

**ORFF**

**CAR  
MINIA**



# CARMINA

Sunday 4 June 2023 Petersham Town Hall

## FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHELLE LEONARD OAM

The wheel of fortune - the fickle hand of fate. *Carmina Burana* still has as much relevance today to Sydney in 2023 as it did for Salzburg in 1935. Love, lust, drinking and debauchery appear to have universal appeal!

This original version was written for percussion ensemble, choreography and light show, or magical pictures, and is so incredibly deft and effective in its ability to distil the emotional intensity of the ancient text. In under an hour, this work demands that we ride an adrenalin-fuelled rollercoaster from start to finish - much like life at high-speed turning corners. Often the music is poignant, intimate and sublime and then, almost immediately, it turns to a full-frontal auditory assault as we collectively wail at our misfortune and inability to affect any change to fate.

At a time when food scarcity is still a reality for many, when we are approaching a cold winter with rising heating and basic needs costs, and continued international political instability, the need for artistic hedonism feels as strong as when the first ensemble launched this work into the world prior to WW2.

It is a work that has at its artistic core traditional folkloric dance movements in symbiotic relationship to its melodic and musical intention, created at a time when people were questioning who and what they really were, where their sense of self as a country was heading, and what that meant for their collective future. It feels rather appropriate for us all at this time when we too seek to walk together towards a more cohesive future.

*The members of the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus and this concert's associated artists would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people as the traditional owners of country where we sing and perform today. We recognise their continuing connection to the land, waters and sky and would like to pay our respects to their Elders past and present.*



**Michelle Leonard OAM:** Michelle is the founding Artistic Director and Conductor of Leichhardt Espresso Chorus and its chamber choir, Ristretto. She is widely sought after as a choral clinician on Australian repertoire and appears regularly as a guest speaker, adjudicator and workshop facilitator. Michelle was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for Services to the Community and Performing Arts in 2017. Michelle is also the founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of Moorambilla Voices. This nationally awarded program seeks at its core to give country kids a rare opportunity to sing, dance and create incredible performances with artists of the highest calibre. The friendships, performances and opportunities the children make are life-changing. Under Michelle's direction, the program has flourished, receiving numerous national and state awards. For more information: [moorambilla.com](http://moorambilla.com) (Photo: Noni Carroll)

# PROGRAM

## Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi

### I Primo Vere (Springtime)

#### Uf dem Anger (On the Green)

### II In Taberna (In the Tavern)

### III Cour d'Amours (In the Court of Love)

#### *Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi*

1. O Fortuna

2. Fortune plango vulnera

#### *I. Primo vere*

3. Veris leta facies

4. Omnia sol temperat

5. Ecce gratum

#### *Uf dem anger*

6. Tanz

7. Floret silva nobilis

8. Chramer, gip die varwe mir

9. Reie

10. Were diu werlt alle min

#### *II. In taberna*

11. Estuans interius

13. Ego sum abbas Cockaigne

14. In taberna quando sumus

#### *III. Cour d'amours*

15. Amor volat undique

16. Dies, nox et omnia

17. Stetit puella

18. Circa mea pectora

19. Si puer cum puellula

20. Veni, veni, venias

21. In truitina mentis dubia

22. Tempus est iocundum

23. Dulcissime!

Blanziflor et Helena

24. Ave formosissima

#### *Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi*

25. O Fortuna

#### *Fortune, Empress of the World*

1. O Fortune!

2. I lament the wounds that Fortune deals

#### *I. Springtime*

3. The merry face of Spring

4. The Sun warms everything

5. Behold, the pleasant

#### *On the lawn*

6. Dance

7. The noble woods are burgeoning

8. Shopkeeper, give me color

9. Round dance

10. If all the world were mine

#### *II. In the tavern*

11. Burning inside

13. I am the abbot of Cockaigne

14. When we are in the tavern

#### *III. In the court of love*

15. Cupid flies everywhere

16. Day, night, and everything

17. A girl stood

18. In my heart

19. If a boy with a girl

20. Come, come, O come,

21. In the wavering balance of my feelings

22. This is the joyful time

23. Sweetest one!

Blanchfleur and Helen

24. Hail, most beautiful one

#### *Fortune, Empress of the World*

25. O Fortune!

# 3 SONGS

## O Fortuna

O Fortuna, velut Luna  
statu variabilis,  
semper crescis aut decrescis;  
vita detestabilis  
nunc obdurat et tunc curat ludo mentis aciem,  
egestatem, potestatem dissolvit ut glaciem.  
Sors immanis et inanis,  
rota tu volubilis, status malus, vana salus  
semper dissolubilis, obumbrata et velata  
michi quoque niteris;  
nunc per ludum dorsum nudum fero tui  
sceleris.  
Sors salutis et virtutis  
michi nunc contraria,  
est affectus et defectus semper in angaria.  
Hac in hora sine mora  
corde pulsum tangite;  
quod per sortem  
sternit fortem, mecum omnes plangite!

## In Taberna

In taberna quando sumus, non curamus  
quid sit humus, sed ad ludum  
properamus, cui semper insudamus.  
Quid agatur in taberna, ubi nummus est  
pincerna, hoc est opus ut queratur, sic  
quid loquar, audiatur. Quidam ludunt,  
quidam bibunt, quidam indiscrete  
vivunt. Sed in ludo qui morantur, ex his  
quidam denudantur, quidam ibi  
vestiuntur, quidam saccis induuntur. Ibi  
nullus timet mortem, sed pro Baccho  
mittunt sortem

## In trutina mentis dubia

In trutina mentis dubia  
fluctuant contraria  
lascivus amor et pudicitia.  
Sed eligo quod video,  
collum iugo praebeo;  
ad iugum tamen suave transeo.

## O Fortune

Changeable as the moon, you are  
always either waxing or waning.  
Detestable life at one moment thwarts  
and at another mockingly indulges  
the mind's desire,  
melting away both poverty and power,  
like ice. Vain, monstrous Fate,  
you turning wheel, you can, when you  
will, destroy bad circumstances and  
delusive success alike.  
Veiled and shadowy, you attack me  
too; now at your whim I bare my back  
under your assault.  
You, Fate, who dispose health and  
strength, are now against me; my  
desires and my weakness are in  
constant slavery.  
At this hour without delay  
let all pluck the string;  
since Fate crushes the strong man  
everyone weep with me!

## In the Tavern

When we are in the tavern, we do not  
think how we will go to dust, but we  
hurry to gamble, which always makes  
us sweat, What happens in the tavern,  
where money is host, you may well  
ask, and hear what I say. Some  
gamble, some drink, some behave  
loosely. But of those who gamble,  
some are stripped bare, some win  
their clothes here, some are dressed in  
sacks. Here no-one fears death, but  
they throw the dice in the name of  
Bacchus.

## In the balance of my mind

To and fro in the balance of my mind  
waver conflicting  
lustful love and chastity  
But I choose how I see things  
I profer my neck to the yoke  
To the yoke also sweet I give myself over

# Carmina Burana, Carl Orff (1936)

*Cantiones profanae cantoribus et choris cantandae  
comitantibus instrumentis atque imaginibus magicis*

**Conductor: Michelle Leonard OAM**

**Soprano: Rachel Mink**

**Baritone: Andrew O'Connor**

**Percussion: Kerry Joyce, Allison Pratt,  
Jess Chiampa, Josh Hill, Chion Meller**

**Pianos: Sally Whitwell, Benjamin Burton**

**The Leichhardt Espresso Chorus**

**The Wenona Voices**



**Soprano Rachel Mink:** Rachel Mink is a versatile artist interested in music that inspires connection. From her early singer-songwriter days to her work on the classical concert stage, Rachel enjoys genre-bending work and is committed to accessibility in classical music. Praised for her “thrillingly ecstatic” voice (ClassikON), Rachel appears regularly as a solo and consort singer across Australia. Rachel is a member of Luminescence Chamber Singers, a six-voice chamber ensemble, and was a Pacific Opera Young Artist in 2021 and 2022. Last season saw her debut as Miss Wordsworth in Britten’s *Albert Herring*, Gianetta in *L’elisir d’amore*, and Suor Infermiera in *Suor Angelica*, as well as a tour through Canberra and New South Wales with Luminescence. She was recently seen on the Sydney Opera House Stage with *Cantillation*, singing in Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* under the baton of Simone Young.

**Baritone Andrew O'Connor:** Praised for his 'remarkable musicianship' (Limelight Magazine) and 'textured, fine-wine bass baritone' (Arts Hub) Andrew appears regularly in both a solo and ensemble context with many of Australia's finest music organisations. Andrew is a Lay Clerk with St Mary's Cathedral Choir, Sydney, was an Associate Artist with Pacific Opera in 2019, and was the winner of the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria Competition 2020. From 2015 - 2019 he was a core member of The Song Company, and in 2021 became a founding member of AVÉ - the Australian Vocal Ensemble. Notable 2023 engagements include the roles of Polimante and Erasto in Legrenzi's *Giustino* and Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri* for Pinchgut Opera, a range of festival, concert, education, and recording projects for AVÉ - Australian Vocal Ensemble, the role of Harapha in Handel's *Samson* for Sydney Philharmonia Choirs at the Sydney Opera House, a mid-year project with The Song Company, and other projects with Bach Akademie Australia and Moorambilla Voices.



**Pianist Sally Whitwell:** Award winning musician Sally Whitwell maintains a busy freelance career as pianist performer, conductor, composer and educator from her base in Sydney. She has released four solo albums, *Mad Rush: Piano Music of Philip Glass* (2011), *The Good, the Bad and the Awkward* (2012), *All Imperfect Things: The Piano Music of Michael Nyman* (2013) and *I Was Flying* (2015) all on the ABC Classics record label. Her albums have peaked in the top 5 on the ARIA Charts' Classical Albums. At the ARIA Music Awards of 2011 Whitwell won the Best Classical Album award for *Mad Rush*. In 2012 she was nominated in the same category for *The Good, the Bad and the Awkward*. She won the same category in 2013 for *All Imperfect Things*. Her recent release *I was flying* is a collection of her own compositions in the art song, choral and chamber music genres, which enjoyed five weeks in the top ten of the ARIA Core Classical Charts, was nominated for the 2015 ARIA Award for Best Classical Album. Sally is very active as an accompanist in choral music and regularly works nationally and internationally with Sydney Children's Choir.

**Pianist Benjamin Burton:** Benjamin Burton is a talented pianist with a passion for accompanying vocal and instrumental performances and recitals. He is the resident accompanist for the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus and has performed all over Australia. He has been resident accompanist for Moorambilla Voices, Opera Australia's NSW School's Touring Company, *Voci Stupende*, and was a guest artist for the *Grevillea Ensemble*, and at the Australian Institute of Music.



## The Wenona Voices

Wenona has a proud choral tradition, with six school choirs ranging from core groups to specialist ensembles, including Wenona Voices which consists of students from Years 3-13 (Petite Voices and Vocal Ensemble). We are delighted to be performing alongside Leichhardt Espresso Chorus in this magnificent production of *Carmina Burana*.



## The Leichhardt Espresso Chorus

The award-winning Leichhardt Espresso Chorus is a community choir of over 80 singers. Founded in 1998 by Artistic Director **Michelle Leonard OAM**, the Chorus includes a chamber choir, Ristretto, and is accompanied by **Benjamin Burton**. The LEC celebrates new Australian choral music with an annual program of commissions, partnerships and collaborations with composers, ensembles and musicians. We have commissioned and performed world premieres and arrangements of well over 100 new choral works and choral classics, including *Messiah Reimagined* to celebrate the chorus's 21st birthday at City Recital Hall in 2019.

**Soprano:** Annette Hagerman, Catherine De Lorenzo, Claire Humphreys, Cora Rafi, Di Beauchamp, Elisabeth Burke, Ellie Teunissen, Gwyn Jones, Ingrid Rieger, Janet Coppin, Jeanne Kinninmont, Judy Corak, Maria De Sousa, Lliane Clarke, Meg Callander, Michelle Perini, Pat Veenendal, Shae Fleming, Rita Riccio, Sharmaine Spencer, Suzan Piper, Suzanne Blythin, Suzanne Pierce **Alto:** Alison Jaworski, Bronwyn Vost, Caroline Pugh, Christine Walters, Crista Wocadlo, Debby Cramer, Diane Paul, Elle Handel, Evonne McCabe, Fiona Rimes, Georgie Cropper, Glenda Stone, Hung-Ying, Foong Gill, Jenny Hislop, Jenny Matkevich, Judy Bedard, Julie Montague, Kate Wade, Lesley Dawes, Linda Trevor, Linda Wills, Lisa Maffina, Magali Wardle, Marina Shine, Marjan McKeough, Micaela Callan, Miriam Poole, Pepe Newton, Susan McCarthy, Sophie Fickler, Svetlana Kotevska, Therese Berrigan, Vivienne Nicoll-Hatton **Tenor:** Chris Migocki, David Bernard, Jonathan Howes, Geordie Marsh, Mike Dunkley, Tim Cheung, Rod Bartrop, Ray Migocki **Bass:** Adam Smith, Andrew Sweeney, Craig Marcombe, Jim Fleming, Marcus De Courtenay, Martyn Morrison-Greet, Paul Heath, Richard Goodman, Stu Annels



We dedicate this performance to our dear friend and alto Janet Wills, below second from left with her alto friends on tour with Moorambilla Voices, Dubbo, 2015.



This performance of *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff is given by permission of Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, exclusive agent for Schott Music Ltd of Mainz. Thank you to Alex Pringle and Thomas Wilson for assistance in choir rehearsal preparation.

Thank you to Willoughby Symphony Orchestra. Thank you to Karen Carey and Mirella Di Giorgio, Head of Music Wenona.

LEC Committee: President, Lisa Maffina, Vice President & Artistic Director: Michelle Leonard OAM, Treasurer: Therese Berrigan, Secretary: Adam Smith, General members: Bronwyn Neal, Georgie Cropper, Gwyn Jones, Stu Annels, Suzanne Pierce.

## Do you love singing? Join the LEC!

Do you love developing your singing voice in a fun and adventurous choir? Do you love performing new Australian music with outstanding musicians? All choristers welcome to join! No audition required and discounts for under 25s. Tenors and basses particularly welcome. We rehearse every Wednesday at Leichhardt Public School Hall at 7pm during school terms. Contact us via the website!