

Mackay Choral Society Inc.
presents

THE DISNEY CONNECTION

with special guests
Mackay Children's Chorus



An enchanting
Disney celebration
with timeless songs,
magical moments,
and joy for all ages

PROGRAM

Fri 10th Apr 2026 7:30pm
Sat 11th Apr 2026 2:00pm
Sun 12th Apr 2026 2:00pm

CQCM Theatre
21 Boundary Road,
Ooralea QLD 4740



Welcome from President Bernie Camilleri-Cheng

On behalf of the Mackay Choral Society, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this special celebration of imagination, storytelling, and the enduring magic that has shaped generations. We invite you to join us on a journey into a world where music and narrative come together to remind us of the power of creativity and the joy of shared experience.

Disney's stories have long held a unique place in our cultural landscape. They accompany us through childhood, follow us into adulthood, and continue to resonate in ways both familiar and unexpected. These tales endure not only because they entertain, but because they reflect the values and emotions that connect us: courage, kindness, resilience, curiosity, and the belief that even in challenging moments, hope can be found.

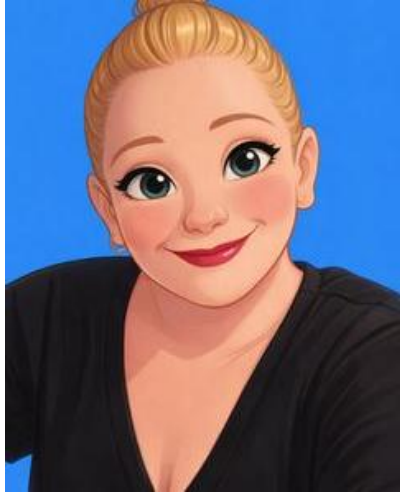
*In preparing *The Disney Connection*, we were reminded of how deeply these stories live within us. Their melodies evoke memories; their characters feel like companions; their messages continue to inspire us to dream boldly and embrace possibility. Whether you know these songs by heart or are hearing them anew, there is something profoundly uplifting about experiencing them together, surrounded by a community that shares the same sense of wonder.*

As you enjoy today's performance, we hope it offers a moment of escape, a spark of nostalgia, and a renewed appreciation for the simple magic of storytelling. We hope you find yourself smiling at familiar tunes, moved by the harmonies, and reminded of the joy that comes from gathering to celebrate music and creativity.

This concert also reflects the spirit of our Society—collaborative, passionate, and committed to bringing meaningful artistic experiences to the Mackay community. Every rehearsal, every artistic decision, and every moment on stage represents our dedication to sharing music that brings people together.

*Thank you for joining us for *The Disney Connection*. We are delighted to share this experience with you. May this concert fill you with warmth, wonder, and a renewed sense of possibility.*

Enjoy the journey.



Message from Musical Director Nicole Thomson

Dear friends, performers, and audiences,

What a joy it is to know that this weekend, the magic of Disney is coming to life through the voices of the Mackay Choral Society — a group of extraordinary people who pour their hearts into every rehearsal, every note, and every performance.

While I am unable to be with you in person this weekend, I am with you in spirit, and I could not be prouder. This project has been a labour of love, and watching it come together has been a privilege.

I am delighted to know that you are in the very capable hands of Judith Brown AM and Linda Miller, two remarkable musicians and leaders whose dedication and artistry will guide you beautifully through every beloved song. The choir could not ask for better care. Our producers and wonderful committee have once again shown incredible support for the first concert of the year.

To our incredible singers — thank you for your commitment, your energy, and your trust. You have worked so hard, and it shows. This weekend, let yourselves shine. To our audiences — you are in for an absolute treat. I hope the music transports you, delights you, and reminds you of the stories that have shaped so many of our lives.

Follow along on Facebook for all the latest updates, behind-the-scenes moments, and highlights from the weekend — I'll be cheering you on from afar!

ACCOMPANIST & MUSICAL DIRECTOR

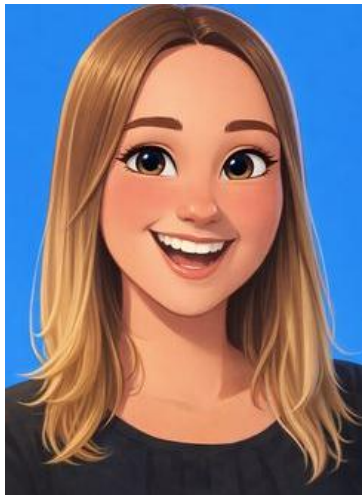
Prof. Judith Brown AM

Judith is the Director of the CQ Conservatorium of Music at CQUniversity, Australia, and serves as the Acting Dean of the School of Education and the Arts at CQUniversity. A respected leader in tertiary arts education, she has shaped programs, guided emerging musicians, and championed the value of creative practice within regional and national communities.



In 2017, Judith was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of her significant service to music education as an academic and teacher, as well as her contributions to professional organisations and the broader community. Her career reflects a lifelong commitment to excellence, mentorship, and the advancement of the arts.

Judith has been the accompanist for the Mackay Choral Society since 2009, bringing her expertise, musicianship, and collaborative spirit to countless rehearsals and performances. In 2015, she was honoured with life membership in recognition of her outstanding dedication and long-standing contribution to the society.



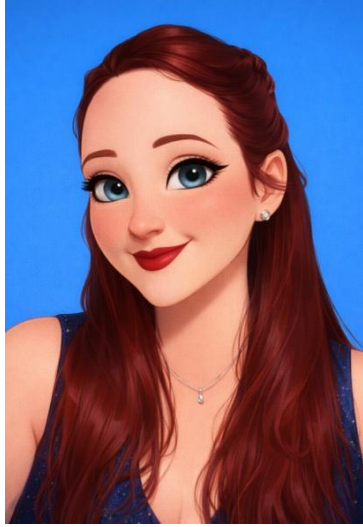
GUEST CONDUCTOR

Linda Miller

Linda (Dip. Mus, A.Mus.A, M.Mus) studied voice and piano at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and has over 30 years of experience as a primary music educator. She specialises in Kodály-based music education and choral conducting, and is deeply committed to providing inclusive, high-quality music education for all students.

Throughout her career, Linda has made a significant contribution to the cultural life of schools across the Mackay District. In 2023, her school choir was named a state finalist in the Education Queensland Creative Generation Choral Fanfare, and her choirs consistently achieve outstanding results at the Mackay Eisteddfod.

While highly experienced in leading primary choirs, this concert marks Linda's debut conducting an adult choir—an opportunity she approaches with great enthusiasm.



MACKAY CHILDREN'S CHORUS LEADER **Caitlyn Schurmann**

Caitlyn is a passionate singer and performer with a deep love for sharing music with others. Whether singing operatic arias, classical solos, contemporary pieces, or simply enjoying music at home with her family, she finds joy in every moment of music-making.

In 2022, she founded CA Creative Studio to mentor young singers. In just two years, she has guided more than 40 students aged 6 to 18 across three teaching locations. This work has strengthened her belief in nurturing individual talent and prioritising student well-being.

A member of the Mackay Choral Society since 2012, Caitlyn most recently performed the role of Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (2023). She is also a member of the local vocal ensemble Tutti, directed by Jan Whelan OAM.

MACKAY CHILDREN'S CHORUS ACCOMPANIST **Jan Whelan OAM**

Jan's contribution to the Mackay Choral Society spans more than thirty years. She became our accompanist in 1994 and served with exceptional skill and dedication until 2008, when a back injury forced her to step back from the formal role. Even then, Jan never truly left us—she continued to support the choir as an ensemble and guest accompanist, always ready to lend her musicianship whenever needed.



Her talent has long been recognised beyond the Society. In 2010 she received the Most Proficient Accompanist award at the North Queensland Eisteddfod, a testament to her artistry and professionalism.

It was no surprise to any of us when Jan was honoured in the 2022 Australia Day Honours for her service as an accompanist. The award simply reflects what we have known for decades: Jan's contribution to music in our region is remarkable, enduring, and deeply valued.

PROGRAM

ACT 1

- You're Welcome – Moana ¹ Arr. Mark Brymer
- The Musical World of Walt Disney Part 1 ² Arr. Mac Huff
 - Be Our Guest
 - Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious
 - It's a Small Word
- Ev'rybody Wants to Be a Cat – The Aristocats ² Arr. Cristi Cary Miller
- Scales & Arpeggios – The Aristocats ² Arr. Audrey Snyder
- You'll Be in My Heart – Tarzan Arr. Ed Lojeski
- God Help the Outcasts – Hunchback of Notre Dame Arr. Audrey Snyder
- Songs of a Disney Princess Medley ³ Arr. Mac Huff
 - A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes
 - Part of Your World
 - A Whole New World
 - Colours of the Wind
 - Reflection
- I Think I Got You Beat – Shrek ⁴ Jeanie Tesori & David Lindsay-Abaire
- The Lion King Medley Arr. Mark Brymer
 - Circle of Life
 - I Just Can't Wait to Be King
 - Be Prepared
 - Hakuna Matata
 - Can you Feel the Love Tonight
 - Circle of Life Reprise

¹ With Mackay Children's Chorus

² Mackay Children's Chorus

³ Mackay Choral Society Ladies

⁴ Ken Brown and Chantal Kay

ACT 2

- Seize the Day – Newsies..... Arr. Roger Emerson
- Theme from Spider Man Arr. Kirby Shaw
- San Francisco – Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3..... Arr. Roger Emerson
- Once Upon a December – Anastasia Arr. Audrey Snyder
- The Little Mermaid Medley ² Arr. Roger Emerson
 - Fathoms Below
 - The World Above
 - Kiss the Girl
 - Under the Sea
- Rainbow Connection – Muppet Movie Arr. Audrey Snyder
- I'll Make a Man Out of You – Mulan ⁵..... Arr. Roger Emerson
- All the Cats Join In – Make Mine Music..... Arr. Kirby Shaw
- When She Loved Me – Toy Story 2 Arr. Audrey Snyder
- All is Found – Frozen II ² Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez
- Happy – Despicable Me 2 ¹ Arr. Mark Brymer

¹ With Mackay Children's Chorus

² Mackay Children's Chorus

⁵ Mackay Choral Society Men

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING A CHOIR?

The benefits of singing with a choir are both emotional and physical. It relieves stress, boosts the immune system, improves lung function, and supports better mental health. Singing together also creates a powerful sense of belonging and connection — you become part of a supportive community where friendships grow, confidence builds, and shared music-making brings real joy. Whether you're looking to improve your wellbeing, rediscover your voice, or simply enjoy a fun and uplifting hobby, choir is a welcoming place to start.

No audition required — just bring your enthusiasm and come sing with us!

PERFORMERS

MACKAY CHORAL SOCIETY

SOPRANOS	ALTOS	TENORS
Amanda Sehl	Andrea Pinkard	Bernie Camilleri-Cheng
Anne Atkinson	Denise Schmid	Clive Goodson
Anneliese Slack	Gwyneth Rupnik	Ken Martin OAM
Bernadette Buckley	Jeanna Imhoff	
Carolyn Roberts	Jill MacDonald	BASSES
Caryll Schofield	Karen Brett	Braidan Gardner
Cathy Falzon	Katrina Hansen	Bruce Menzies
Cecilia Hyde	Krystal Hyde	Fletcher Pinkard
Chantal Kay	Lara Marshall	Greg Webb
Eilysh Evans	Lauren Menzies	Ken Brown
Jeany Elliott	Natalie Winterton	Ross MacDonald
Jenny Jackson	Poppy Chetcuti	
Kerry Brannan	Rachel Richards	FEATURED SOLOIST
Lily Alessandri	Sharon Tandridge	Chantal Kay
Lynn Gallant	Shona Rosser	Ken Brown
Nerida Hansen	Sue Weatherhead	
Sarah Pillhofer	Tracie Donnelly	DRUM KIT
Sue Coates	Trish Gardner	Aaxle Carpenter

MACKAY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Addi Pianeda	Henry Miller	Natalie Homewood
Arabella Atkinson	Kalli Bradley	Nina Ford
Arya Bloxsidge	Karlia Craig	Rehan Prakash
Ella Schurmann	Laylia Morris	Remi Serginson
Emerson Crowley	Leah Gruber	Sienna Winterton
Georgie Goodale	Leon Murdoch	Sierra de Roche
Georgie Green	Lily Jorgensen	Sophie Ford
Harlow Eather	Lisa Ford	Stephen Miranda
Harper Semple	Mindy Anderson	Tallullah Bobongie-Harris
Helen Samuel	Maya Gozlinska	Zion Sutherland

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Mackay Choral Society acknowledges the Yuwibara and Yuwi people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mackay Choral Society would like to give thanks and credit to those who have given many hours of their time and talents to bring this performance to you. We also extend our gratitude to anyone whose name we may have unintentionally omitted, your contributions are equally valued and appreciated.

Bernie Camilleri-Cheng	Caitlyn Schurmann	Chantal Kay
Gwyneth Rupnik	Jan Whelan OAM	Jeanette Oberg
Judith Brown AM	Katrina Hansen	Linda Miller
Nicole Thomson	Sarah-Jane Scott	

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Conservatorium Friends' volunteers who have provided the bar service before our show and during the interval.

Mackay Choral Society acknowledges the ongoing support and generosity of the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music and staff.

And finally, to our friends and families; your support, encouragement, and love make every note possible.

OUR NEXT PERFORMANCES

MAJESTY – Can you “Handel” it?

Sat 08 August 2026 and Sun 09 August 2026,
St Josephs Catholic Church, North Mackay

Join the Mackay Choral Society for a heartfelt program of sacred music, featuring works that span centuries of devotion and choral tradition. The program will include some of Handel’s most beloved pieces, offering moments of grandeur alongside quiet reflection.

Rehearsals resume on Monday 11th of May 2026
7:00pm @ Ken Martin Choral Centre, 4 Snow Wright Ct, Andergrove.
Bring a water bottle.

A GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS 2026

Fri 04 to Sun 06 December 2026, Conservatorium of Music, Ooralea

A Glorious Christmas returns once again, continuing the Mackay Choral Society’s cherished annual tradition of festive music and community celebration. Filled with uplifting carols and seasonal favourites, this concert brings together the joy, warmth, and spirit that make Christmas in Mackay truly special.

Enquiries

✉ MackayChoralSociety@gmail.com ☎ 0422 264 397

Follow us on our socials to keep updated

 @MackayChoralSociety  @MackayChoral

