Pitt Street Uniting Church
A Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia
Founded 1833

30 August 2026

Fourteenth Sunday in Pentecost

Sonia Delaunay, 1914,
Prismes électriques
Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris

Welcome to Pitt Street Uniting Church

This is a place of welcome for all people regardless of race, sex, creed, age, cultural backgrounds, sexuality, gender identity or intersex status. Wherever you are on your journey, where you have come from and wherever you are going to, whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here.
All we ask for is mutual respect.
Please join in the congregational responses printed in ***bold***. We will sing hymns without announcement. Stand if you are able, but feel free to remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.
A quiet activity area is available at the north side of the church for young children.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

A gong sounds – centring prayer / meditation

Please stand as you are able.

We gather as people of God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Words and music by Colin Gibson

Nothing is lost on the breath of God,
nothing is lost forever;
God's breath is love, and that love will remain,
holding the world forever.
No feather too light, no hair too fine,
no flower too brief in its glory;
no drop in the ocean, no dust in the air,
but is counted and told in God's story.

Nothing is lost to the eyes of God,
nothing is lost forever;
God sees with love, and that love will remain,
holding the world forever.
No journey too far, no distance too great,
no valley of darkness too blinding;
no creature too humble, no child too small,
for God to be seeking and finding.

Please remain standing as you are able.

GATHERING

We come together as unique individuals
to re-weave the unravelling fabric of community,
to find once more that quiet centre.
To remind ourselves that we belong
with one another, with the earth,
with the holy source of life and love.
The Holy One is present inviting us to life.

Come let us celebrate Love in all its fullness!
Come let us rejoice in infinite mystery.
Let us celebrate wonder and diversity.
Let us celebrate life in the Divine Presence
we name God.

HYMN

Nothing is lost to the heart of God,
nothing is lost forever;
God's heart is love, and that love will remain,
holding the world forever.
No impulse of love, no office of care,
no moment of life in its fullness;
no beginning too late, no ending too soon
but is gathered and known in God's goodness.

ACT OF RECOGNITION – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, land that was taken without their consent, treaty, or compensation.

The Spirit of God has long dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land. We honour the Gadigal people of the Eora and pay our respects to their elders, past and present, as we commit ourselves to pray and work for a more just future.

Please be seated.

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle celebrating Christ's presence in community.
God who gives us life and breath, present in every expression of love, light of the world be with us all.

The Christ candle is lit

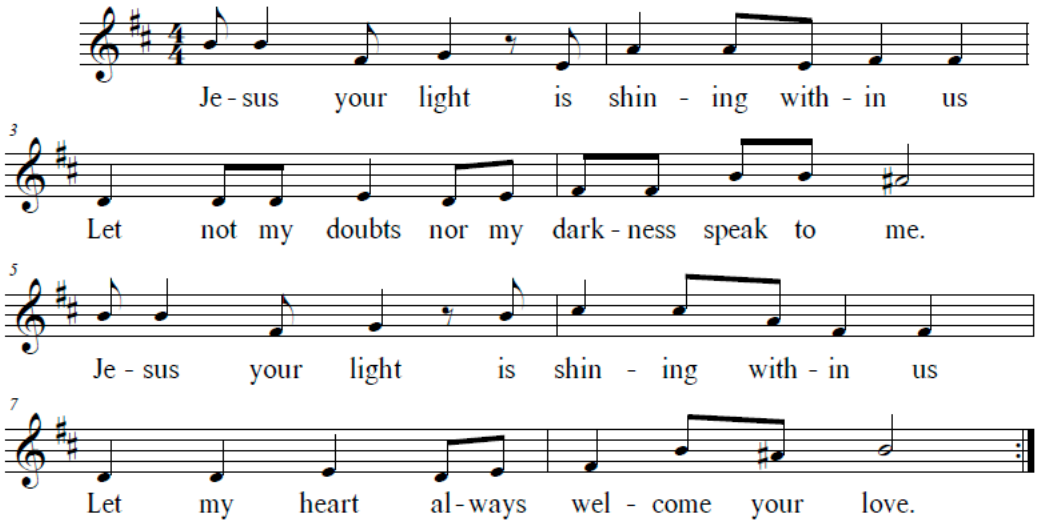
God alive among us, for in God we live and move
and have our being,
Light of the World, be with us all.

In this moment
we are gathered
welcoming love
and the radiance
of God's
Divine Presence
Our Hearts are lifted
Knowing we are loved.

Remain seated to sing

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung once



PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Spirit of God
brooding over the ocean
of our chaos
inspire us to generous living.

Wind of God,
dancing over the desert of our reluctance
lead us to the oasis
of celebration.

Breath of God
inspiring connection
among stranger,
make us channels
of your peace.

A time of silence.

We find ourselves separated from our siblings.
There are lines drawn between us that are racial,
cultural, religious, and economic.
We live cut off from many sources of strength and power,
and often feel we cannot act.

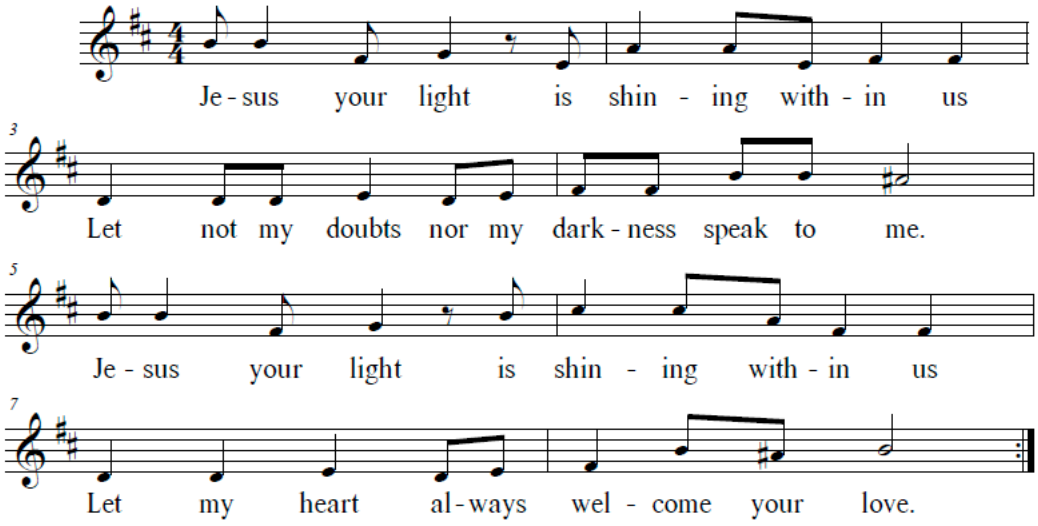
So many things call to us, grab for our attention,
that we find ourselves stretched to breaking point.
Our time is fragmented, our lives are fragmented.

We feel broken.
Yet in the face of all of this,
we seek out the dawning of our liberation.

O God, our liberation, we seek the power of your Spirit, that we may live in profound community with you, with our siblings, and with the earth. Through your Spirit may we gain the courage to love and to act.

Remain seated to sing

TAIZÉ CHANT sung once



JESUS' PRAYER

Remembering Jesus whose story shapes our stories, let us pray in hope for a new day and a new way of living.

Eternal Spirit,
Beyond time and space,
Divine origin of all things,
Holy be your name.
May your will be fulfilled
On earth as it is in the spiritual worlds.

We ask that you sustain us
In body, soul and spirit
To do your work to the best of our ability.
When we fall short or do harm to others
Either consciously or unknowingly,
Forgive us in the same measure as
We are prepared to forgive others.
Strengthen us in times of challenge or stress
And protect us from the forces of evil,
For the love, the power and the splendour
Are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In response to our prayers comes assurance of grace.

We were not made to hide our light,
we did not receive life in order to quench it.
We are human beings
made in the image of God,
made to make justice, love and peace.
Alleluia! Amen! Thanks be to God!

Please stand to sing as you are able.

SUNG RESPONSE TiS 720
sung twice

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le-lu- jah, Hal-le-lu- jah!

SHARING THE PEACE

May the Peace of the Reconciling One,
be always with you.
And also with you.

You are invited to greet those around you, sharing a sign of peace, as you return to your seats.

Listen for Words of faith and hope

WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

HEBREW BIBLE

Hear visionary words of wisdom from the book of Exodus.

For the stories of faith and courage.
We give thanks.

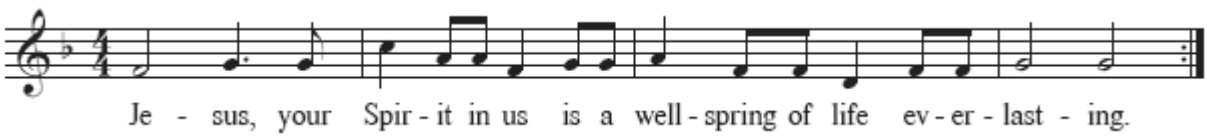
GOSPEL:

Listen to the words from Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

For the Word of God inspiring us,
for the Word among us,
for the Word within us.
We give thanks.

TAIZE CHANT sung twice

Jesus your spirit in us, is a well-spring of life everlasting.



CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION Jolyon Bromley

We respond in love

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand as you are able.

Let us stand and affirm our faith together.

We believe in God who created all that is,
who knows our hearts and loves us as we are,
who speaks to us in our deepest being,
who calls us to move forward in faith
towards wholeness and new life.

Christ Jesus shows us the Way,
guiding us and healing our minds and bodies,
sharing our joys and suffering,
crossing all barriers of fear and uncertainty,
transforming the power of death into eternal life.

The Holy Spirit is the gift of God's presence with us now
giving us the courage to takes new paths
and the strength to continue the journey.
In moments of solitude or vulnerability,
in experiences of compassion and love
the Spirit reveals their presence with us.

We are called to be the Church,
to follow in Christ's Way,
to love and serve others,
to seek truth and resist evil.
We dare to believe in God's power to transform
and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven
and a new earth.

Please be seated.

Celebrating our Community

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERS IN ASSOCIATION

From time to time,
told in the stories of our congregation,
we recall how people arrived, decided to stay,
and enriched the life of the congregation,
by their presence, their gifts and their faithfulness.

Today we celebrate that in the life of this congregation,
new people have chosen to make Pitt Street their spiritual home.

We welcome as members and members- in-association this morning:

Amber French, Andrew Levancini, Isabelle Trezise, Trish Aarons
Deborah Robinson, Colin Donahee, and Gunnar Garda,
would you please come forward with your pastoral friends.

EXPRESSIONS OF COMMITMENT

Do you affirm your faith in God, our creator and life-giver, made known to us in Jesus the Christ and present with us even now?

I do.

Do you accept membership in this congregation, promising to share in the life and worship of the church as you are able and accepting the way in which the Uniting Church in Australia orders its life?

I do.

We welcome you into membership
of the faith community of Pitt Street Uniting Church,
in the name of God:
Source of life, Liberator and lover,
Inspirer and presence.

For Members in Association, to Gunnar we ask –

Do you affirm your faith in God, our creator and life-giver, made known to us in Jesus the Christ and present with us now?

I do.

Do you accept membership in association in this congregation while retaining your connection to another denomination?
Do you promise to share in the life and worship of this congregation accepting the way in which the Uniting Church in Australia orders its life?

I do.

We welcome you into membership in association
of the faith community of Pitt Street Uniting Church,
in the name of God:
Source of life, Liberator and lover,
Inspirer and presence.

To all of you we say:
thank you for what you bring to the Pitt Street community:
your experiences,
your insights and wisdom,
your enthusiasm,
your questions,
your faith,
your doubts,
your courage,
your gifts for ministry.
We celebrate the blessings we share in community!

You are invited, if you feel moved by the Spirit, to come and join with us in the laying on of hands as we welcome these new members and member in association with a blessing. Please come forward now.

Let us sing the blessing song together.

THE BLESSING SONG Woman Song – Miriam Therese Winter

May the blessing of God go before you,
May her grace and peace abound.
May her Spirit live within you
May her love wrap you ‘round.
May her blessing remain with you always
May you walk on holy ground.

During the music interlude, members of the congregation are invited to greet new members then return to their seats.

PRESENTATION OF CANDLES AS SYMBOLIC GIFTS.

PRAYER FOR NEW MEMBERS

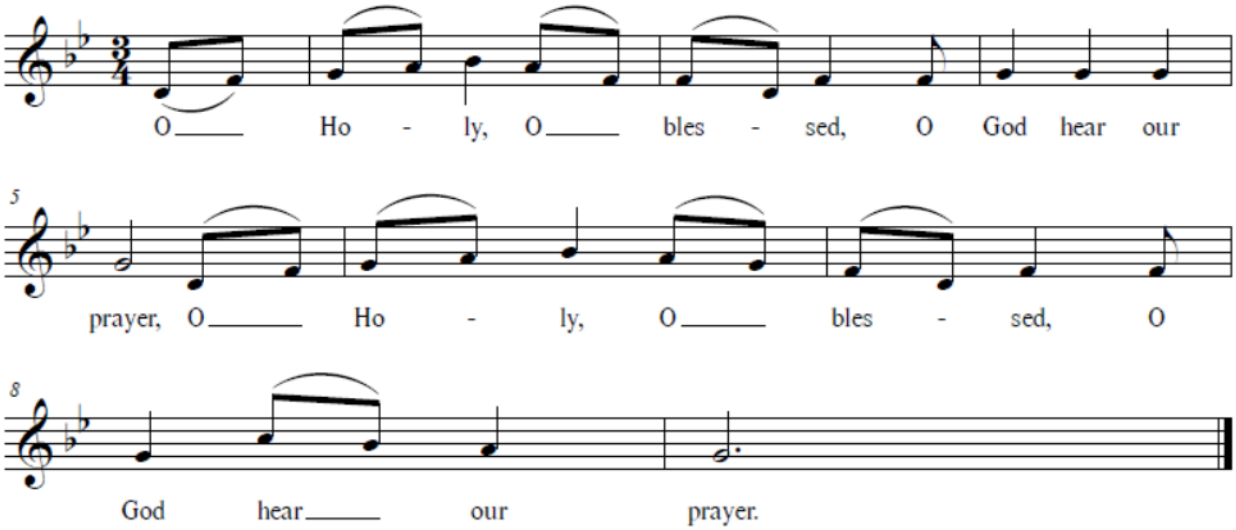
Loving God,
we give thanks that you have touched the hearts
of these new members and member in association
and called them into this community of faith.
Be with them on their spiritual journey,
strengthening and inspiring them
to grow into deeper connection with You.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

Everywhere is holy ground,
because there is nowhere where God cannot be found,
God is the love between us and within,
the ever-flowing source of all compassion, kindness and peace.

CHANT Words and music: Pat Mayberry
Arrangement: Pat Mayberry and David Kai

O Holy O blessed
O God hear our prayer
O Holy O blessed
O God hear our prayer



We give thanks for people with a passion to protect
and restore the fragile web of life on this planet.
We pray for people suffering as a result of
terrible earthquakes in Colombia and Indonesia,
devastating floods in China and India,
and extreme heat in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

We give thanks for people who defend
human rights against oppressive powers
and expose corruption, greed and exploitation.
Be with them, inspiring courage and determination.

Holy Spirit, we give thanks for
organisations and their supporters,
who give aid to the poor, sick,
injured and traumatized in areas of violent conflict.
We pray for an end to wars in the Middle East,
Ukraine and Africa.

O God, may your vision of peace and justice become the reality.

O Holy O blessed
O God hear our prayer
O Holy O blessed
O God hear our prayer

We also pray in silence for all that rests upon our hearts and minds …

Please offer your own prayers, in silence, or, if online,
use the chat facility on Zoom.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We share our offering, as a symbol of our commitment to God and to the world God loves.

Musical interlude

Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought to the table

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray together:

Loving God,
we bring our gifts and we bring ourselves.
We give thanks for all we have and for all we are
and accept the privilege of responding
to the generosity of these gifts given to us –
with lives lived for others.
Amen.

Living in the world God loves

HYMN Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Music: Brian Mann

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing
for everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight when we are creators of justice
and joy…., compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight, when we are creators of justice
justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair.

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,

And God will delight when we are creators of justice
and joy…., compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight, when we are creators of justice
justice and joy!

SENDING OUT

Let us go from here,
to live well,
to forgive generously,
to create peace and justice.

BLESSING

As you go from this place
May you continue to experience the birth of hope in your lives,
May you find yourself watching for signs of new possibilities
And discover the treasures of love in surprising places.
The blessing of God – sacred presence
The spirit of Jesus – guide and teacher
The breath of the Holy Spirit – awakening every being
Be with us all.

SUNG AMEN African American Spiritual Amen

Please be seated

COMMUNITY GREETING Welcoming visitors and newcomers

We go out to the world God loves

RECESSIONAL SONG TiS 779

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
and her ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you,
and her love bring you home.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Morning tea and coffee will be served directly after the service.
Our Winter Quarterly lunch will begin at 11.30am.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Christa is sometimes used in our liturgies to convey that the risen Christ is not defined or determined by gender.
Hymns used under CCLI Copyright Licence No. 208789 unless otherwise noted.
Carolyn McDade, 'Spirit or Life', in S*inging the Living Tradition*, Unitarian Universalist Association (USA), 1994.
Jesus' Prayer written by Jolyon Bromley.
The Affirmation of Faith was developed by the Pitt St Community.
Prayers of thanksgiving and solidarity written and adapted by Jolyon Bromley and Cathy Ashcroft.
Welcoming new members and members in association adapted from one shaped by Margaret Mayman November 2016.
Elements of this liturgy adapted from previous Pentecost Pitt St liturgies.

BANK DETAILS FOR ELECTRONIC OFFERING
Account name: Giving Direct
BSB: 634-634. Account: 100025916
Reference: your name
Donation Tap Point is available at the back of the Church. Contact the Church Office if you would like information about planned giving.

We give thanks for the gifts of food (for the Wayside Chapel) and money brought to the table, and gifts given to support the mission of the church through automatic payment.

PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH

Organ Restoration Fund

PITT STREET ORGAN RESTORATION

Patron: Clover Moore AO, Lord Mayor of Sydney

The historic William Hill & Son organ at Pitt Street Uniting Church has been a vital part of Sydney's musical life since it was installed in 1910. However over a century of use means it is now in need of major work to restore it to its original grandeur.

This work will be funded in part by a generous Heritage NSW grant of $190,000, but the church is seeking further donations to provide the remainder, over $300,000.

Your donation will help preserve this important part of Sydney's heritage.

Donations can be made by EFT to the Pitt Street Cultural Foundation:
BSB 634 634 Account Number 100047660

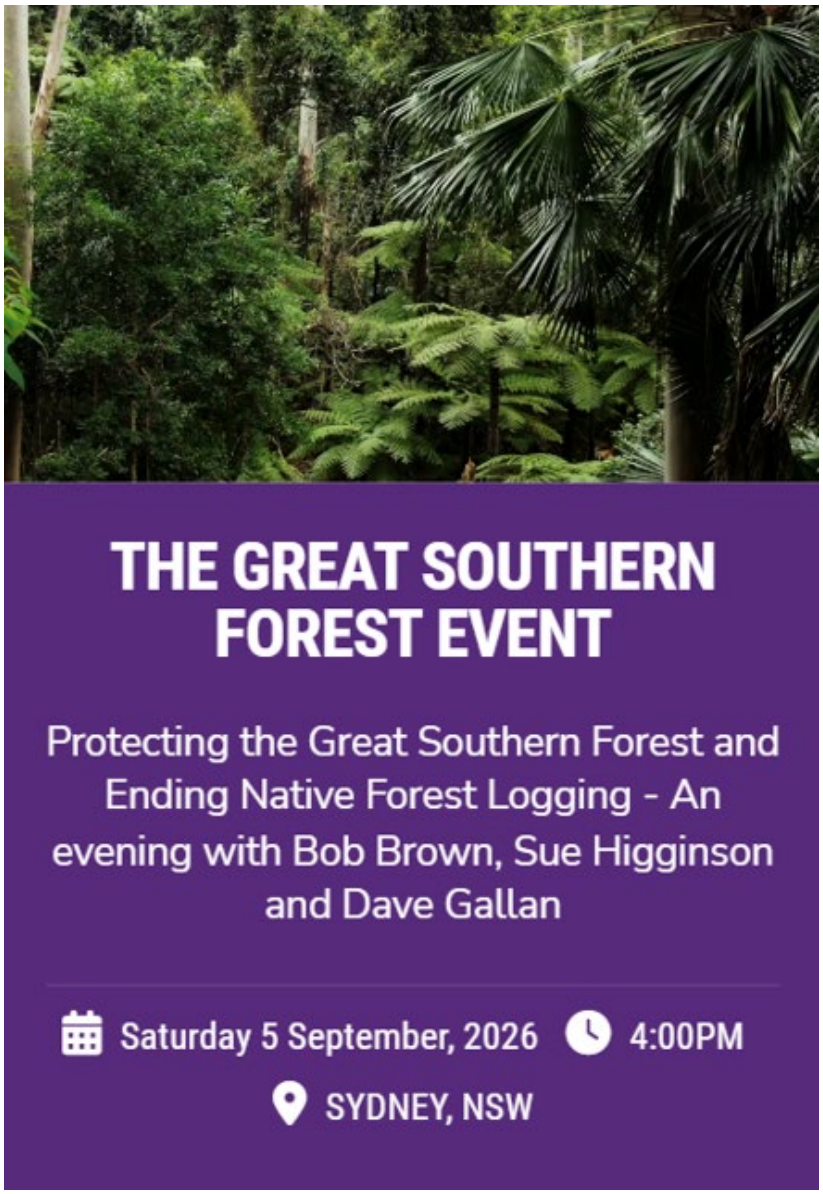
Or click on the QR code below to pay by credit card.

All donations of $2 or more to the Foundation are tax deductible.
For further enquiries, or if you would like a receipt for tax purposes, please email your name and contact details to
foundation@pittstreetuniting.org.au

The William Hill & Son Organ

William Hill & Son was one of the main organ builders in England during the 19th century. The company provided organs for many famous buildings including Westminster Abbey, King's College Chapel Cambridge, and St James Palace London.

A number of fine Hill organs were exported to Australia between 1871 and 1910. The Melbourne, Adelaide, and Sydney town halls all had Hill & Son organs, but very few have survived intact. The Pitt Street Uniting Church organ was built in 1910, and is one of the largest Hill organs surviving unaltered in the world. The Pitt Street organ and the world-renowned Sydney Town Hall organ are the only examples with a tubular pneumatic action surviving in Australia. More information on the history of the organ and on its restoration can be found at www.pittstreetuniting.org.au.organ-appeal/



Across NSW, communities have spent decades fighting to protect our precious native forests. The proposed Great Southern Forest National Park is the next ambition, creating a connected protected landscape of almost 1.2 million hectares stretching from the Illawarra to the Victorian border.

More information and registration.

Interfaith Service led by Stephanie Dowrick

Pitt Street Uniting Church

Sunday 20 September at 3pm

Featuring
Conservatorium Open Academy,
Melophile & BeMe students

A CROSS CULTURAL NIGHT

Australia-Singapore Musical Connection

"Sound of Music" favourites—reimagined, *Carl Vine's "Three Fantasies" and more...

Nicholas Hammond
Hollywood Actor
"Sound of Music" original cast

Dr Poom Prommachart
Head of Department
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
School of Young Talents

Dr Nicholas Ng
Associate Lecturer
Chinese Music Ensemble
Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Ray Lin
Conductor
SCM Australian Chinese Music Youth Ensemble

Heather Lee
Soprano
ABC Classics

Lachlan Massey
Artistic Associate
Sydney Children's Choir

Jingqi Guo
Pipa soloist

Victor Ong
Adjunct Faculty
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

*Australian première

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 6.00 PM | PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH

Doors open 5.30pm 264 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Organiser | MELOPHILE

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