Salut!

2026 Concert Series
The Best of Baroque

Salut! Baroque

Salut! has delighted Australian audiences for 31 years in presenting the best of baroque with Australia's finest baroque musicians. Led by artistic directors Sally Melhuish and Tim Blomfield, the ensemble performs annual subscription series concerts in Canberra and Sydney and has released twelve CDs.

Artistic Directors

Sally Melhuish & Tim Blomfield

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Cover: *Musical Group on a Balcony*
Gerrit van Honthorst (1590 - 1656)

Power, Passion & Politics

"*Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, and life to everything.*"
Plato, *The Republic*, 375BC

Throughout history, music has absorbed, dazzled and entertained us. We swoon at its beauty, laugh at its humour and dance to its rhythms. It can also reflect darker emotions of grief and rage.

Such creativity is informed by cultural identity, dramatic events, stories and emotion. Captivated by music's expressive possibilities, 17th and 18th century composers experimented with new musical styles and techniques. However, they quickly found their creative freedom curtailed by Royalty and Religion that often valued permission over passion.

Join us in 2026 as we explore this dichotomy and the ways in which power, passion and politics stimulated or silenced the profoundly beautiful music of the baroque period.

Concord of Sweet Sounds

"The man that hath no music in himself, / Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds, / Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils; / The motions of his spirit are dull as night, / And his affections dark as Erebus. / Let no such man be trusted."
William Shakespeare: *The Merchant of Venice* (c1596)

Shakespeare captures the magical and theatrical elements of melody, with music complementing prose in many of his plays. Our concert journeys through the Baroque period to discover the power, passion and pathos of music, building on the Bard's inspiration that we should be "*moved with concord of sweet sounds*".

CANBERRA: Friday 30 January, 7.30 pm
Wesley Church, Forrest

SYDNEY: Sunday 1 February, 3.00 pm
Barnet Long Room, Customs House

Invitation to the Dance

"Music and dance are all you need."
Molière: *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* (1670)

Dance and diplomacy were inseparable at Louis XIV's opulent palace in Versailles. Every aspect of the palace was designed to reinforce the King's absolute authority, and Louis protected his political power through pageantry. In appointing the Italian-born musician, composer and dancer Jean-Baptiste Lully as *Master of the King's Music*, Louis chose a political manipulator whose ruthlessness matched his own. Their control over music, dance and opera was enforced by complex social etiquette, with failure to conform being devastating to ambition – ensuring that the arts had the single purpose of glorifying the King and France.

CANBERRA: Friday 24 April, 7.30 pm
Wesley Church, Forrest

SYDNEY: Sunday 26 April, 3.00 pm
Verbrugghen Hall, Conservatorium of Music

Bohemian Rhapsody

"*If the Bohemians had the advantages enjoyed by the Italians they would surpass them. They are perhaps the most musical race in all Europe*".
Charles Burney (1773)

The celebrations for the crowning of Charles VI as King of Bohemia in Prague in 1723 included an opera performance by 200 musicians and 100 voices. "*History does not furnish a more glorious event for music*", Burney boldly asserted. Despite lacking the wealth of neighbouring countries, Bohemia benefited from generous patrons who capitalised on the region's excellent education system in which music was a core subject, resulting in an exceptionally musically cultured society where creativity flourished.

CANBERRA: Friday 12 June, 7.30 pm
Wesley Church, Forrest

SYDNEY: Sunday 14 June, 3.00 pm
Verbrugghen Hall, Conservatorium of Music

Charms in Musick

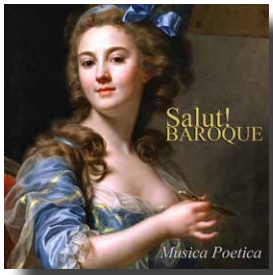
*"If there are Charms in Musick in general, all the reasonable World agrees, that the **Vocal** has the Pre-eminence, both from **Nature** and **Art** above the Instrumental."*
JE Galliard (1743)

Ancient Greek theatre inspired a gathering of musicians, poets and intellectuals in Florence in the late 16th century to create the dramatic new musical form of *Opera*, incorporating music, poetry, theatre and visual arts. It was both a culmination of composition for voice over centuries and a starting point for what evolved during the baroque period and beyond of exceptional compositions showcasing the magnificence of the voice, affirming Aristotle's (c350 BC) belief in the voice being an *instrument with a soul*.

CANBERRA: Friday 13 November, 7.30 pm
Wesley Church, Forrest

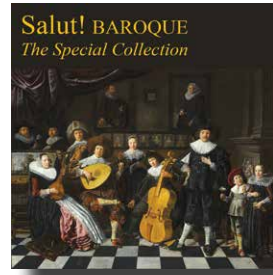
SYDNEY: Sunday 15 November, 3.00 pm
Verbrugghen Hall, Conservatorium of Music

Salut! Baroque CD Collection

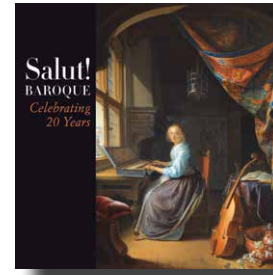


Musica Poetica

From Paris to Versailles

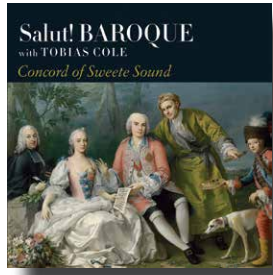


The Special Collection

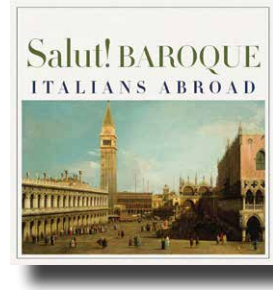


Celebrating 20 Years

Georg Philipp Telemann

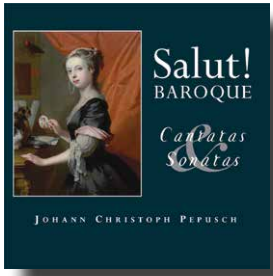


Concord of Sweete Sound

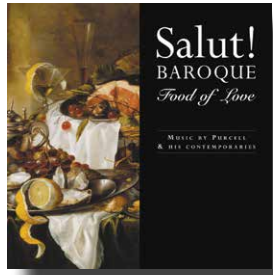


Italians Abroad

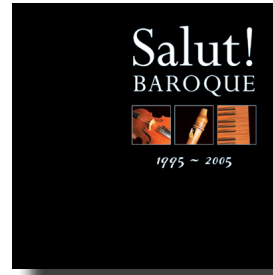
Italian Instrumental & Vocal Music



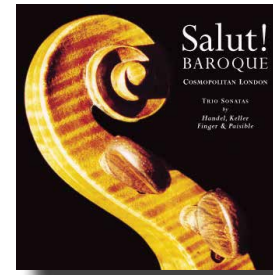
Pepusch: Cantatas & Sonatas



Food of Love



Salut! Baroque 1995-2005



Cosmopolitan London

www.baroque.com.au/shop

Concert Tickets

Ticket Bookings

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/salut

QR Code

Ticket Prices

Subscription Tickets:
Adult $180 / Conc $160

Single Concert Tickets:
Adult $48 / Conc $45

We are happy to assist anyone needing help with bookings - please call us on 0417 272 535