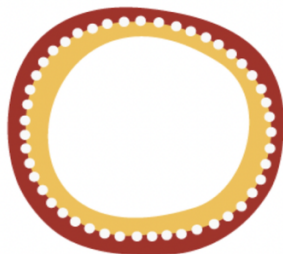




*Barayagal*

The Barayagal choir is a community choir with an objective to nurture a musical and social environment for staff and students of the Sydney University communities and 1<sup>st</sup> Nations people of Sydney to regularly meet, and share cultures, whilst collaborating in singing story songs of choir director Nardi Simpson's 1<sup>st</sup> nations culture, *Yuwaalaraay*. Barayagal also collaborates with 1<sup>st</sup> Peoples' cultural groups throughout NSW.

Since 2023, the Barayagal Choir has run weekly workshop-rehearsal sessions at the Redfern Community Centre (RCC). Barayagal is facilitated by the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and endorsed by the YARN Australia and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.



. Image: 'Sound Circle' Nardi Simpson

Barayagal is a community cultural activity, and what director Nardi Simpson describes as active inclusive *ART* making, that isn't centred on a particular artist producing work, but rather the work is realised through the relationships garnered within the choir community. The choir becomes a repository and keeper of the art, in a more interactive formative social practice than for instance, art on a manuscript or canvas. New songs are generated because of the community not because of a singular artist. The creating artist, Nardi Simpson is creating the works because of the choir community. It becomes Nardi's practice to provide songs that *come to her* because of the choir community. The songs are not what Nardi feels the choir needs to sing, but rather her responses to what the choir is singing already.

For more information please contact Kevin Hunt [kevin.hunt@sydney.edu.au](mailto:kevin.hunt@sydney.edu.au) ph 0418 289 652



Barayagal performing at Lazybones March'23 tour fundraiser

Photo Tim Farland