Knox Carols 2024

Songbook

Saturday 14 December

Wally Tew Reserve  
Ferntree Gully

Proudly presented by Knox City Council

Welcome to Knox Carols 2024

We are very excited this family favourite event is back for 2024.

This year we have an outstanding line-up of local and nationally acclaimed performers.

Family fun begins at 4pm on the oval with free kids activities, roving performers and face painting.

From 4pm, enjoy our pre-show stage entertainment with Kim Annette Dance Studios and Dance Xpress, the Knox Factor Grand Final and Knox Sings Community Choir.

Our main program from 8pm features local 2023 Knox Factor winner Carla Ventakaya, soulful and upbeat performances from Shannon Wick, Liona Tatafu, Thomas McGuane, Caitlin Spears as well as performer and host, Bernard Curry.

Performers will be supported by the diverse heartfelt Halo Ensemble, and the incredible musicianship of the Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne.

Santa, with a cast of characters from 3d Arts, will join the main concert reminding us of the importance of reconnecting with family and community during this Christmas season!

We welcome James Stroud as our new Program Director for Knox Carols, who has coordinated a spectacular musical program with high quality performances and everyone's favourite carols.

Connection, resilience and wellbeing are at the forefront of Knox Carols by Candlelight this year.

Carols is a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends, family and your community. We hope you enjoy the evening and wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Program

**Family Activities –** 4pm – 8pm

**Pre-show Entertainment –** 5pm – 7:30pm

Knox Factor Grand Final

Kim Annette Dance Studios

Dance Xpress Academy

Knox City Sings – Community Choir

**Main Carols Show -** 8pm – 10pm

1. Welcome to Country with Wurundjeri Elder
2. Bernard Curry, Master of Ceremonies
3. The Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne
4. Halo Ensemble
5. Shannen Wick
6. Caitlin Spears
7. Thomas McGuane
8. Carla Ventakaya
9. 3d Arts presenting Santa’s Arrival
10. Liona Tatafu
11. Skye

Program Hosts:

James Stroud, Program Director

Jamie is a seasoned music professional, who was immediately drawn to the opportunity to be Knox Carol’s new Musical Director. As a Knox local, growing up in Upper Ferntree Gully, he attended the Knox Carols since he was young. James is excited to bring his expertise and flavour to the local community and to showcase the immense talent Melbourne has to offer.

James, the co-owner of Stoic Records and Natural Habitat Studios, has been deeply entrenched in Melbourne's music scene, championing diverse voices and offering platforms for artists to thrive.

Jamie has curated performances and arranged music for various ensembles across Australia. Working as a session performer within a wide range of musical genres and working with artists such as Jon Stevens, Ash Grunwald, Cooking on Three Burners, Kylie Auldist, as well as members of The Cat Empire, Paul Kelly’s Band and many more.

Bernard Curry, Master of Ceremonies

Bernard Curry has performed all over the world. After almost 25 years of working as an actor, Bernard Curry continues to be one of Australia’s most versatile performers.

Starring in leading role of Jake Stewart in the drama, Wentworth, as well as appearing in Neighbours, Home and Away and Packed to the Rafters.

In 2022 Bernard also returned to the Melbourne Theatre company for the 2022 and 2023 season of ‘A Christmas Carol’.

Your Performers:

Shannen Wick, Principal Artist

With her rich songwriting and powerful vocal abilities, Shannen Wick is reminiscent of the energetic queens of soul music past. Known as the leading lady and founder of Fulton Street, Shannen is a key player in the thriving Melbourne soul music scene.

Starting her singing career at a young age in the National Children's Choir, Shannen went on to study under the guidance of vocal coach extraordinaire Tania G, performing at venues such as Ormond Hall and Chapel Off Chapel.

In 2012, Shannen founded Fulton Street. As a singer-songwriter and manager, she has gone on to lead the band through thriving residencies and successful shows at Melbourne's most iconic live music venues and festivals.

This year has been a career highlight for Shannen with the release of her debut solo single ‘Love Dressed Down’ receiving multiple international nominations for best music video, the long-anticipated release of Fulton Street’s sophomore album ‘Hard Truths,’ as well as appearing this year on The Voice Australia Season 13.

Caitlin Spears, Principal Artist

Caitlin graduated the VCA with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre). Singing classically from the age of nine her professional debut was creating the title role of Clarice in Women in War, A Contemporary Opera which toured both Greece and Australia.

Other theatre credits include Brigadoon (The Production Company), Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo and Juliet (China Tour), Harvey Milk the Opera, Nine, Li’l Abner, A Little Touch of Chaos and short films such as Cactus and Mime and Caution.

Caitlin has also turned her hand to writing and producing and in 2019 started Spears Entertainment launching the company with the successful 'Everything’s Coming Up Sondheim.'

Thomas McGuane, Principal Artist

Thomas is a Melbourne-based actor and musician who graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2017. He is most known for the role of Hans in the national tour of Disney’s smash-hit musical Frozen, which toured across Australia and Singapore.

Other professional credits include the roles of Bob Gaudio, in the Australian tour of Jersey Boys (New Theatricals) and Randall in the Australian premiere of Bring it on (David Venn Enterprises) and created the role of the Prince in the brand new Australian musical, Midnight. He was also a guest artist at the Christmas Morning Melodies, Arts Centre Melbourne.

Whilst at VCA, Thomas played Robert Martin in The Drowsy Chaperone, Ensemble/Bobby cover in Company (dir. Roger Hodgman) and an Australian Soldier in Oh, What a Lovely War, Mate! Thomas was involved in a Michael Chekhov acting workshop at the VCA led by Fern Sloan and Ted Pugh from The Actors’ Ensemble, New York. He also appeared as a featured vocalist for both seasons of the VCA’s Morning Melodies: Best of Broadway and Hollywood Movie Musicals, plus is a proud recipient of the Cassidy Bequest Scholarship. He was a finalist in the 2017 Rob Guest Endowment Award.

Thomas has most recently been on tour with the high energy tap comedy show, The Tap Pack.

Carla Venkataya, Knox Factor Winner 2023

Carla brings a unique blend of musical theatre and contemporary styles to her performances, creating a captivating experience for all audiences. With a rich background in formal singing lessons since the age of six, Carla has honed her craft under the guidance of esteemed vocal coaches at both Jaanz International Singing Academy and TG Vocal Artistry. Throughout her singing journey, Carla has performed on a multitude of stages, such as that of the main stage of Knox Fest this year.

Carla’s performances are characterised by the storytelling and emotional depth of musical theatre elements, ensuring every song is delivered with a strong narrative and a deep connection to the audience.

This is seamlessly combined with contemporary elements, keeping the music fresh and relevant. This versatility allows Carla to engage and resonate with a diverse range of listeners, making each performance memorable. She is also an avid songwriter who aspires to produce and release her own music.

Halo Ensemble

Directed by powerhouse Liona Tatafu, HALO Vocal Ensemble features a diverse lineup of artists from different communities across Melbourne to perform collaboratively & simultaneously on one stage. The ensemble put a modern spin on the definition of choir, bringing a new sound to the masses.

The transcendent performances of HALO Vocal Ensemble bring together the favourite voices of the city. With each ethereal harmony, the combined energy, and talent create a memorable experience for audiences.

The ensemble features a rotating lineup of vocalists, each established as solo artists. Previous artists who have performed with HALO include talents like Thando, Michaela Jayde, Soli, Jaydean, SKYE, and more.

The ensemble consistently brings together an array of incredible talent for their live shows, ensuring a captivating and awe-inspiring experience.

3d Arts Company

3d Arts Company is a charitable urban arts organisation that exists to create opportunities for young people to reach their potential through the performing arts. Training and equipping emerging artists, performers and theatre-makers, 3d Arts believes in making work that creates positive social change, provides hope and brings transformation.

3d Arts partners with community groups, local councils, schools and churches in Melbourne to pioneer arts initiatives that inspire and empower young people and leading artists to engage with their world.

Creating Opportunities. Strengthening Communities. Transforming Lives. Featuring a dynamic ensemble cast of emerging and established performers, 3d Arts is proud to once again welcome in Santa for this year’s Knox Carols by Candlelight. Joined by a cast of characters, Santa reminds us of the importance of reconnecting with family and community during this Christmas season!

Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne

Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne, based at HMAS Cerberus, Westernport, Victoria, consists of approximately 35 full-time members under the musical direction of Lieutenant Andrew Stokes, and is complemented by a number of Naval Reserve Musicians as required.

RAN Band Melbourne continues a cardinal tradition of providing regular ceremonial support to Navy’s premiere training establishment HMAS Cerberus, and to the ‘Cradle of the Navy’, the Royal Australian Navy Recruit School. The band also routinely supports the Australian Defence Force School of Music and other Defence establishments around Melbourne, reaching as and far as RAAF Sale. Ceremonial support is most often provided as a full 35 piece military marching band and can additionally take the form of bugle calls, vocal support for national anthems, drum corps, fanfare teams and collaboration with the RAN Indigenous Performance Group - Bungaree.

RAN Band Melbourne also presents a wind band, allowing the band to showcase traditional and contemporary repertoire at concerts around Victoria and the country. The band’s musical capability is extended with its exciting big band and jazz ensembles, brass and woodwind chamber ensembles, as well as highly entertaining cover band.

Learn more at [www.navy.gov.au/ran-band-melbourne](http://www.navy.gov.au/ran-band-melbourne)

Song List

\*\* indicates song lyrics that are included in this booklet

White Christmas

Merry Christmas Baby

Little Drummer Boy

Silent Night\*\*

Let It Snow

Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer\*\*

Holly Jolly Christmas

We Three Kings

O Come O Ye Faithful

Hark the Herald

Christmas (Baby Please Come Back)

First Noel

Joy To The World\*\*

Joyful, Joyful

Do you Believe?

Last Christmas

Oh Holy Night\*\*

We Need A Little Christmas

I Can’t Wait For Christmas

Here Comes Santa Claus

It’s The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

Away In A Manger\*\*

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

Rockin Around The Christmas Tree\*\*

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

This Christmas

All I Want For Christmas Is You

How To Make Gravy

It’s Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

Jingle Bells\*\*

So This IS Christmas?

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town\*\*

We Wish You A Merry Christmas\*\*

Silent Night

Silent night, Holy night

All is calm, All is bright

‘Round yon virgin Mother and Child

Holy infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, Holy night

All is calm, All is bright

‘Round yon virgin Mother and Child

Holy infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

Rudolph

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer

Had a very shiny nose

And if you ever saw him

You would even say it glows

All of the other reindeer

Used to laugh and call him names

They never let poor Rudolph

Join in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas Eve

Santa came to say

“Rudolph with your nose so bright,

won’t you guide my sleigh tonight?”

Then all the reindeer loved him

as they shouted out with glee

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer

You’ll go down in history!

Joy to the World

Joy to the world

The Lord is come

Let earth receive her king.

Let every heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

Oh Holy Night

O Holy night!

The stars are brightly shining

It is the night of our dear Savior's birth

Long lay the world in sin and error pining

'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born

O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Away In A Manger

Away in a manger,

No crib for His bed

The little Lord Jesus

Laid down His sweet head

The stars in the bright sky

Looked down where He lay

The little Lord Jesus

Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing

The Baby wakes

But little Lord Jesus

No crying He makes

I love Thee, Lord Jesus

Look down from the sky

And stay by my side,

‘Til morning is nigh.

To live with Thee there

Rockin Around the Christmas Tree

Rockin' around the Christmas tree

At the Christmas party hop

Mistletoe hung where you can see

Every couple tries to stop

Rockin' around the Christmas tree

Let the Christmas spirit ring

Later we'll have some pumpkin pie

And we'll do some caroling

You will get a sentimental feeling when you hear

Voices singing, let's be jolly

Deck the halls with boughs of holly

Rockin' around the Christmas tree

Have a happy holiday

Everyone dancin' merrily

In the new old-fashioned way

You will get a sentimental feeling when you hear

Voices singing, let's be jolly

Deck the halls with boughs of holly

Rockin' around the Christmas tree

Have a happy holiday

Everyone dancin' merrily

In the new old-fashioned way

Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, Jingle bells, Jingle all the way

Oh, what fun, it is to ride

In a one-horse open sleigh

Jingle bells, Jingle bells, Jingle all the way

Oh, what fun, it is to ride

In a one-horse open sleigh

Dashing through the snow

In a one-horse open sleigh

O'er the fields we go

Laughing all the way

Ha ha ha

Bells on bobtail ring

Making spirits bright

What fun it is to ride and sing

A sleighing song tonight

Oh! Jingle bells, Jingle bells, Jingle all the way

Oh, what fun It is to ride

In a one-horse open sleigh

Jingle bells, Jingle bells, Jingle all the way

Oh, what fun it is to ride

In a one-horse open sleigh

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

You better watch out,

You better not cry,

Better not pout,

I'm telling you why:

Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He's making a list

And checking it twice,

Gonna find out

Who's naughty and nice.

Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He sees you when you're sleepin',

He knows when you're awake,

He knows if you've been bad or good,

So be good for goodness sake.

You better watch out,

You better not cry,

Better not pout,

I'm telling you why:

Santa Claus is comin' to town.

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas

And a happy new year

Good tidings we bring

To you and your kin

Good tidings for Christmas

And a happy new year

We wish you a merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas

And a happy new year

Now bring us a figgy pudding

Now bring us a figgy pudding

Now bring us a figgy pudding

And bring some out here

Good tidings we bring

To you and your kin

Good tidings for Christmas

And a happy new year

We won't go until we got some

We won't go until we got some

We won't go until we got some

So bring some out here

Good tidings we bring

To you and your kin

Good tidings for Christmas

And a happy new year

Good tidings for Christmas

And a happy new year