



Friday, 10 April 2026

TIME	LOCATION	EVENT		
8.00-8.45am	Deakin University	Registration Desk and Choralfest Hub open		
8.45-9.15am	D2.193	OPENING CEREMONY Welcome to Country and performance by Aurora Vocal Ensemble (Christie Anderson), welcome by Marianne Rigby (ANCA President), Official Conference Opening by Professor Dawn Joseph (Deakin University)		
9.15-10.15am	D2.193	Catherine Fender - WARM UP - MASSED PIECE REHEARSAL PLENARY 1 - HOW TO BUILD MEANINGFUL CONCERT PROGRAMMES		
10:15-11:00am	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 1		
		D2.193	D2.194	D2.330
		1A Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié - Beyond the Score: How to utilize the performance space to its fullest potential	1B Joshua Clifford - Toolbox Top-up: Exercises to Energise and Engage	1C Alex Hedt - Mobilising Competition, Co-operation & Citizenship
10:15am-12:15pm	D2.205	PRIVATE CONDUCTING SESSIONS 1 - Sharon Batterham (Intermediate)		
11:00-11.20am	Deakin University	MORNING TEA - State Meet Ups and Exhibition		
10.45-11.40am	Deakin University	MASSED CHOIR REHEARSALS 1 D2.211 Choralfest Youth Choir with Paul Jarman D2.212 Choralfest Adult Choir with Dr Elizabeth Scott		
11.20-12.00pm	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 2		
		D2.193	D2.194	D2.330
		2A Catherine Fender - A Cappella & More: Choral gems from across the globe	2B William McElwee - Gregorian Chant: From Notation to Performance	2C Dr Naomi Cooper - Transforming Trans Singing Education in the Choral Context
12:30-2:30pm	D2.205	PRIVATE CONDUCTING SESSIONS 2 - Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié (Advanced)		
12.00-12.45pm	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 3		
		D2.193	D2.194	D2.330
		3A Juliana Kay & Paul Jarman - Composers, Meet the Publishers	3B Christopher Watson - A Workshop on the English Choral Tradition	3C Kimberley Steele - I Can't Sing: Trauma-informed conducting for universal success

12.00-3:00pm		Choirs in the City – The Carousel, Geelong Gallery, Piano Bar, Westfield, National Wool Museum		
12.45-1.45pm	Deakin University	LUNCH		
1.00-1:40pm		SOUND CHECK for AFTERNOON APERITIF CONCERT 1		
2.00-3.00pm	Costa Hall	AFTERNOON APERITIF CONCERT 1 Aurora Vocal Ensemble (Christie Anderson), The Cyrenes (Christine Butt), Adelaide Choral Ambassadors (Ron Abelita) & Birralee Blokes (Paul Holley)		
2:45-4:45pm	D2.205	PRIVATE CONDUCTING SESSION 3 - Lorraine Manifold (Beginner)		
3.00-4.00pm	D2.193	Gints Ceplenieks – Repertoire Reading Session FROM UKRAINE AND THE BALTIC, WITH LOVE		
4.00-4.45pm	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 4		
		D2.193	D2.194	D2.330
		4A Assoc. Prof. Debbie Phyland & Natasha Curham - Vocal Mythbusters	4B Saz Burton - Jazz Choir: An introduction	4C Joanna Drimatis - Sounds from Home: Australian music for the classroom
4.15-5.00pm	St Paul's Anglican Church	SOUND CHECK for TWILIGHT CONCERT 2		
5.00-6.25pm	Costa Hall	GALA CONCERT SOUND CHECK		
5.30-6.30pm	St Paul's	TWILIGHT CONCERT 2 DeCanto, Melbourne Youth Chorale (Caitlyn Bosch), The Geelong Chorale (Allister Cox OAM) & Casey Choir (Simon Loveless)		
4:30-5:30pm	Piano Bar	Choirs in the City		
6.00-7.00pm		Evening Meal Break		
7.00-8:40pm	Costa Hall	CHORALFEST GALA CONCERT Concordis Chamber Choir (Philippa Jones), QUT Vox Pop (Emma McNeill & Kaeley Allen), The Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne (Christopher Watson), Melbourne Latvian Choir "Daina" (Sandra Birze), Harambee A Cappella (Daniel Kim) & The Yarra Voices (Renee Heron)		

Saturday, 11 April 2026

TIME	LOCATION	EVENT		
8.00-8:30am		Registration Desk and Choralfest Hub open		
8.30-9.15am	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 5		
		D2.193	D2.194	D2.330
		5A Michael Fulcher - Accent Method Breathing for Choral Singing: Theory & practice, children & adults	5B Lorraine Manifold - Maple Melodies: A taste of Canadian choral music	5C Joshua Clifford - From the Podium: Programming with diversity & innovation
8:30-10:30am	D2.205	PRIVATE CONDUCTING SESSION 4 - Sharon Batterham (Intermediate)		
9.15-10.00am	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 6		
		D2.193	D2.194	D2.330
		6A Gints Ceplenieks - Choral Conducting for Beginners	6B Chris Blain - Finding joy through community music	6C Kelly Shepard - Barbershop: A cappella's martial art
10.00-10.30am	Deakin University	MORNING TEA - Meet Someone New and chat with our Exhibitors		
10.30-11.15am	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 7		
		D2.193	D2.194	D2.330
		7A Isaac Stott & Daniel Kim - How to be a Human Instrument: Beat boxing & more	7B Juliana Kay - Getting Started: How do I begin composing for choirs?	7C Peter Lee - Practise Smarter: Resources to transform singing practice & develop musical literacy
11.15am-12.15pm	D2.193	Gints Ceplenieks – Delegate Singing followed by PLENARY 2 – LATVIA'S CHORAL TRADITION UNIFYING PEOPLE AT HOME AND ABROAD		
12.15-1.00pm	Deakin University	LUNCH		
9:30am-3:00pm		Choirs in the City – The Carousel, Geelong Gallery, Piano Bar, Westfield Central Atrium, Geelong City Market		
12:30-2:30pm	D2.205	PRIVATE CONDUCTING SESSION 5 – Lorraine Manifold (Beginner)		
1.00-2.00pm	D2.193	PANEL DISCUSSION 1 – Strategic Futures for Choral Music in Australia Panel Chair - Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié		
1.00-2.15pm	Courthouse Theatre	CHOIRS AT THE COURTHOUSE 1 Kodu Kaja Women's Choir (Hilja Toom), Edelweiss Casey Choir (Lili Xu), The Melody Makers Choir (Laura Rowan), Geelong Harmony Chorus (Corina Hassett) & Exaudi (Juliana Kay & Mark O'Leary)		
2:00-2:40pm	D2.193	DELEGATE CHOIR REHEARSAL		

2:30-3:10pm	Costa Hall	SOUND CHECK for AFTERNOON APERITIF CONCERT 2
2:30-4:30pm	D2.205	PRIVATE CONDUCTING SESSION 6 - Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié (Advanced)
2:45-3:30pm	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 8
		D2.193
		D2.194
		D2.330
		8A Paul Holley OAM and the Birralee Blokes - Navigating the Young Changed Male Voice
		8B Lindy Connott - Empowering Young Voices: Building leadership from within the choir
		8C Tim Fisher & Matthew Clements - Singing for the Health of Our Communities
3.00-4.30pm	Courthouse Theatre	CHOIRS AT THE COURTHOUSE 2 Melbourne Welsh Male Choir (Mitch Meyer), Brunswick Women's Choir (Cathy Nixon), Men in Suits (Chris Blain), Vocal Vibes (Henrietta Farr), The Geelong Chorale (Allister Cox OAM) & Melbourne Pride Chorus (Stephanie Teh)
3:30-4:45pm	Costa Hall	AFTERNOON APERITIF CONCERT 2 Hunter Singers (Kim Sutherland OAM & Charissa Ferguson), Cantore (Geelong Youth Choir) (Phillipa McQuinn), St Patrick's College Townsville (John Goulter), Polyphonic Voices (Michael Fulcher) & The KeyTones Choir (Rose Capp)
3.30-4.30pm	D2.193	Gints Cepleniaks - TERE - SVEIKS! Choral Masterclass with our diaspora Baltic choirs Melbourne Latvian Choir DAINA, Kooskõlas Choir & Kodu Kaja Womens Choir
4.00-4:55pm	D2.211	MASSED CHOIR REHEARSALS 2 Choralfest Youth Choir rehearses with Paul Jarman
4.00-4:55pm	D2.194	MASSED CHOIR REHEARSALS 2 Choralfest Adult Choir rehearses with Dr Elizabeth Scott
4.30-5.00pm	Geelong Gallery	SOUND CHECK for GEELONG GALLERY A CAPPELLA ART CONCERT
5:00-5:40pm	St Paul's	SOUND CHECK for TWILIGHT CONCERT 3A
5:00-5:40pm	Costa Hall	SOUND CHECK for TWILIGHT CONCERT 3B
5.00-8.00pm	National Wool Museum	FAMILY EVENT Wild Night Pyjama Party (independent event) featuring St Patrick's College Townsville (John Goulter), Lora Sky Children's and Youth Choir (Lora Luo) & Cantore (Geelong Youth Choir) (Phillipa McQuinn)
5.00-6.15pm	Geelong Gallery	GEELONG GALLERY A CAPPELLA ART CONCERT (separately ticketed event) Be enthralled by Southern Voices (Sharon Batterham), Polyphonic Voices (Michael Fulcher), Daybreak Quartet, DeCanto & Hunter Singers (Kim Sutherland OAM & Charissa Ferguson)
6.00-7.15pm	St Paul's Anglican Church	TWILIGHT CONCERT 3A City of Auckland Singers (Sue Murray), The Prophet/Wayfarers Australia (Judith Clingan), The Geelong Chorale (Allister Cox) & The Promise of Avondale (Dr Aleta King)
6.00-7.15pm	Costa Hall	TWILIGHT CONCERT 3B The Yarra Voices (Renee Heron), Chime Choir (Jenny Mathers), Vocal Vibes (Henrietta Farr), Exaudi joined by Young Voices of Melbourne (Juliana Kay & Mark O'Leary) & Birralee Blokes (Paul Holley)
6.00-7.00pm	Piano Bar	PUB SING-ALONG, led by Chris Blain - Free Social Event
7.15-7.45pm	Novotel	CHORALFEST DELEGATE DRINKS
7.45-9.45pm	Novotel	CONFERENCE RECEPTION (separately ticketed event) With performance by Harambee A Cappella

Sunday, 12 April 2026

TIME	LOCATION	EVENT		
8.15-8:30am	Deakin University	Registration Desk and Choralfest Hub open		
8.30-9.15am	Deakin University	INTEREST SESSION 9		
		D2.193	D2.194	D2.330
		9A Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié & Dr Aleta King - Developing Comprehensive Music Aural Skills to Improve your Singers' Choral Capacity	9B Jonathan Bligh - Beyond the Notes: Exploring the choral sound & repertoire choice	9C Marianne Rigby - Discover Your True Voice: A concrete tone development method for choral singers
9.15-10.15am	Deakin University	MASSED ITEMS REHEARSALS 3 Choralfest Youth Choir D2.211 Choralfest Adult Choir D2.193		
9.15-10.15am	D2.194	Catherine Fender - Repertoire Reading Session NORTHERN LIGHTS: Outstanding Repertoire from Scandinavia & Northern Europe		
10.15-10.45am	Deakin University	MORNING TEA		
10.45-11.45am	D2.193	PLENARY 3 WARM UP - FROM UNISON TO POLYPHONY followed by Gints Ceplenieks - Generational Unity through Choral Education in Latvia Catherine Fender - Innovative Choral Projects to Inspire		
11.45am-12.45pm	D2.193	PANEL DISCUSSION 2 - Talking About New Australian Music Session Chair - Michael Fulcher		
12.45-1.30pm	Deakin University	LUNCH		
12.00-2.00pm		Choirs in the City: The Carousel & Geelong Gallery		
1.15-2.40pm	Costa Hall	SOUND CHECK for FINALE CONCERT including Final Rehearsal of Massed Items		
3.00-4.30pm	Costa Hall	FINALE CONCERT AND CLOSING CEREMONY The Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne (Christopher Watson), Hunter Singers (Kim Sutherland OAM & Charissa Ferguson), Southern Voices (Sharon Batterham), The Promise of Avondale (Dr Aleta King) & the massed Choralfest Delegate, Adult & Youth Choirs		