most splendid, powerful, rich in mighty deeds, this treasure spread around is known to be thine own. Gather therefrom, O Conqueror, and bring to us: fail not the hope of him who loves and sings to thee.

Hindu Scripture, Rig Veda, Book 1, Hymn 53

Now therefore, ye children, hearken unto me; for happy are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Happy is the man that hearkeneth to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

Jewish Scripture, Kesuvim, Mishlei (Proverbs) 8:32-34



PRAYER FOR PARENTS

MUSIC BY SIMA ROWSHAN
MUSIC BY SIMA ROWSHAN

O Thou kind Lord, accept the request of this Thy servant at the threshold of Thy singleness and submerge his father in the ocean of Thy grace, because this son hath arisen to render Thee service and is exerting effort at all times in the pathway of Thy love. Verily, Thou art the Giver, the Forgiver and the Kind!



O HIJO DEL SER

MUSIC BY LINDA LEEB
CONDUCTED BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD

(Spanish)

O Son of Being! Thou art My lamp and My light is in thee. Get thou from it thy radiance and seek none other than Me. For I have created thee rich and have bountifully shed My favour upon thee.



MAKE ALL MANKIND AS STARS

MUSIC BY PIERRE WEBER
CONDUCTED BY PIERRE WEBER

O my God! O my God! Verily, I invoke Thee and supplicate before Thy threshold, asking Thee that all Thy mercies may descend upon these souls. Specialise them for Thy favour and Thy truth.

O Lord! Unite and bind together the hearts, join in accord all the souls, and exhilarate the spirits through the signs of Thy sanctity and oneness.

O Lord! Make these faces radiant through the light of Thy oneness. Strengthen the loins of Thy servants in the service of Thy kingdom.

O Lord, Thou possessor of infinite mercy! O Lord of forgiveness and

pardon! Forgive our sins, pardon our shortcomings, and cause us to turn to the kingdom of Thy clemency, invoking the kingdom of might and power, humble at Thy shrine and submissive before the glory of Thine evidences.

O Lord God! Make us as waves of the sea, as flowers of the garden, united, agreed through the bounties of Thy love. O Lord! Dilate the breasts through the signs of Thy oneness, and make all mankind as stars shining from the same height of glory, as perfect fruits growing upon Thy tree of life.

Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Self-Subsistent, the Giver, the Forgiving, the Pardoner, the Omniscient, the One Creator.

O ye that dwell on earth! The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity or dissension. In the eyes of men of insight and the beholders of the Most Sublime Vision, whatsoever are the effective means for safeguarding and promoting the happiness and welfare of the children of men have already been revealed by the Pen of Glory.

Bahá'í Scripture, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 220

The turbulent senses of even a wise man, though he be striving, seduce forcibly his mind. Having restrained them all, a man should remain steadfast, with intent on Me alone. He whose senses are so controlled is steady in knowledge. When a man thinks of objects of sense, he develops attachment to them. From attachment arises desire, and desire results in anger. From anger comes bewilderment; from bewilderment confused memory. Confused memory destroys the conscience, and once his conscience is destroyed, he perishes. He attains peace, who, disciplined, approaches objects with the senses devoid of attraction and repulsion, and brought under his self-control. In peace, all misery has come to an end, for of him whose heart is tranquil, the mind soon becomes steady, with hope of happiness.

Hindu Scripture, Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2:60-65

Meditate profoundly, that the secret of things unseen may be revealed unto you, that you may inhale the sweetness of a spiritual and imperishable fragrance, and that you may acknowledge the truth that from time immemorial even unto eternity the Almighty hath tried, and will continue to try, His servants, so that light may be distinguished from darkness, truth from falsehood, right from wrong, guidance from error, happiness from misery, and roses from thorns.

Bahá'í Scripture, Bahá'u'lláh, Kitáb-i-Iqán, p. 8



THY NAME IS MY HEALING

MUSIC BY ADRIENNE STENGEL
CONDUCTED BY ERICA DAVIDSON

Thy name is my healing, O my God, and remembrance of Thee is my remedy. Nearness to Thee is my hope, and love for Thee is my companion. Thy mercy to me is my healing and my succour in both this world and the world to come. Thou, verily, art the All-Bountiful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.



GHALB I SAFI

MUSIC BY NIKAN MILANI
CONDUCTED BY SIMA ROWSHAN

(Persian)

O God, my God, bestow upon me a pure heart, like into a pearl.



NOT ONE SPARROW IS FORGOTTEN

SHAKER HYMN, ARR WILLIAM HAWLEY
CONDUCTED BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD

Not one sparrow is forgotten, E'en the raven God will feed; And the lily

*of the valley From His bounty hath its need. Then shall I not trust Thee,
Father, In Thy mercy have a share? And through faith and prayer, my
Mother, Merit Thy protecting care?*

O Thou kind Lord! Bestow heavenly confirmation upon this daughter of the kingdom, and graciously aid her that she may remain firm and steadfast in Thy Cause and that she may, even as a nightingale of the rose garden of mysteries, warble melodies in the Abhá Kingdom in the most wondrous tones, thereby bringing happiness to everyone.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Bahá’í Prayers

Over Delight and Discontent one has mastery; one does not allow himself to be overcome by discontent; one subdues it, as soon as it arises. One conquers Fear and Anxiety; one does not allow himself to be overcome by fear and anxiety; one subdues them, as soon as they arise. One endures cold and heat, hunger and thirst, wind and sun, attacks by gadflies, mosquitoes and reptiles; patiently one endures wicked and malicious speech, as well as bodily pains, that befall one, though they be piercing, sharp, bitter, unpleasant, disagreeable and dangerous to life.

Buddhist Scripture, Buddha, The Word (The Eightfold Path)



UN CORAZÓN PURO

MUSIC BY EDUARDO RIOSECO C.
CONDUCTED BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD

(Spanish)

*A pure heart is as a mirror; cleanse it with the burnish of love and
severance from all save God.*



DAYSTAR OF WISDOM

MUSIC BY ALICE GOMEZ, ANISA MARGHI,
FARSHID SANAI, AND GLENNIS MCALPINE, ARR ALICE GOMEZ
CONDUCTED BY PIERRE WEBER

Holy Words and pure and goodly deeds ascend unto the heaven of celestial glory.

This is the daystar of wisdom and of divine mystery that hath shone above the horizon of the divine will.

It is the city in which the sweet savours of reunion have breathed, which have caused the sincere lovers of God to draw nigh unto Him, and to gain access to the Habitation of holiness and beauty. Happy is the wayfarer that directeth his steps towards this city, that gaineth admittance into it, and quaffeth the wine of reunion, through the outpouring grace of his Lord, the Gracious, the All-Praised.

Bahá'í Scripture, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 121

Strive that ye may be enabled to manifest to the peoples of the earth the signs of God, and to mirror forth His commandments. Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind, for the professions of most men, be they high or low, differ from their conduct. It is through your deeds that ye can distinguish yourselves from others. Through them the brightness of your light can be shed upon the whole earth. Happy is the man that heedeth My counsel, and keepeth the precepts prescribed by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Bahá'í Scripture, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 305



FLEETING MOMENT

MUSIC BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD
CONDUCTED BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD

Live then the days of thy life, that are less than a fleeting moment, with thy mind stainless, thy heart unsullied, thy thoughts pure, and thy nature sanctified, so that, free and content, thou mayest put away this mortal frame, and repair unto the mystic paradise and abide in the eternal kingdom for evermore.



YÁ BAHÁ'U'L-ABHÁ

MUSIC BY ALAN MANIFOLD
CONDUCTED BY LORRAINE MANIFOLD

(Arabic)

O Thou Glory of the All-Glorious, O Bahá'u'lláh, O Highest of the Most High, O Thou Glory of the All-Glorious!

The Bahá'í House of Worship is a gift from the Bahá'ís and a demonstration of our faith in the oneness of God, the oneness of the world religions and the oneness of the human race. In the future, humanitarian, educational, social and charitable institutions will also be established in its vicinity.

Services in the House of Worship comprise readings and unaccompanied singing of sacred texts of the world's religions.

When the devotional program concludes, please remain seated, if you wish, for silent reflection, meditation or prayer.

You are welcome to keep this programme.

*For further information about the Bahá'í Faith visit the Bahá'í website
www.bahai.org.au*

We hope you enjoyed your visit to the Bahá'í House of Worship.



AUSTRALIAN BAHA'I CHORAL FESTIVAL 2018

PARTICIPANTS

- SOPRANOS -

Ariyanna Afaridan
Ulviyya Afaridan
Sathy Allen
Elizabeth Bagheri
Ava Bargi
Diana Chambers
Brenda Cox
Christine Deihim
Betsy Dere
Ainslie Duncan

Sahba Farabi
Sholeh Hakiman
Cassie Haselhurst
Laura Hedayati
Sahar Hosseinabadi
Tetyana Kobylenska
Yoshie Koshikawa
Lorraine Manifold
Ekua Mensah
Farahnaz Naghipour

Xin Yi Oh
Belle Pollack
Barbara Purcell
Jenny Salter
Maedeh Samimi
Nadia Shoghi
Neha Singh
Anna Steimle
Emilia Tortorella
Mojgan Tosif

- ALTOS -

Nazila Alavi Moghaddam
Rachel Bayliss
Glenda Campbell
Josephine Chang
Loretta Chang
Giselle Cooke
Erica Davidson
Virginia Field
Farzaneh Fordham

Alice Gomez
Sima Hashemi
Mahboobeh Hedayati
Cherie Heggie
Sarah Hosny
Karen Humphrey
Jinkee Khademi
Katrina Lapp
Leonie Oldmeadow

Susanne Oldmeadow
Sima Rowshan
Malak Sabeti
Yin Sum
Sara Toalima
Cathy Waters
Mary Zemke
Erica Zemke-Smith
Afsaneh Zurek

- TENORS -

Ruth Barratt
Jesse Campton
Daniel Farahbakht
Navid Farahbakht
Terry Freeman
Sagar Gandhi

Guillaume Giraud
Oscar Gomez
Lawrence Heggie
Brett Keeman
Hadie MacLeod
Mike Maxwell

Glennis McAlpine
Behnam Missaghi
Kiyam Rowshan
Vafa Shahzadi
Man Heng Soo
Kris Zemke

- BASSES -

Steve Brisley
Barry Campton
Alf Capito
Sean Suraj Chew
Peni Fakalata

Bevan Freeman
Nabil Hashemi
Chris Langdon
Alan Manifold
Danial Motahari

Robert Patience
Chris Wates
Pierre Weber