



Harmony Singers Dubbo with The Chapel Project artist, Kim V. Goldsmith (back row, centre). PHOTO: CAMERON PORTEOUS

Calling songbirds to be part of creative project

BRINGING choral musicians, high school music students, teachers and community members together with digital media and projection artists on one multi-arts project is a challenging task.

Yet, this is the very source of creativity for a new project now underway in Dubbo called The Chapel Project.

The final production will be bird-inspired choral music and video projections shown and performed inside Dubbo's St. Andrew's Chapel at the start of the national arts conference and festival, Artlands Dubbo, in late October next year.

To develop the music for the performances, workshops with talented Sydney-based classical pianist and choral composer, Sally Whitwell, are being held at the Western Plains Cultural Centre Community Arts Centre later

this month.

The Chapel Project creative team are calling for any interested community members who like to sing to join them on Monday, July 27, at 6.30pm to find out more about the project and to participate in the first workshop, which will continue the following evening.

Whitwell is also preparing to work with public high school students on the second day, broadening input into the project.

Lead artist and producer of The Chapel Project, Kim V. Goldsmith, says the project aims to challenge, inspire and entertain at the same time as paying homage to the guardians of our natural environment and the col-

lective creativity of regional artists and communities as contemporary storytellers.

"It's an idea I've been playing around with for the past couple of years in between developing new installation works and producing films."



Working with Goldsmith as the creative team behind the project are key members of Harmony Singers Dubbo.

Conductor Lindy Blekemore (pictured inset, left) is keen to take full advantage of working with someone of Whitwell's calibre.

"We're looking forward to seeing new ideas and different vocal techniques that we'll learn from Sally.

"The work based on birdsong

will be very different from the traditional music we do, which is sacred, gospel or jazz – it'll be very much a more modern take on choral singing.

"It'll all come together in the end, but I think the process for all of us will be confronting – it's putting yourself out there for development as well as criticism."

Regarding the community invitation for others to join the project, Blekemore says it's a chance for people to be involved in a group performance and to celebrate their creativity.

"Who knows what talent we have out there – the music scene in Dubbo is fairly tight but a project like this brings people out of the woodwork who have maybe not had the confidence or contacts to know where to go."

Details can be found at www.theofficialchapelproject.com