

The Sydney Male Choir is delighted to announce the appointment of **Houston Dunleavy** as Musical Director to replace Alan Thrift on his retirement in September



Ulster-born **Houston Dunleavy** is Senior Lecturer in Composition in the School of Music and Drama at the University of Wollongong. Since 1985, he has pursued an international career as a composer and conductor. His teachers have included Peter Tahourdin, Barry Conyngham, Donald Erb, David Felder and Charles Wuorinen.

Houston was Guest Artist at The American University in Washington D.C., and has been Visiting Composer at James Madison University, The Cleveland Institute of Music, Ball State University, the University of Florida, Georgia State University, The University of Delaware and The University of Southern Florida in the U.S.A. He has conducted, and had performances of his music, in Australia, the USA, the UK, France, China, Ireland and Puerto Rico. He has been a participant the June in Buffalo Festivals, The North American New Music Festival and at the 1995 Hoy Composers Course, where he was invited by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies to write for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra String Quartet.

Major performances of his music have been given by international concert artists including Beverley Rinaldi, soprano, Alan Baer (principal tuba of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra), Kevin Orr, David Goldblatt, Stephen Manes and Duncan Gifford, pianists, Adam Meyer, trombone, Susan Collins, violin, Harold Levin, viola, The Stables Flute Ensemble, The Manes Duo, Peter Sheridan, flutist, and Sydney-based ensemble Charisma.

Starting as a freelance music theatre conductor in Melbourne in the 1980's he went on to direct some 40 operas and musicals before traveling to study in the USA in 1988. Here he conducted in Cleveland, Buffalo and Washington DC with the University Circle Chorale, The North American New Music Festival, The World Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Niagara County All-Schools chorus, the June in Buffalo Festival, The Fires of Tonawanda, Bethesda Youth Music Theatre and Potomac Community Theatre and was Guest Artist - Conductor of Opera and Music Theatre at The American University in Washington DC. Back in Australia since 1995, he has conducted mostly choral and new music, and, from 2000 to 2007, he was Musical Director and Conductor of the Illawarra Choral Society in Wollongong. Since leaving the ICS, he has conducted the world premiere of Jeff Galea's opera "Wounding Song" and is helping prepare Galea's newest opera "The Pea Pickers" for its premiere.

2010 and 2011 will see Houston maintain a busy schedule of performing and composing, and he is delighted to be the new Musical Director of the Sydney Male Choir.

Houston is a fully represented artist at The Australian Music Centre, and his music is published by Publications by Wirripang.