



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
VICTORIA

**GOVERNOR'S PERFORMANCE SERIES:
SENIORS SING-A-LONG**

Friday 9 November, 2018

Ladies and gentlemen

First, I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land upon which we are gathering and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and to any Elders here with us this morning.

Tony and I are delighted to welcome you to Government House to for a musical sing-a-long of some of the great Broadway tunes.

Music and songs can be so powerful and provide a door into so many memories, experiences and emotions spanning a lifetime. So we are excited to be sharing with you a melodic walk down memory lane.

One of my predecessors, Professor David de Kretser AC, started the Governor's Recital Series in 2010. It was then adopted and further adapted by the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC.

In the years since we have been in the House, we have had the privilege of carrying on the legacy, and, extending it from a recital series to a performance series, to embrace all genres of music and performance.

We have hosted performers from Circus Oz, who ran workshops for primary school children and delighted audiences with daring acrobatics between the chandeliers. We have had the edgy world sounds of the Stiletto Sisters, and have showcased the talented Aboriginal performers from the Short Black Opera Company.

And, I believe today's sing-a-long performance may be a first for Government House: the very first time audience participation has been expected and encouraged!

We are delighted to welcome Gina Hogan and Mark Jones to perform for us, showcasing some of the rich talent and mastery of our musicians here in Victoria.

Performance duo, Gina and Mark, both renowned on the local and international cabaret scene, and have performed around the world.

Today we will hear songs such as Edelweiss from the Sound of Music and I Still Call Australia Home, from The Boy From Oz.

One doesn't choose a favourite child, nor a favourite event. But it's fair to say that I am particularly pleased to see this performance come to life. We do feel strongly that Government House is a place for Victorians from all different ages and backgrounds to enjoy.

This Performance Series provides one of the ways for us to fulfil our ambition to ensure that a wide range of Victorians are welcomed to their Government House.

For those making their first visit, a special welcome to you.

Thank you to Creative Victoria for helping us arrange this morning.

We hope that you all enjoy yourselves. That you enjoy the music. That you relax into the occasion. And that you enjoy the performance.

We hope that you will enjoy the performance – Gina's and Mark's, your own and each other's – and that you enjoy your visit to Government House.

Now, it gives me pleasure to welcome Gina Hogan and Mark Jones to the stage.