

## The Spooky Men's Chorale bring poignant wit and improbable facial hair to North West NSW

3 – 25 February 2017



***“It takes a rare skill to be very silly, thoughtful, and sing in perfect harmony, but the Spooky Men’s Chorale manage to achieve just that”*** – The Guardian UK

As thunderous as a herd of wildebeest, as sly as a wagonload of Spike Milligans, and as sonorous as a cloister of monks, the Spooky Men’s Chorale are a gift that keeps on giving. From **3 to 25 February 2017**, the 13 improbably bearded vocalists tour regional New South Wales for Musica Viva, taking their unforgettable concerts and workshops on an **800-kilometre road trip from Orange to Grafton** in collaboration with Arts North West.

The Spooky Men’s Chorale emerged blithering and blinking eyed from the Blue Mountains 16 years ago, and armed with no more than their voices, a nice line in deadpan, and an ill matched set of hats, have been gleefully disturbing audiences throughout Australia, New Zealand and the UK ever since.

With repertoire ranging from Georgian table songs to immaculate ballads, vaudevillian nonsense and a mock Sufi ode to the Bee Gees, they have earned a reputation for highly amusing and entertaining performances built on a solid musical base under the leadership of Stephen Taberner.

Standout Australian appearances include the Woodford Festival, The National Folk Festival, Blue Mountains Festival, Port Fairy Festival, and Hobart Festival of Voices. They have featured on ABC TV in *Spicks and Specks* and *The New Inventors*, and live on ABC radio many times. Internationally they have enjoyed great acclaim during six UK tours, giving 170 performances to 80,000 people at music festivals, theatrical venues and local concerts. They have also appeared at festivals in Denmark and Sweden.

“Touring has been in the DNA of the Spooky Men throughout our 16-year history and we are rarely happier than when on the road armed with hat, workshop and gig,” says Taberner. This tour takes them to **Orange, Bathurst, Armidale, Tamworth, Quirindi, Gunnedah, Narrabri, Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Grafton.**

In middle age, with five albums under their belt, the Spooky Men’s Chorale are more masters of their territory than ever before. “We’re 13 ordinary men, inspired by the musical values and pointless grandeur of the Georgian vocal tradition, says Taberner, who sees the concerts as “a wonderful chance to experience powerful, tender *a cappella* singing, and to chortle uncontrollably, in fine regional concert venues.”

The “How to be Spooky” workshops reveal secrets from the spooky lexicon, including how to get in contact with your inner chieftain, the four states of spookiness, and how to sob like a man. Audience members are free to either witness the whole experience or become guinea pigs in a grandiose experiment where they may learn a ditty or discover how to grunt properly. They can also conduct the spooky men as they demonstrate how to achieve both ridiculousness and beauty on stage. Oh, yes, and they might sing a song or two as well.

## Spooky Men's Chorale – Tour Schedule

### Friday 3rd February

ORANGE REGIONAL CONSERVATORIUM

73A Hill Street, Orange NSW

6:00pm \$32.34 / \$21.89

FOR BOOKINGS

[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-spooky-mens-chorale-tickets-31048211035](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-spooky-mens-chorale-tickets-31048211035)

### Saturday February 4

WORKSHOP - ORANGE

73A Hill Street, Orange NSW

10am \$10

Register for the workshop via the Orange Regional Conservatorium Admin

6361 7974 or [admin@orangecon.org.au](mailto:admin@orangecon.org.au)

### Saturday February 4

BATHURST MEMORIAL ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

105 William Street, Bathurst NSW

8:00pm \$32 / \$29

FOR BOOKINGS GO TO

[www.bmec.com.au/the-spooky-mens-s-chorale.html](http://www.bmec.com.au/the-spooky-mens-s-chorale.html)

### Sunday February 5

WORKSHOP - BATHURST

105 William Street, Bathurst NSW

10:30am FREE WITH A TICKET TO THE SHOW

MUST register for the workshop by contacting BMEC Box office 6333 6161 or email

[tickets@bathurst.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tickets@bathurst.nsw.gov.au)

### Wednesday 15th February

TAS HOSKINS CENTRE, ARMIDALE

Cnr Brown and Chapel Streets

Armidale, NSW

7:30pm \$30 / \$22.50

FOR BOOKINGS

[wordpress.as.edu.au/hoskins/event/the-spooky-mens-chorale](http://wordpress.as.edu.au/hoskins/event/the-spooky-mens-chorale)

### Thursday 16th February

CAPITOL THEATRE TAMWORTH

Level 1, Centrepont Shopping Centre, 374 Peel Street

Tamworth, NSW

7:30pm \$49 / \$45

FOR BOOKINGS

[www.capitoltheatretamworth.com.au/events/708/THE\\_SPOOKY\\_MEN'S\\_CHORALE](http://www.capitoltheatretamworth.com.au/events/708/THE_SPOOKY_MEN'S_CHORALE)

### Friday 17th February

QUIRINDI ROYAL THEATRE

115 Henry Street

Quirindi, NSW

8:00pm \$40

FOR BOOKINGS

[www.quirindiroyaltheatre.com/spookymen](http://www.quirindiroyaltheatre.com/spookymen)

## **Saturday 18th February**

GUNNEDAH TOWN HALL  
Conadilly Street  
Gunnedah, NSW  
07:30pm \$35 / \$30  
FOR BOOKINGS

[www.gunnedahconservatorium.com.au/articles/73](http://www.gunnedahconservatorium.com.au/articles/73)

WORKSHOP

At the Markets 11am

## **Sunday 19th February**

THE CROSSING THEATRE  
117 Tibbereena St, Narrabri NSW  
5pm \$25 / \$15  
FOR BOOKINGS

[www.crossingtheatre.com.au/event\\_detail.html?id=84](http://www.crossingtheatre.com.au/event_detail.html?id=84)

WORKSHOP

1pm-3pm

## **Wednesday 22nd February**

SCHOOL OF ARTS THEATRE, TENTERFIELD  
205 Rouse Street  
Tenterfield, NSW  
7:30pm \$40 / \$35  
FOR BOOKINGS

[www.trybooking.com/NZDZ](http://www.trybooking.com/NZDZ)

MORE INFO

[www.tenterfieldcinema.com.au/spooky-mens-chorale](http://www.tenterfieldcinema.com.au/spooky-mens-chorale)

## **Thursday 23rd February**

CHAPEL THEATRE, GLEN INNES  
Cnr Church and Bourke Sts  
Glen Innes, NSW  
8pm \$28 / \$20  
FOR BOOKINGS

[trybooking.com/OALI](http://trybooking.com/OALI)

MORE INFO

[www.gleninnesartscouncil.com](http://www.gleninnesartscouncil.com)

## **Friday 24th February**

CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATORIUM, GRAFTON  
8 Villiers Street  
Grafton NSW  
7:00pm \$25 / \$15

Tickets available from Clarence Valley Conservatorium

## **Saturday 25th February**

WORKSHOP

10am - 12pm \$10

Tickets available from Clarence Valley Conservatorium

*Since its formation in 1945, the not-for-profit national arts company Musica Viva Australia has delivered quality music to regional and remote areas around the country, ensuring all music lovers can experience live performances no matter where they live.*