

· PROGRAM ·





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 first 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 first 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.

• BLESSED IS THE SPOT •

Music by Elizabeth Haberman, arr. by Russell Garcia
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold
(Woiwurrung, English and Maori)

Blessed is the spot wherein the anthem of His praise is raised, and blessed the ear that hearkeneth unto that which hath been sent down from the heaven of the loving-kindness of thy Lord, the All-Merciful.

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed After the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, p. 269

*Krishna. Yea! thou hast seen, Arjuna! because I loved thee well, the secret countenance of me, revealed by mystic spell, shining, and wonderful, and majestic, manifold, which none save thou in all the years had favour to behold; for not by Vedas cometh this, nor sacrifice, nor alms, nor works well-done, nor penance long, nor prayers, nor chanted psalms, that mortal eyes should bear to view the Immortal Soul unclad, Prince of the Kurus!
This was kept for thee alone! Be glad!*

Bhagavad-Gita extract from "Viswarupadarsanam" (Chapter 10)

O ESSENCE OF NEGLIGENCE! Myriads of mystic tongues find utterance in one speech, and myriads of hidden mysteries are revealed in a single melody; yet, alas, there is no ear to hear, nor heart to understand.

Bahá'u'lláh, Hidden Words, Persian #16

• MYRIADS OF MYSTIC TONGUES •

Music by Ameli Dziemba
Conducted by Ameli Dziemba

• PONDER AWHILE •

Music by Jill Hennes
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold

• PSALM 23 •

Music by Colin Brumby
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Bible, Psalm 23

O thou cherished Fruit of the heart! Give ear to the melodies of this mystic Bird warbling in the loftiest heights of heaven. The Lord hath, in truth, inspired Me to proclaim: Verily, verily, I am God, He besides Whom there is none other God. He is the Almighty, the All-Wise.

Selections From the Writings of the Báb, p. 217

*O SON OF SPIRIT! Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself.
Rise then unto that for which thou wast created.*

Bahá'u'lláh, Hidden Words, Arabic #22

• NOBLE HAVE I CREATED THEE •

*Music by Graham Major
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold*

• NAKUTONDA •

*Music by Hannington Mutebi
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold
(Luganda)*

*O SON OF SPIRIT! Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself.
Rise then unto that for which thou wast created.*

• CAST THY BURDEN UPON THE LORD •

*Music by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold*

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful! God will not require of the soul save its capacity. It shall have what it has earned, and it shall owe what has been earned from it. Lord, catch us not up, if we forget or make mistake; Lord, load us not with a burden, as Thou hast loaded those who were before us. Lord, make us not to carry what we have not strength for, but forgive us, and pardon us, and have mercy on us.

The Qur'an (E.H. Palmer tr), Sura 2 - The Heifer

Praise be to the name of Him Who always was, always is and always will be. (He is), by name, the Yazad Spena Menoi. Even among the spiritual (yazads). He is Menoi (i.e. an invisible spirit). One of His own names is also Ohrmazd. (He is) the greatest Lord, powerful and wise, creator, nourisher, protector, compassionate, virtuous, forgiver, pure, a good dispenser of justice and all powerful.

The Zend-Avesta, Khorda Avest-Book of Common Prayer pt. 1

• O GOD, GUIDE ME •

(1) Music by Paul George Webb,

*(2) Music by Anne Biswell, arr. by Pierre Weber
Conducted by Pierre Weber*

• THY NAME IS MY HEALING •

*Music by Adrienne Stengel
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold*

• CLOSE YOUR EYES •

*Music by Alan Manifold
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold*

Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

*Jewish Scripture
The Tanakh, The Book of Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 49:13*

The utterance of God is a lamp, whose light is these words: Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship. He Who is the Day Star of Truth beareth Me witness! So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 287

• ALLÁH-U-ABHÁ •

Music by Ameli Dziemba
Conducted by Ameli Dziemba
(Arabic)

God is Most Glorious

• EK HI PED KI TUM HO PAL •

Music by Ravi Shankar, arr. by Tom Price
Conducted by Rachel Parker-Roohi
(Hindi)

Ye are the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one branch.

• UNITY PRAYER •

Music by Pierre Weber
Conducted by Pierre Weber

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard; even Aaron's beard, that cometh down upon the collar of his garments; Like the dew of Hermon, that cometh down upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for ever.

*Jewish Scripture
Book of Tehillim (Psalms): 133*

Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquility and security of the people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it. All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light.

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, Tarázát

• BEAUTIFY YOUR TONGUES •

*Music by Lorraine Manifold
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold*

• ALLELUIA •

*Music by Taizé
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold*

• UNITY PRAYER •

*Music by Greg Parker
Conducted by Rachel Parker-Roohi*

Verily I say, whatever is sent down from the heaven of the Will of God is the means for the establishment of order in the world and the instrument for promoting unity and fellowship among its peoples.

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 66

From the heaven of God's Will, and for the purpose of ennobling the world of being and of elevating the minds and souls of men, hath been sent down that which is the most effective instrument for the education of the whole human race. The highest essence and most perfect expression of whatsoever the peoples of old have either said or written hath, through this most potent Revelation, been sent down from the heaven of the Will of the All-Possessing, the Ever-Abiding God. Of old it hath been revealed: 'Love of one's country is an element of the Faith of God.' The Tongue of Grandeur hath, however, in the day of His manifestation proclaimed: 'It is not his to boast who loveth his country, but it is his who loveth the world.'

Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 87

O SON OF JUSTICE! Whither can a lover go but to the land of his beloved? and what seeker findeth rest away from his heart's desire? To the true lover reunion is life, and separation is death. His breast is void of patience and his heart hath no peace. A myriad lives he would forsake to hasten to the abode of his beloved.

Bahá'u'lláh, Hidden Words, Persian #4

• **WHITHER CAN A LOVER GO** •

Music by Graham Major
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold

• **YA BAHÁ'U'L-ABHÁ** •

Music by Hooper Dunbar, Saffa Kinney, arr. by Tom Price
Conducted by Lorraine Manifold
(Arabic)

O 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. Please sit in silence while the service program takes place.

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.



“Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made, and His praise glorified.”

Bahá'u'lláh