



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016: PAYCE Headquarters, Sydney NSW.**

### **Sydney Street Choir to perform new musical theatre show**

Australia's longest running choir for the homeless and socially disadvantaged, the Sydney Street Choir, has been deep in rehearsals since early in the year for their next spectacular musical theatre show, 'Blue Skies,' to be presented next month.

Blue Skies is a fun, heart-warming look at the successes, hopes and dreams of the members, featuring lots of songs, music, anecdotes, a little bit of dancing and an abundance of the choir's renowned passion.

The song, Blue Skies, was written by Irving Berlin 90 years ago and over the years has been recorded by many well-known artists, including Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and, more recently, Willie Nelson. The song has been selected by the choir as the theme of their new show as well as featuring in the show.

The 25-strong Sydney Street Choir was established in 2001 and since then its members have performed a wide repertoire of songs to appreciative audiences. The choir has more recently taken up the challenge of musical theatre and has successfully performed three shows.

Blue Skies will be performed on Saturday, 21 May, 2016 at the Giant Dwarf Theatre, 199 Cleveland Street, Redfern at 2.00 pm. Tickets are available online at [www.sydneystreetchoir.org.au](http://www.sydneystreetchoir.org.au).

The choir is led by director James Paul, well-known for his work with youth and disadvantaged groups around Sydney and an accomplished musician and singer in his own right.

Mr Paul said the choir members have been working extremely hard at rehearsals for over three months and were looking forward to presenting their new work to a large audience.

"There is already interest in performing the show at other locations, so we may have to take the show on the road if it proves to be popular," he said.

Australian property development and investment company, PAYCE, entered into a long-term partnership with the choir last year to help secure the choir's long-term sustainability.

PAYCE Managing Director, Brian Boyd said the partnership includes helping the choir with a number of new initiatives involving the corporate sector through new programs and corporate workshops and a concerted 'Friends of the Sydney Street Choir' membership drive.

"This latest venture into musical theatre productions is a wonderful and confident new direction for the choir, who continue to reach out and engage new audiences with their uplifting performances," he said.

The choir first became involved with PAYCE when they performed at the 2014 Lights of Christmas presented by PAYCE in the city. Since then the choir has made many public appearances, mostly supporting charity events, including the annual Salvation Army's Christmas Dinner.

A highlight for the choir was performing at the Sydney Opera House last year with top recording artists, Paulini, Demi Hines and Dami Im.

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