

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday, 7 July 2016

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## Students on song at Festival of Voices

Eleven current Classical and Music Theatre Voice students, together with alumni, from the University of Tasmania's Conservatorium of Music will showcase their talents at the Festival of Voices (FoV) in Hobart.

The singers will perform a concert featuring golden age and contemporary music theatre, cabaret and divine art song, with a repertoire ranging from the heartfelt to the hilarious.

A number of the singers recently received major awards at the City of Hobart Eisteddfod, and were featured in the 2016 Town Hall Highlights Concert, as winners of the City of Hobart Aria, City of Hobart Music Theatre Award and Lieder Prizes.

Well-known performers include James Bourke, Grace Ovens and Isabella Doniz, alongside emerging music theatre talents Katie Green and Chloe Evans.

Singer Lana Kains has just returned from Canberra, where she performed at the Canberra International Music Festival as a guest member of Australia's only professional a cappella vocal ensemble, The Song Company.

At just 18 years of age, Ms Kains is an exceptional soprano, who is well known to many in Hobart via her busking appearances at Salamanca Place.

Musical director, Coordinator of Classical and Music Theatre Voice Jane Edwards - who will accompany the singers - said there was an impressive depth of vocal talent in Tasmania.

"The increase in classical and music theatre combined experience, with many young singers equally adept in both specialisations, is revealing significant improvements in craft," she said.

"There are now a number of vocal training organisations, along with a flourishing school music theatre program, helping to educate large numbers of highly capable young performers, which is reflected in the interest in music courses at the University of Tasmania."

The *UTAS Singers* performance will be held at the Rosny Barn at 2pm on Saturday, 9 July.

This year's festival also features Associate Professor Andrew Legg, performing with international performer/composer Khristian Dentley and their American band, for a show of contemporary gospel music.

The show will feature some of the best contemporary vocalists from around Australia, including indigenous vocalists from the Aboriginal Performing Arts Centre (ACPA) in Brisbane.

A multi award-winning pianist and composer and internationally recognised musician and researcher, Associate Professor Legg's research at the University focuses on the impact of African American gospel and sacred music on the development of Australian music and culture.

The performance will be held at Gospel HQ (The Odeon Theatre) on Saturday, 9 July, at 2:30pm.

Tickets for both shows are available at:

<https://festivalofvoices.com/events/utas-singers>

<https://festivalofvoices.com/events/kd-dr-leggs-gospel-music-experience-concert>

## **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

Musical director Jane Edwards and singer Lana Kains will be available for interview, photography and filming **TODAY** (Thursday, 7 July) at **11am** at the University of Tasmania's Conservatorium of Music, Sandy Bay Rd, Hobart.

For more information, contact Jane Edwards on 0411 145 268 or Liz Stacey at the media office on 0419 587 457.

### **Information released by:**

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