Vision Australia presents

Carols by Candlelight

2019 SOUVENIR SONG BOOK

TICKETS ON SALE NOW carolsbycandlelight.com.au

vision australia’s carols by candlelight
Broadcast Partner

Christmas Eve
Sidney Myer Music Bowl
For 82 years, Vision Australia’s Carols by Candlelight has entertained people of all ages in its annual Christmas Eve celebration. In 2019 the iconic event celebrates 60 years of performances bringing joy to thousands at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and 40 years of live broadcasts reaching millions on the Nine Network. This festive season, singer Paul Kapeleris, who was born legally blind with just 5 per cent vision, will perform at the family event in a dream come true for the musician. Paul first made headlines earlier this year in Australia’s Got Talent and now, as Carols by Candlelight ambassador, he will share his joyful music on Christmas Eve. Carols by Candlelight supports children who are blind or have low vision. On Christmas Eve, donations will be matched by generous partners of Vision Australia to double the impact for those who are blind or have low vision and their families. Carols by Candlelight began as the concept of Norman Banks MBE, a veteran of radio. On Christmas Eve in 1937, he noticed an elderly woman sitting by her window, her face lit by a candle. Next to her was a radio and she was singing along to Away in a Manger. It was at this moment that Banks was inspired to create a gathering of people to sing Christmas songs in the candlelight setting. A new Christmas tradition was born. The annual event has seen some of Australia’s biggest names perform including Madame Florence Austral, Gilda Grauen, Robert Simmons, Mary Miller, Robert Payne, William Laird and John Lanigan. In 1949, Vision Australia (then the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind) became the main beneficiary of the event. In 1959, the event moved from Alexandra Gardens to the just-opened Sidney Myer Music Bowl where more than 100,000 people attended. In 1979, Carols by Candlelight was televised for the first time on Channel 9. In 1979, Channel 9 became the official broadcast partner and 40 years on, the Nine Network is proud to be partnered with this Christmas tradition. During the past decade, the number of famous guests has grown, with crowd favourites including Deni Hinchliffe, Marina Prior, Silvie Paladino, David Hobson, Lucy Durack, Delta Goodrem, Guy Sebastian, Casey Donovan, Dannii Minogue and Anthony Callea celebrating Australian music and musicians. Carols tradition celebrates 60 years at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl

This year marks a significant anniversary of a momentous occasion we celebrate Christmas and a happy New Year. On behalf of the Nine Network’s Editorial, Sales and Marketing departments, we would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Matt Scriven, Nine Melbourne managing Director

Season’s greetings
**S**ince its inception in 1938, Vision Australia’s Carols by Candlelight has become a much-loved Christmas tradition.

Attendance by thousands of festive folk and watched by many more from the comfort of their homes, this iconic event celebrates 80 years of performances bringing joy to a packed Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

Now a Carol spread David Campbell will be joined by Allison Langdon to present this much-loved variety festive folk and watched by millions of Australians who have filled the Sidney Myer Music Bowl for decades of singing at the Bowl. John Foreman will wield the baton, conducting the huge orchestra, not only celebrating the spirit of Christmas but giving back to a charity that needs support.

With two small children, Christmas is a big deal in my household, John says, "I’m excited to be a part of an enormous event, to fi nish the year than having a festive atmosphere and such a long-standing tradition for me that I just couldn’t think of anything else!" For the fi rst time, internationally-acclaimed musical theatre stars Natalie O’Donnell (Mamma Mia) and her husband, Steven G ammon (Les Misérables), will come together to delight audiences. "We are beyond thrilled to be performing on the carols stage together," Natalie says. "It’s not often you get to be a part of an enormous event, on stage with an incredible orchestra, not only celebrating the spirit of Christmas but giving back to a charity that desperately needs support." Of course, it’s not just about singing songs. Carols by Candlelight is a major event for Vision Australia, raising vital funds for children who are blind or have low vision, which is why stars and hosts generously give up their time on Christmas Eve each year to bring joy to Australia.

Win a family pass to the exclusive VIP Lawn Terrace at Vision Australia’s Carols by Candlelight on December 24! See page 12 for details.

**A special tradtion**

This year, Vision Australia’s Carols by Candlelight, Anthony Costello will lead a similar line-up of Aussie singers performing this Christmas Eve, including his husband, Tim Campbell. Here, we chatted with Anthony about his favourite Christmas traditions.

Where will you be spending Christmas this year? At home in Melbourne. Being home for Christmas is always great, however, I’ve always wished for a white Christmas, and I did try and take off a day from work, but the producer said, “You’re a bloody Yuletide!”

What was your favourite Christmas present as a child? I think it was probably a trampoline. I do remember waking up that year and seeing the children watching it before their eyes, is truly spectacular!”

Do you have a favourite Christmas song? I would have to say the fi rst year I performed at Carols by Candlelight, in 2004. There was a massive trampoline.

I’m truly overwhelmed by it all. I am so happy to be able to play a role in one of Australia’s most-loved Christmas traditions.

**Stars shine & ALLISON LANGDON**

performers will get into the Christmas spirit to delight fans at Carols by Candlelight

**Sing it**
Paul Kapeleris’ life changed in an instant when his musical career was skyrocketed into fame after an extraordinary performance of Andrea Bocelli’s ‘Divine’ on Australian television program, Australia’s Got Talent earlier this year.

The now 23 year old with the angelic voice and exceptional piano playing skills is the 2019 Vision Australia’s Carols by Candlelight ambassador.

The talented musician was born with 15 per cent vision, and now has only 5 per cent vision, which is slowly deteriorating.

Paul found a new meaning for life when his mother encouraged him to start piano lessons at the age of eight.

“It was very difficult as I couldn’t see the notes. Basically my teacher told me to practise and feel the notes with my eyes closed. The piano has a set structure so I don’t have to look to play the piano anymore. There is a lot of muscle memory going on,” Paul says.

From a young age, Paul would watch talent shows on television such as The X Factor and Australian Idol, and would dream of doing something similar as he grew up. To Paul music was what gave him the confidence and freedom to try to be himself.

Earlier this year, Paul completed his Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in music which came after years of dedication to the piano and music.

Inspired by his music, teachers and professors, Paul has had the privilege to learn from a variety of people.

He finds inspiration across the industry through stars such as Sam Smith and Chris Stapleton for their ability to connect with their music and audience.

“I love Ed Sheeran’s songwriting ability, and Gary Light and Turl Kelly for their absolutely stunning vocals. All of these incredible artists have sculpted my own artistry,” Paul says.

“Christmas is particularly grateful for their drive and passion to make music,” says.

As Vision Australia’s Carols by Candlelight ambassador, Paul hopes to provide inspiration to those who don’t think they are good enough or have what it takes.

“Vision Australia has allowed me to live a life I would never have been able to live otherwise,” he says. “They have provided me with support, got me out the house with young adult social activities, and taught me life skills through occupational therapy. Interaction with other people who have vision impairments is an enriching experience, that for me, would only have been possible through Vision Australia.

“As someone who has lived with a severe degenerative vision impairment for all of my life, it means the absolute world to me to have this opportunity. We are strong, we are powerful and can do anything. It is quite daunting knowing there will be perform in front of an audience of millions of people on Christmas Eve. But not being able to see is an advantage in a way, and that piano on the stage.

The story of treating his journey as something special, something that he cherishes with every second.

Paul is willing to take on the role of a sapient force, something that he cherishes with every second.

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Double your impact this Christmas. Find out how at carolsbycandlelight.com.au

Christmas Eve is a time to enjoy. A moment to inspire. Your generous donation will make such a difference. When you donate on Christmas Eve your donation will be matched to double the impact for blind and low vision children. Don’t miss your chance to make Christmas twice as special, for everyone.

- $100 x2 = $200 could pay for a course of special braille music classes.
- $25 x2 = $50 could pay for a special Connect 4 game for a family to play together.
- $50 x2 = $100 could pay for Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone to be produced in braille.
- $500 x2 = $1,000 could help a child who is blind or has low vision to learn to get around the playground safely.

Children’s services
Vision Australia provides specialist services that support families to help their children achieve the greatest levels of independence.

- MOBILITY SERVICES To help children develop skills to move around safely and independently.
- PHYSICAL, OCCUPATIONAL, and SPEECH THERAPIES To develop everyday living skills such as getting dressed, preparing food or brushing their teeth.
- COUNSELING With the input of parents and other role models, we offer support to children and their families.
- EARLY EDUCATION Services like our Feelix Library allow children to learn in a unique sensory way and support their literacy skills.
- BRAILLE and ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY Helping children to enter mainstream education using the techniques of their choice to read, write and communicate.
- HOLIDAY PROGRAMS A range of fun, educational activities that instill a sense of belonging and social inclusion.

What we do with your help...

Here’s what your donation helps makes possible

- Almost 2,000 children are supported annually across Australia
- Nearly 50,000 hours are dedicated to supporting children every year
- 15,500 pages of complex science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) materials were converted into braille, tactile and electronic text for university students.
- Six people took part in a 3 week trial of the new Learn, Engage, Act, Perform (LEAP) youth leadership program aimed at 14-17 year olds. As part of the program they joined 200 young leaders from across Australia at a four-day leadership camp.
- Ninety-nine people aged 15-25 took part in the Building Stronger Futures employment program. They attended intensive pre-employment workshops, received problem-solving skills and concentrated job search support.
- 1953 Feelix reading kits have been borrowed, helping our youngest clients with vital literacy skills.
- Twenty tertiary students received laptops for technology in 2019, including monitors, Apple devices, smartphones, braille notetakers, to access technology software and music production software to assist their studies.
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Ding Dong Merrily On High

Public Domain

Ding dong, ding dong
Ding dong merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing
Ding dong, verily the sky
Is even with angel singing

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

Ein so here below below
Let sweet bell bells be swungen
And, o, o
By priest and people singing

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your minst chime, ye singers
May you beautifully rhyme
Your eve-time song, ye ringers

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

Winter Wonderland

Public Domain

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening
In the lane: snow is glittering
A beautiful sight, we’re happy tonight
Walking in a winter wonderland

Ding Dong, Merrily On High

Public Domain

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening
In the lane: snow is glittering
A beautiful sight, we’re happy tonight
Walking in a winter wonderland

Gone away is the bluebird
Here to stay is a new bird
He sings a love song as we along
Walking in a winter wonderland

Jeepers creepers, creepers creeping
Jeepers creepers, creepers creeping
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Find a glove and join the chorus
Walking in a winter wonderland

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10 lucky winners will receive a Family Pass (4 tickets for family or friends) to the VIP Lawn Terrace where you’ll enjoy premium lawn seating and a free candle kit. The VIP Lawn is a seated section, so no need to queue! From 4pm you’ll be able to enjoy the Christmas Festival with activities for kids and adults alike. From 6pm the kids pre-show entertainment will start on the main stage before the main show at 8pm.

Enjoy a fun filled afternoon at the Christmas Festival, with a huge range of family-friendly activities to keep you entertained before the show begins!

Carols by Candlelight Christmas Festival

WIN a FAMILY PASS to the VIP LAWN TERRACE on 24 December!

For your chance to win enter by THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER at carolsbycandlelight.com.au/competitions

Vision Australia’s
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Families at Arts Centre Melbourne
Summer | Autumn 2020

The 91-Storey Treehouse
4 – 19 January
Ages 4+

Stick By Me
16 – 18 January
Ages 3 – 6

10 Minute Dance Parties
16 – 24 January
All Ages
FREE

A Ó Láng Phố
27 – 29 February
Ages 7+

Charli and the War Against the Grannies
28 March – 5 April
Ages 5+

Dr AudiYO’s Giant Adventure
9 - 10 May
Ages 8+

Creative Workshops at The Channel
Various dates throughout 2020.
Ages vary, see website.

BOOK NOW
artscentremelbourne.com.au/families
In 2017, as a perfect little 22-month-old baby you were one of the faces of Vision Australia’s Carols by Candlelight.

It’s not Christmas until Denis Walter sings at Carols by Candlelight.

Support is music to her ears

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VISION AUSTRALIA’S CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

carolsbycandlelight.com.au
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carolsbycandlelight@visionaustralia.org
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vision
australia’s
carols
by candlelight

Christmas Eve
Sidney Myer Music Bowl
Gates open 4pm | Kids Pre-Show 6pm
Show starts 8pm

DEC
24TH