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# HUNTER SINGERS

HARROGATE • CAMBRIDGE • CANTERBURY • YPRES • PARIS

## ✘ Tour Report ✘



### *Known Unto God* Paul Jarman

*Hunter Singers commissioned Paul Jarman to write a piece about the experience of Australian soldiers in World War I. The work focuses on war through the eyes of children, who are waiting for their fathers to come home.*

*The work is divided into four sections: 1. A little girl waiting for daddy to come home; 2. The war, incorporating spoken and sung quotes from soldiers, poets and writers of the time; 3. The consequences of war; 4. A final prayer and reconciliation with the past.*



Hunter Singers toured to England, Belgium and France in 2007. There were 29 singers aged 13- 18 on tour, representing nine government high schools in the Hunter region.

The tour had four components: a 5-day festival

in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, performances in the great cathedrals of England, a 3-day tour of the battlefields of Flanders and the Somme and 5 days in Paris, with performances at Disneyland and La Madeleine.



### *2007 Tour Repertoire*

*A varied program of contemporary a cappella and accompanied music by Australian composers*

#### AUSTRALIAN REPERTOIRE BY:

Gordon Hamilton  
Sarah Hopkins  
Paul Jarman  
Stephen Leek

#### OTHER WORKS BY:

Howard Goodall  
John Rutter  
Stephen Hatfield  
W.A. Mozart



# Concerts, workshops, fun times

## PERFORMANCES

**APRIL 7**

Concert at Easingwold

**APRIL 8**

Performance at Sun Pavillion, Harrogate

**APRIL 9**

Concert at tSt Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate

**APRIL 10**

Performances at Fountains Abbey and Ripon Cathedral

**APRIL 12**

Concert at Lady Chapel, Ely Cathedral

**APRIL 13**

Concert at Canterbury Cathedral

**APRIL 14**

Performance at Menin Gate Ceremony, Ypres

**APRIL 16**

Concert at Victoria Hall, Villers-Bretonneux

**APRIL 19**

Performance at Paris Disneyland

**APRIL 20**

Performance at La Madeleine Church, Paris



There were many highlights on the tour, with moving performances in acoustics Australian choirs don't normally experience. A particular highlight was the concert in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral.



The Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate, Ypres was an occasion to remember. Held every night since 1927, the traffic stops and

crowds gather for the playing of the Last Post and a wreath-laying ceremony. Hunter Singers performed the Paul Jarman work we commissioned, *Known Unto God*, with the composer present, along with works by Stephen Leek.

The three days touring the Western Front were incredible as 18 people on our tour found relatives' graves, thanks to the research the singers had done before the trip. We had a small ceremony for each, with one of the singers playing the Last Post. We also had an impromptu ceremony at Tyne Cot, along with a busload of British D-Day veterans.



It was wonderful to finish the tour in Paris. The singers had great fun navigating their way around the Metro in small groups. They all saw at least one gallery and in



addition chose between Sacre Coeur, Montmartre, Sainte Chappell, Notre Dame, Arc de Triomphe, Galeries Lafayette, the Pantheon and many other places.

All in all a great tour with some wonderful young Australian ambassadors from public schools.