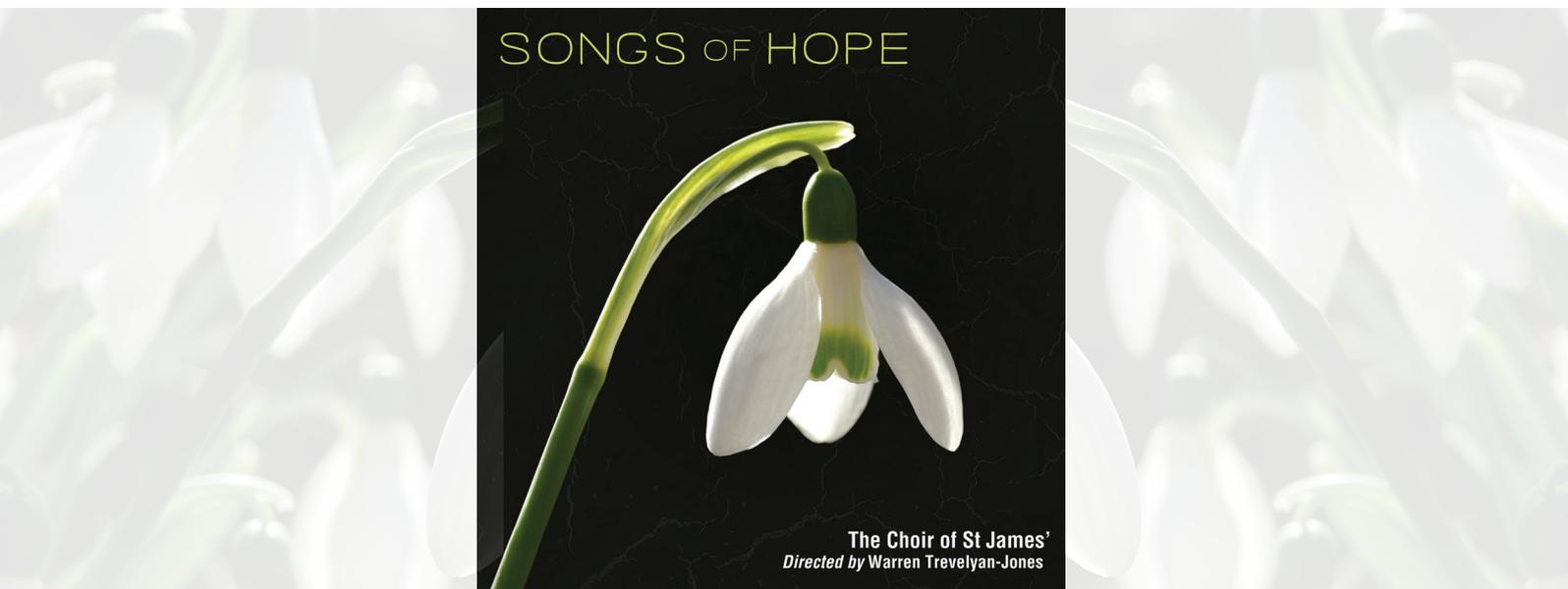


St James' Music presents

a new choir recording for anxious times:

Songs of Hope



As the world faces crisis and uncertainty in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we search for new levels of courage and resource to overcome our own vulnerability in such a time of adversity.

This recording by The Choir of St James' and directed by Warren Trevelyan-Jones, brings together compositions that are both old and new, European and Australian, with works by William Byrd, John Taverner, John Sheppard, Philip Moore, Joseph Twist, Owen Elsley, and Brooke Shelley. In addition to the settings of The Lord's Prayer, all are settings of texts that are testaments of faith and hope, especially in the face of difficulty, wrong-doing or captivity.

Girolamo Savonarola's meditation on Psalm 50 (*Infelix ego*) as set by William Byrd, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Letters and Papers from Prison* as set by Philip Moore, although written almost 450 years apart as the two men faced imminent execution, both show glimpses of optimism and hope founded on profound faith.

Joseph Twist's *How Shall We Sing in a Strange Land?* combines part of the text of Psalm 137 with 'A Song of Hope', by Indigenous poet Kath Walker / Oodgeroo Noonuccal. This juxtaposition of old and new, sacred and secular, suggests renewed hope for the future. It concludes:

*... To our fathers' fathers / The pain, the sorrow;
To our children's children / The glad tomorrow.*

The Choir of St James', directed by Warren Trevelyan-Jones, enjoys a reputation of being one of the finest choirs in Australia. It is one of the oldest musical establishments in Australia and is linked to the earliest days of the colony of New South Wales; some of its early members were convicts. The Choir maintains a schedule of regular weekly choral services, Sunday Cantata Services, Orchestral Masses, and its own Subscription Concert Series. It has a large and varied repertoire encompassing music from the Middle Ages to the contemporary, and it is committed to supporting new Australian works, including compositions written by past and present members of the Choir. Past collaborations include working with Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli Consort & Players, The Tallis Scholars, The King's Singers, Opera Australia, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Australian Baroque Brass, The Australian Haydn Ensemble, and soloists Yvonne Kenny, Greta Bradman and Teddy Tahu Rhodes.

The Choir also undertakes a comprehensive programme of recording, broadcasting and touring, interstate and overseas. In 2018, it returned to Gallipoli and sang at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, as well as performing to critical acclaim at the Coriole Music Festival in Adelaide, and in Hobart at Festival of Voices.

Cost: \$25 | purchase from www.sjks.org.au/shop or from The St James' Parish Office, Level 1, 169-171 Phillip Street, Sydney | T (02) 8227 1300 | Digital downloads available soon.

Media Enquiries:

Brooke Shelley, Communications Manager, St James' Church, King Street Sydney
E brooke.shelley@sjks.org.au | T (02) 8227 1301 | M 0400 355 950