

Latvian Radio Choir

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Latvia

Renowned boundary-pushing chamber choir performs a repertoire encompassing Purcell, Pärt and Latvia's Pēteris Vasks



Photo: Latvian Radio Choir

"...inescapably direct emotional impact." **All Music**

"There is a wonderfully kaleidoscopic (though carefully graded) palette of vocal colours throughout... The Latvians' unanimity of attack is well-nigh perfect... This is a sublimely beautiful yet rapturous recording." **Gramophone Magazine**

"[Mr Pärt] has defined a seductive vision of modern spiritual music, one that seeks to escape our world." **NY Times**

Tireless explorers of the possibilities of the human voice, the 24-piece **Latvian Radio Choir** is one of the boldest and most boundary-defying chamber choirs in the world. Sydney Festival presents their exclusive Australian debut at the City Recital Hall this summer.

Known for their tremendous vocal compass, expansive repertoire and fineness of expression, the 24-piece choir lends their virtuosic voices to a selection of classical a capella masterpieces. Highlights include pieces of prayerful intensity by **Henry Purcell**; *Immortal Bach*, a bold reimagining of a **Bach** chorale; and the vigorous *Zīles ziņa* by Latvian composer **Pēteris Vasks**.

Special tribute is made to cherished Estonian composer **Arvo Pärt** in celebration of his 80th birthday, with the choir performing key pieces of his expansive vocal repertoire, including the choir's rendition of Pärt's expressive composition 'Adam's Lament', which earned them the prestigious 2014 Grammy Award for 'Best Choral Performance'.

The ensemble's broad repertoire, ranges from the Renaissance to today, with a strong focus on contemporary composers of the 20th and 21st century. Contemporary composer Vasks' music offers an ideal introduction for people who are new to contemporary choral performance. Full of swoops, clusters, and startling sonorities, his music has an inescapably direct emotional impact.

The unique expertise of the singers is evident as they explore traditional vocal techniques, the art of quartertone and overtone singing, and inventive sound production technology. The singers each have their own vocal signature and roles resulting in the Latvian Radio Choir's captivating and lively performance style.

A distinguished brand on the world map, the Latvian Radio Choir was established in 1940, and since 1992 have been under the creative direction of Music Director and Principal Conductor, **Sigvards Klava** and Conductor, **Kaspars Putniņš**. Under their innovative guidance, the choir has become internationally recognised for their distinct vocals that focus on exploring the immense capabilities of the human voice.

Don't miss the chance to witness the Grammy Award winning Latvian Radio Choir's power, passion and sumptuous harmonies in their first ever performances in Australia.

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

Where City Recital Hall, Angel Place

When 23 January at 8pm
24 January at 2pm

Price \$75 Premium
\$65/\$59 A Reserve
\$55/50 B Reserve

Duration 90minutes including interval

Bookings Sydney Festival 1300 856 876
City Recital Hall 02 8256 2222
sydneyfestival.org.au/latvian



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