

# MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre  
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## Sydney Youth Orchestra teams up with Cathedral Choir for Christmas Celebration

**15 December 2021**

After months of COVID-19 restrictions on public concerts, St Mary's Cathedral is looking forward to hosting two special concerts on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**, performing much loved Christmas music at an annual Cathedral Christmas Celebration.

The annual concerts, held this year at **11am and 7pm** have become a much loved Christmas tradition in Sydney and this year, the Cathedral Choir will be joined for the first time by the talented Sydney Youth Orchestra.

Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, Mr Thomas Wilson, said it will be a very special occasion and all Sydneysiders are warmly invited to attend.

"There's nothing like a traditional Cathedral Christmas Celebration! The choir, carols and festive cheer! Come to relish the music, savour the readings and poetry and raise the roof singing with all your favourites!", he said.

The Head of Orchestral Training and Community Engagement with the Sydney Youth Orchestra, Mr James Pensini, said he hopes the concerts can help lift community spirit and morale after months of lockdown.

"We hope the event can be a bit of a tonic for what's been a difficult few years for everybody and especially in the absence of live music. We hope it's an uplifting way to head into Christmas and it's a joyous and uplifting experience for everyone", Mr Pensini said.

The 32 member St Mary's Cathedral Choir is regarded as the longest-running musical ensemble in Australia and can trace its history back to 1818. Over recent years, the choir has appeared in concerts with the Brandenburg Orchestra and travelled to Rome in 2011 where it sang for His Holiness Pope Benedict.

Accompanying the choir will be the 28 young musicians from the Sydney Youth Orchestra, ranging in age from 14-23. The orchestra was founded in 1973 and has been a training ground for some of Australia's most talented musicians including Richard Tognetti, Kirsten Williams and Nigel Westlake.

Bookings for the concerts can be made online:

[https://www.stickytickets.com.au/e9o9s/cathedral\\_christmas\\_celebration.aspx](https://www.stickytickets.com.au/e9o9s/cathedral_christmas_celebration.aspx)

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