



NEWS RELEASE

25 June 2009

CAPTION: ORC Choral Director Ben Macpherson O.A.M.

Choral director sings praise for concert

As the Choral Director, of the Orange Regional Conservatorium (ORC) Symphonic Choir, Ben Macpherson is privileged to hear some of the finest voice s in Orange sing each week as they rehearse for the Symphony in Winter concert on July 4.

The Symphonic Choir will perform the Rutter Gloria, a piece for choir brass and percussion composed by Englishman John Rutter who is best known for creating works combining both popular and classical genres. "It's rhythmic and colourful," Ben says. "It's a piece that's really bright, exciting and tuneful."

Ben was the musical director of the Sydney University Musical Society for 23 years from 1983. He has also conducted most of Sydney's major youth orchestras, such as the Sydney Youth Orchestra, the SBS Youth Orchestra, the Sydney University Orchestra, and orchestras from the Sydney Conservatorium.

"We are truly fortunate to have such a talented and experienced choral specialist living in Orange," said ORC director Graham Sattler. "He brings to the Community a wealth of knowledge, ensuring the ORC Symphonic Choir is of a professional standard. "

Ben has conducted and sung with the Sydney Chamber Choir, and has sung with the Australian Opera Chorus, The Song Company, and Cantillation. He has adjudicated at many choral competitions, including the 2006 ABC Choir of the Year Competition. In the Australia Day honours in 2002 Ben was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia for services to music.

"I moved to Orange to start a vineyard and create my own wines," Ben said, "but it's wonderful to find a regional city with such a wealth of musical talent and to continue my passion for choir."

Ben Macpherson and the Symphonic Choir will feature in the ORC's Symphony in Winter concert on Saturday 4July at the ORC Auditorium.

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Media Note: For interviews and photos please contact Holly Manning, ORC Events and Promotions Manager 0418 654 226.