

-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

7 April 2017

Auckland Choral's Musical Monument to Those Who Fell in Flanders Fields

Sunday 28 May, 5pm @ St Matthew-in-the-City

An exciting front line of top-class musicians will make a stellar contribution to a very special programme by Auckland Choral on Sunday 28 May, in the church of St Matthew-in-the-City, at 5.00pm.

The concert will raise a musical monument to the sacrifice of 5000 New Zealand soldiers who died one hundred years ago in the Belgian countryside around Ypres and Passchendaele in October-November, 1917.

In a more universal sense, this musical monument will also express humanity's fervent hope for peace in our time.

Musical works by New Zealand, Belgian, and French composers are featured, with the well-known *Requiem* by French composer Duruflé sharing the stage with music by two Belgian-born musicians — César Franck and Eugène Ysaÿe.

For this occasion, David Hamilton, one of Auckland's most outstanding composers, has completed a new work called *In Flanders Fields*, and in a fresh and original touch, two young composers — Sarah Fouhy and Lachlan Grant — will have their voices heard as well, through new, commemorative works.

Join the choir as it honours the past and looks to the future in a feast of wonderful music.

In Flanders Fields – Passchendaele 100 promises to be an inspiring Sunday treat for all ages, and a wonderful continuation of Auckland Choral's 2017 season of variety and drama.

Auckland Choral: In Flanders Fields, Passchendaele 100

Sunday 28 May 2017, 5pm

St-Matthew-in-the-City, Auckland Central

Tickets \$45 from www.eventfinda.co.nz

Morag Atchison, Soprano

Christopher Tonkin, Baritone

Andrew Beer, Violin

James Bush, Cello

John Wells, Organ

Auckland Choral

Pipers Sinfonia

Uwe Grodd, Conductor

Elizabeth Lau, Conductor

-- ENDS --

Auckland Choral Media Contact

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Notes to the Editor

About Auckland Choral

Established in 1855, Auckland Choral is Auckland’s largest choir and its only symphonic choir, with over 120 active singing members. Auckland Choral is also New Zealand’s oldest arts organisation.

Auckland Choral’s members are wide-ranging in age and background, connected by a passionate commitment to the music they sing. The choir sings all the great classic choral works as well as contemporary works by New Zealand composers, often commissioned especially for the choir. Auckland Choral sings regularly alongside some of New Zealand’s finest soloists and orchestras, including the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and regular collaborator Pipers Sinfonia.



Auckland Choral is particularly well known for its annual Christmas performances of Handel’s *Messiah*. It is believed that Auckland Choral holds the **world record** for the greatest number of consecutive annual performances of *Messiah*, having performed it every year without interruption since 1919.

Under the inspirational leadership of Music Director, **Uwe Grodd**, Auckland Choral brings a unique blend of artistic excellence, professional polish and community spirit to their performances. Auckland Choral is proud to be a choir that continues, more than 160 years since its founding, to play a prominent role in Auckland’s vibrant arts scene.

About Morag Atchison - Soprano

Morag Atchison has firmly established herself as one of New Zealand’s leading sopranos. She studied at the University of Auckland and Royal Academy of Music (London), and was a finalist in the Kathleen Ferrier and Royal Over-Seas League Competitions. She has performed operatic roles including Helmwige, *Die Walküre* (NZSO); Lady-in-waiting, Verdi’s *Macbeth*; First Lady, *Magic Flute* (NBR NZ Opera); Fourth Maid, Strauss’ *Elektra* (APO); Blumenmädchen, *Parsifal* (NZSO) and Sandrina, *La Finta Giardiniera* (Opera Unleashed, Hamilton Festival). In 2015 Morag covered the role of Tosca for NZ Opera.



Morag’s concert engagements include a recital at the Glenn Gould Studio (Toronto) with the Toronto Children’s Chorus; Mozart *Requiem* and Mozart’s arrangement of Handel’s *Messiah* (Voices NZ and Wellington Sinfonia); Tippett’s *A Child of our Time* with the NZYC and NZSO-NYO; Beethoven’s *Ah! Perfido* (APO and Manukau Symphony), and an acclaimed performance of Britten’s *War Requiem* with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Christchurch City Choir, and NZSSC. She has been a soloist with all of New Zealand’s leading choral societies, and with Auckland Choral works include *Carmina Burana*, Orff; *Missa Pacifica*, Hamilton, Haydn *Nelson Mass* and *Paukenmesse*; *Messiah*, Handel, *St John Passion*, and the Renhart *Requiem*. This year her engagements include *Carmina Burana* with Christchurch City Choir, *Verdi Requiem* with Bach Musica, and recitals for Chamber Music New Zealand with Catrin Johnsson and Rachel Fuller.

Morag teaches voice at the University of Auckland, is a vocal tutor for the NZ Youth Choir, the Auckland Chamber Choir, Auckland Choral, and the award-winning Choralation from Westlake Girls’ and Boys’ High Schools. In 2013 Morag was awarded a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Auckland, the first DMA in vocal studies from a New Zealand University. Morag is delighted to be performing with Auckland Choral, 20 years after her debut with them as a student.

High-resolution images are available on request.

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