

# Jonathon Welch AM

## ***Artistic Director, MC, Keynote Speaker & Workshop Facilitator***

Multi award winning singer, conductor, teacher, composer, director, keynote speaker and recording artist, Jonathon Welch is one of Australia's most unique and sought after artists with a career spanning more than four decades.

Jonathon has performed around the World alongside many of the finest singers, directors and conductors including Baz Lurhmann, John Farnham, Jimmy Barnes, KD Lang, Grace Bumbry, Frederica Von Stade and Dame Joan Sutherland in some of the world's great Concert Halls and Opera Houses including Carnegie Hall, New York, Royal Albert Hall, London and Sydney Opera House.



In 2007, Jonathon's work creating choirs for the homeless and disadvantaged in Australia was the subject of the internationally acclaimed ARIA, Logie and Helpmann award winning TV documentary 'Choir of Hard Knocks', also creating the 'Jailbirds' documentary in the Victorian Women's Prisons in 2009, was a Judge on the highly successful 'Battle of the Choirs' TV series for Channel 7 and has been featured on many TV series including ABC's 'Spicks & Specks', 'Q&A', 'Australian Story' and most recently on 'The Voice' in 2020 with Boy George.

Jonathon has been recognised for his outstanding commitment to the music industry, youth music education and his work with marginalised and homeless communities with the Victorian and Australian of the Year Local Hero 2008, ANZAC of the Year 2009, an Honorary Doctorate, an Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2009 and an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Council of Educational Leaders.

In 2009 Jonathon created and launched 'Social Inclusion Week' making Australia the only country in the world to celebrate Social Inclusion nationally, and in September 2012 launched his vision for the future of arts, cultural and well-being programs for those experiencing homelessness and disadvantage with the 'School of Hard Knocks' and 'Play It Forward' - inclusive arts programs for all Australians.

## ***What Jonathon Speaks About:***

### **1 hour workshop**

- Introduction into the music industry

- How to adapt and diversify skills from a career as an Opera singer, to creating choirs for the homeless and disadvantaged – Choir of Hard Knocks, Jailbirds (Women’s prison) and other social justice projects around the world using music to create ‘access and inclusion’
- Fun warmups – start with ‘ice breakers’ involving easy movement and rhythmic exercises
- Vocal warmups – involving easy, fun rounds, using songs that everyone will know
- Teach a ‘mashup’ of 2 well known songs for the ‘Big Sing’ finale that have a great, relevant message to finish on
- Lean On Me & Search for the Hero.

## Client testimonials

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“ Wow! It doesn't get any better than a standing ovation from an AMP audience. All the delegate feedback rated Jonathon's presentation as the most outstanding presentation on the main plenary which is only fitting for a man who has made such a difference to so many disadvantaged lives and has forced a nation to look at the homeless and destitute through a fresh pair of eyes. Our production team really appreciated the amount of work that Jonathon was prepared to put in prior to the event to get it just right for this very critical audience. It's a powerful story that Jonathon tells, which needs to be told again and again and again. We have no hesitation in providing a personal reference to any client who is thinking of using Jonathon at one of their events.

### - *Australian Business Theatre*

“ Jonathon’s presentation was truly inspirational. The relevance to the conference was perfect and he is a total professional.

### - *Corporate Communiqué*

“ Just a quick note to let you know that Jonathon was absolutely terrific at the Novartis conference. He went over and above the call of duty with his workshop which everyone absolutely loved. He had an exhausting trip from Hobart to Port Douglas and still spent about 3 hours on his speech and workshop. He certainly was a highlight and loved by all. He also spent a lot of time at the end mingling with guests and discussing the Choir at length.

### - *Graffiti Group*

“ Jonathon was such a lovely person and was a pleasure to work with. His presentation and indeed his story was captivating and inspiring.

### - *Macquarie International*

“ They thought he was fantastic, all reviews were wonderful and the guests were still talking about him after he left which is always a great sign and shows that he had certainly made an impact.

**- Corporate Travel Management**

“ He was very well received, he actively engaged our diverse audience and his material was relevant and inspirational.

**- BP**

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[VIDEO OF SPEAKER](#) 