

## **Christopher Allan**

### **Lecturer, Voice and Academic Courses**

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Well-known as a soloist with major choral societies such as the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Willoughby Choir and chamber choir Coro Innominata, Christopher Allan is respected for his interpretation of works ranging from the sixteenth century to the present day. Recent major performances have included appearances in Bach's St John and St Matthew Passions, Messiah, Orff's Carmina Burana and the Requiems by Mozart and Durufle. Between 1994 and 2001 Christopher Allan was a guest artist with the Sydney-based vocal ensemble The Song Company, with whom he has performed both Early music and contemporary works in concert, for broadcast and on CD. With the Song Company he appeared in the world premiere performances of Vincent Plush's Funereal Rites and Raffaello Marcellino's Fish Tales. Additionally, as an ensemble singer, he is a member of the professional chamber choirs ACO Voices and Cantillation both in concert and on recording. Christopher sang with Opera Australia for a number of years appearing as a chorus member in such opera as Billy Budd, Tannhauser, The Barber of Seville, Turandot and Don Carlos. In recital he has presented several major cycles including Copland's American Songs and Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs. Christopher is a noted interpreter of the vocal works of Nigel Butterley, most recently giving a performance of Butterley's Blake Songs at Canberra's National Library with the composer as accompanist.

As well as continuing to perform, Christopher is vitally interested in the area of voice science. He has undertaken courses with Jo Estill (Voicecraft) and visiting pedagogue Richard Miller. Additionally, Christopher has travelled to London on a number of occasions to observe and take lessons with renowned teacher Janice Chapman. He is an advocate of a holistic approach to voice training and seeks to give his students a well rounded education in voice production involving mind, body and spirit. He is particularly interested in promoting a healthy use of the voice no matter what genre of music the singer is performing and, as well as working with classical performers, he has worked with contemporary singers in many styles.

Christopher often delivers vocal workshops to choral groups in various parts of the country and was, from 2000-2004, the artistic and musical director of the Newcastle University Choir. He continues to be the director of the Conservatorium Choir. He has made appearances as guest choral conductor for groups such as Coro Innominata and the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir.

Christopher Allan is a senior lecturer in Voice and Academic Studies for the School of Music at the University of Newcastle.

## **Qualifications**

- Master of Music - The University of Newcastle
- Bachelor of Music Education - The University of Newcastle
- A Mus A - Australian Music Examinations Board

## **Academic Appointments**

- Senior Lecturer, Voice and Academic Studies

## Professional Activities

### Teaching

- One-to-one voice
- Music history
- Sight singing

### Interests

- Holistic voice teaching and healthy vocal practice
  - The role of posture in the production of the professional voice
  - The interaction of music, speech and emotion
  - Currently a PhD student looking at speech mode in teaching recitative

## Artistic Work

### Acting

- Tosca (Puccini) Opera Australia Role: Chorus, 2000
- Turandot (Puccini) Opera Australia Role: Chorus
- Don Carlos (Verdi) Opera Australia Role: Chorus
- The Barber of Seville (Rossini) Opera Australia Role: Chorus
- Tannhauser (Wagner) Opera Australia Role: Chorus
- Billy Budd (Britten) Opera Australia Role: Second Mate, 1997
- Les Miserables (Schonberg) Opera Hunter Role: Javert, 1994
- Marriage of Figaro (Mozart) Opera Hunter Role: Count Almaviva, 1991
- Don Giovanni (Mozart) Opera Hunter Role: Leporello

### Solo Performances

- St Matthew Passion (Bach)(Sydney Philharmonia 2002)
- St John Passion (Bach) (Newcastle University Choir 2002)
- Messiah (Handel) (CoroInnominata 2002)
- Carmina Burana (Newcastle University Choir 2002, Manly-Warringah Choir 2001)

### Ensemble Performances

- Member Cantillation (dir Anthony Walker) recording projects for ABC Classics
- Foundation member Australian Chamber Orchestra Voices (projects 1999 & 2001)
- member Sounds Baroque 1996-2001 (Musica Viva in Schools Program)
- Guest artist The Song Company 1995-2001 (various concerts)

## Publications

### Audio CD Publications

- Federation CD (Timothy Sexton) Waratah Girls Choir 2001
- Coal Cantata (Timothy Sexton) Waratah Girls Choir 1999
- Mozart Unexpurgated (Song Company) 1994

## Scholarly Activities

### Consultancies & Community Service

- Artistic/Musical Director of Newcastle University Choir (2000 -2004)
- Director NBN Television Choir (1990-1994)

### Other Scholarly Activities

- Workshop presenter - Whitsunday Singers - Airlie Beach 2002
- Workshop presenter - Hastings Region Choral Workshops (2001 & 2002)
- Workshop presenter – Sydney Philharmonia Choirs (2004-2006)
- Workshop presenter – Newcastle University Choir (2006)
- Assistant conductor – Australian National Seniors Choral Festival (2006)

