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Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight is now in its 77th year bringing people across Australia together on Christmas Eve. We are honoured to share this incredible Christmas experience with you and we hope that you enjoy this very special evening.

Whether you're joining us live at the Art Centre Melbourne's Sidney Myer Music Bowl or tuning into the broadcast on Channel Nine whilst finishing up that last bit of Christmas present wrapping at home, you are part of an enduring Christmas tradition that has become a symbol of what the Australian Christmas spirit is all about.

Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight is Vision Australia's largest fundraising event of the year and all funds raised go towards our work supporting children who are blind or have low vision.

This special Souvenir Songbook not only helps you sing along to your favourite Christmas carols, it will also give you a glimpse into the amazing work that Vision Australia does to support children who are blind or have low vision as they create their own pathway to a lifetime of independence and opportunity.

Each year, Vision Australia provides thousands of children and their families advice, information and training on how to minimise the impact of blindness or low vision at each stage of life, enabling them to achieve their full potential and allowing these children to have the same opportunities as their peers. It costs over \$7,000 to provide comprehensive support to a child and their family for one year!

Christmas is a very special time of year for our families and communities. With your help, Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight 2014 will help light up Christmas for many children living with blindness or low vision.

Thank you.





Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight® is as much a part of Melbourne as we are. That's why we've proudly supported this very special event for 76 years.

This Christmas Eve, listen to highlights on 3AW 693 or enjoy every minute of our live broadcast on Magic 1278.









Celebrating together

Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight presented by Myer is a time to reflect on the wonderful outcomes children who are blind or have low vision have achieved with the support of Vision Australia.

The proceeds raised from this wonderful event allow us to continue to support families and children to live the life they choose.

Over the last year, Vision Australia's specialist staff have worked with more than 3000 children and families.

We've transitioned almost 100 children, who are blind or have low vision, into primary schools across Australia and worked with 559 children aged four and under to develop learning, playing and daily living skills.

This year, we're pleased to have on board four Faces of Carols from across Australia. They are Oliver Fanshaw from Queensland, Christine Douglas and Matthew Zhou from NSW and Lara Sticca from Victoria. They are all inspirational and outgoing kids who prove that just because they experience vision loss, they're just like any other child.

Vision Australia has supported each of these kids, and their families, from a young age to give them the best possible start in life.

As part of Carols by Candlelight, we've once again launched our Christmas Appeal, Light a Candle, which aims to light-up 10,000 virtual candles. You can donate at lightacandle.net.au to ensure Vision Australia continues to support children who need it.

On behalf of Vision Australia, thank you for your support. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

#### **Ron Hooton**

Chief Executive Officer, Vision Australia

Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight, presented by Myer, is a much loved and anticipated event that has become a family tradition in households around Australia.

At Myer we are proud to support this wonderful event as the Presenting Partner for the seventh consecutive year. We are delighted to uphold the much loved Myer tradition of community engagement and philanthropic support.

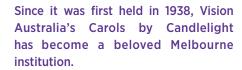
It is an absolute privilege to sit among the thousands of supporters that pack the Sidney Myer Music Bowl each year to celebrate the magic of Christmas and be inspired by the carols performed tonight.

Christmas is such an important time of year for Myer as we celebrate within our local communities and in our stores, from the Myer Animated Christmas Windows to our exciting new concept Giftorium, everyone's favourite Santaland, and of course tonight's Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight.

From all of the Myer team I wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and best wishes for 2014.

#### **Bernie Brookes**

Myer CEO



The Nine Network has a long association with this magnificent event, broadcasting the spectacle since 1980.

Our hosts for the year, Lisa Wilkinson and David Campbell, will be joined on stage by Australia's most renowned entertainers in a joyous celebration of Christmas.

Families, friends and loved one will gather in the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and around TV screens and live sites across the nation to share in the magic of the season.

All of us here at Nine are proud to lend our support to Vision Australia in its quest to assist people who are blind and those with low vision to fully participate in all facets of life.

On behalf of the Nine Network I'd like to wish you and those close to you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### **Ian Paterson**

Managing Director, GTV9





The 2014 Faces of Carols. From left to right: Christine Douglas, Oliver Fanshawe, Matthew Zhou and Larra Sticca

## **Faces of Carols**

Oliver Fanshawe, Matthew Zhou, Christine Douglas, and Lara Sticca, have all been chosen as Vision Australias 'Faces of Carols' for 2014. Vision Australia has supported each of these children and their families and they are thrilled to be sharing their experiences to help raise awareness for the work of Vision Australia.

Oliver Fanshawe's mother Melissa reflects on the support of Vision Australia and says, "As a mother, it is impossible to convey how much Vision Australia has meant to me and my family.

With only 6/60 vision in one eye, Oliver is legally blind. Despite his vision, he runs around on a soccer field, rides a bike and receives good marks at school. Vision Australia has taught him the skills to approach life head-on.

Without Vision Australia, Oliver would not be the confident, happy and capable little boy that he is today," she says.

Matthew Zhou has Oculocutaneous Albinism, as well as Photophobia, Nystagmus and Astigmatism. Albinism is a genetic condition that affects 1 in every 20,000 Australians. Matthew has been working with Vision Australia since he was a baby, and this has given him the support and confidence to pursue his considerable musical talents. Matthew will even make his Carols By Candlelight debut tonight on stage performing with Ambassador Lucy Durack!

Christine Douglas is an enthusiastic girl who loves singing, dancing and horse-riding. Christine is legally blind, but this has not stopped her from developing her passions and following her dreams.

Christine's mother Sarah says that her daughter's 'can do' attitude and confidence are all thanks to the support of Vision Australia. Lara Sticca was born with bilateral retinoblastoma and has low vision as a result of the disease.

Vision Australia has been working with Lara and her family to make life as smooth as possible, even working with Lara's school teachers to identify areas that will help with her education. Her mother Rose says that as a result of the work of Vision Australia Lara's transition into Prep this year was seamless.

Vision Australia's CEO Ron Hooton explains, "With Vision Australia's support, families with children who are blind or have low vision can help their child to build confidence to interact with others, prepare for school and develop into self-assured young adults.

To continue to provide these services we need on-going support from local communities. This Christmas, please help Vision Australia give kids like Lara, Matthew, Oliver and Christine the best possible start to life by getting involved with Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight or by visiting www.lightacandle.net.au and donating to our Light a Candle campaign," says Mr Hooton.



## **Ambassadors**

Vision Australia is thrilled to announce that this year's Carols by Candlelight Ambassadors are four of Australia's most talented young musicians; The Voice stars Harrison Craig and Jackson Thomas, Wicked's Lucy Durack and Opera singer Michael Vaiasinni.

These incredible musical stars have come together to support Vision Australia's iconic Christmas event and assist in raising funds and awareness for children who are blind or have low vision.

Thomas and Vaiasinni will both be making their Carols debut this year alongside regular performer Durack, and Craig who sang at his first Carols in 2013.

Of his upcoming first performance Thomas, who was runner up on The Voice 2014 says,

"I remember watching Carols as a young boy and I've always said I would love to be up there one day. Vision Australia is such a great cause and for me to be able to help someone by doing what I love is so amazing."

Vaiasinni is a 23 year old Opera singer who has spent the past 3 months performing across Italy, even singing for the famous Pavarotti family and the Pope. At six years old Michael was diagnosed with the degenerative eye disease, Retinitis Pigmentosa, leaving him legally blind.

"Learning to navigate through life with limited vision is challenging, but having organisations like Vision Australia to support children and their families, makes such a huge difference to their confidence, which helps them lead a full life," says Vaiasinni.

"It is a great honour to help and inspire others who are living a similar situation. My hope is to share my story through my music and achievements and to show these kids that anything is possible!"

Carols by Candlelight favourite and star of the stage show Wicked, Lucy Durack is thrilled to be an ambassador for this year's event, in what will be her fifth incredible year as a Carol's performer. "Carols by Candlelight is always one of my favourite nights of the year, so to be able to be involved in an even bigger capacity and help raise funds for such a worthwhile cause is an incredible honour for me. I can't wait to get back out on that iconic stage!" she says.

The Voice 2013 winner Harrison Craig agrees,

"There is something so magical about being on stage on Christmas Eve for Carols By Candlelight. To be an ambassador this year and support the work of Vision Australia is very humbling."





# Light a Candle Christmas Appeal & help kids who are blind or have low vision

This Christmas, help change the life of a child who is blind or has low vision by donating to Vision Australia's Light A Candle Christmas Appeal. Your donation will help Vision Australia continue their vital work in the community, supporting children who are blind or have low vision, to help them lead a full and independent life. There is no greater gift than improving the life of a child.



DONATE NOW lightacandle.net.au





lacks the ability to control his eyes.

## Children's Services

Early support is vital for children who are blind or have low vision. While some families will discover their child is blind at birth, others will only learn of their child's diagnosis months later.

When a child is diagnosed, families need both support to help them understand what their child's condition means and an ongoing plan to assist that child to develop the skills and mobility they need to meet the same milestones as their peers.

Vision Australia specialists including orthoptists, therapists, educators, orientation and mobility experts, adaptive technology consultants and counsellors who work with the family to support their priorities for their child's development.

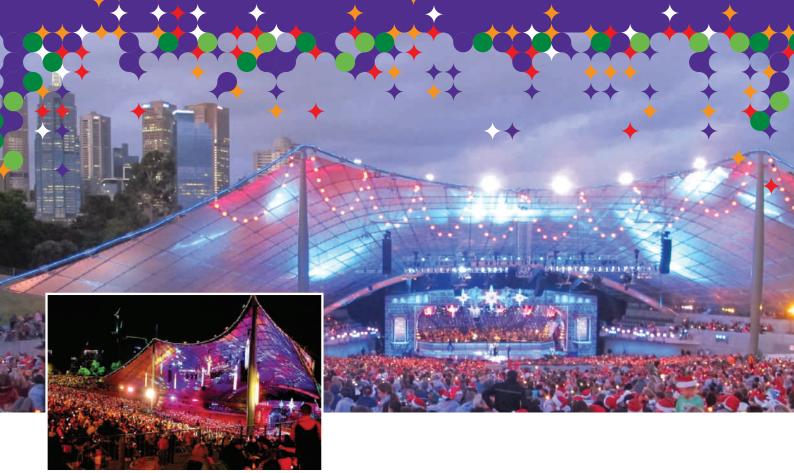
While sighted children are motivated to explore the world through vision cues and copying others, children who are blind need more encouragement and stimulation. It is this support and knowledge that Vision Australia offers that makes such an impact on a child's life.

Vision Australia supports children from 0 - 18 years of age, helping them through the early learning stages right through to tertiary education. It costs \$12,000 for a child who is blind or has low vision to get the technology they need to go school and continue their education. It then costs \$5,200 each term to run vital school holiday programs to help prepare secondary students leaving school and entering employment.

Your donation helps us to ensure that Vision Australia can continue to offer their support to families and children in the community. By supporting the Light A Candle Christmas appeal, you can go on to change the life of a child who is blind, www.lightacandle.net.au







## The story of Carols by Candlelight

Carols by Candlelight began on Christmas Eve in 1938 thanks to the inspiration and enthusiasm of Melbourne radio announcer, Norman Banks.

The first Carols was held in Alexandra Gardens and was attended by over 10,000 people. The event grew in importance during the Second World War when community spirit was much in need. In 1958, the event was moved to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl where it remains today.

The Royal Institute for the Blind (now Vision Australia) partnered with Carols as a charity sponsor and then assumed responsibility for the event in 1969.

In that same year, the event was broadcast on TV for the first time and cemented its place as a Christmas Eve tradition in every household. The iconic Carols By Candlelight event could now be enjoyed by thousands of viewers across Australia as it is today.

Now it its 77th year, it continues to be a time honoured tradition during the festive season.

#### Become a member of the Carols by Candlelight Club

Do you love Carols by Candlelight? Great, so do we! That's why we started a club so that everyone who loves Carols can keep updated on Carols news, ambassador performer information and other events associated with Carols.

#### By joining the club, you'll get:

- Pre-sale tickets opportunities in 2015
- Up to date info on all things Carols
- Offers from sponsors and partners

Go to www.lightacandle.net.au and select the 'CBC Club' tab to sign up today!





# Carols by Candlelight Song List

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blindness and low vision service



### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Traditional. Translated by James Chadwick. Music arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes. Public Domain

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains

Glor-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-oria In excelsis deo Glor-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-oria In excelsis deo

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?

Glor-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-oria In excelsis deo Glor-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-oria In excelsis deo

Come to Bethlehem and see He whose birth the angels praise Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King

Glor-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-oria In excelsis deo Glor-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-oria In excelsis deo Glor-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-or-oria In excelsis deo

#### Carol Of The Bells

Comp: M. Leontovich Public Domain

Hark! how the bells, Sweet silver bells All seem to say 'Throw cares away'. Christmas is here, Bringing good cheer To young and old, Meek and the bold Ding, dong, ding, dong, That is their song, With joyful ring, All caroling.

One seems to hear Words of good cheer From ev'rywhere, filling the air. Oh, how they pound, Raising the sound, O'er hill and dale, Telling their tale. How they sound their songs of good cheer. Christmas is here, Christmas is here, One seems to hear, Words of good cheer, Merry, merry, merry, Merry Christmas, Merry, merry, Merry Christmas.

On, on they send, On, without end Their joyful tone To ev'ry home. Hark! how the bells, Sweet, silver bells, All seem to say 'Throw cares away'. Christmas is here, Bringing good cheer To young and old, Meek and the bold. Ding, dong, ding, dong, That is their song, With joyful tone To ev'ry home, Ding, dong, ding, dong.



#### Deck the Halls

Traditional. Public Domain.

Deck the Hall with boughs of holly Fa la la la la la la la la 'tis the season to be jolly Fa la la la la, fa la la la Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel Fa la la la la, fa la la la Troll the ancient Christmas carol Fa la la la la. fa la la la

See the flowing bowl before us Fa la la la la, fa la la la Strike the harp and join the chorus Hail the new, ye lads and lasses Fa la la la la, fa la la la Follow me in merry measure Fa la la la la, fa la la la While I sing of beauty's treasure Fa la la la la, fa la la la

Fast away the old year passes Fa la la la la, fa la la la Fa la la la la, fa la la la Laughing, quaffing all together Fa la la la la, fa la la la Heedless of the wind and weather Fa la la la la, fa la la la

#### Do You Hear What I Hear

Composer: Regney/Baker. Publisher:

Do you hear what I hear Said the night wind to the little lamb Do you see what I see Do you see what I see Way up in the sky little lamb Do you see what I see Do you see what I see A star, a star Dancing in the night With a tale as big as a kite With a tale as big as a kite Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy Do you hear what I hear Do you hear what I hear Ringing through the sky shepherd boy Do you hear what I hear Do you hear what I hear

A song, a song high above the tree With a voice as big as the sea With a voice as big as the sea Do you hear what I hear? Do you hear what I hear? Do you hear what I hear Do you hear what I hear? Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king

Do you know what I know? Do you know what I know? In your palace warm mighty king Do you know what I know? Do you know what I know? A child, a child Shivers in the cold Let us bring him silver and gold Let us bring him silver and gold Gloria gloria gloria In excelsis deo

Glor----ia In excelsis deo Do you hear what I hear?

Do you hear what I hear? Said the king to the people everywhere Listen to what I say Listen to what I say Pray for peace people everywhere Listen to what I say Listen to what I sav A child, a child Sleeping in the night He will bring us goodness and light He will bring us goodness and light



#### God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Traditional.

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay Remember Christ our saviour, was born on Christmas day To save us all from Satan's power, when we had gone astray Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy Oh tidings of comfort and joy

From God our gracious father. the blessed angels came, And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same, How that in Bethlehem, was born the son of God by name, Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy Oh tidings of comfort and joy. The shepherds at those tidings, rejoic-ed much in mind And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind And went to Bethlehem straightway, the son of God to find Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place And with true love and brotherhood, each other now embrace This holy tide of Christmas, all others doth deface Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

## Hallelujah Chorus

Written by George Frideric Handel. Public Domain.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (repeat)

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth -Hallelujah! (repeat twice)

The Kingdom of this world Is become the Kingdom of our Lord And of His Christ, and of His Christ And He shall reign for ever and ever (repeat three times) King of Kings forever and ever - . And Lord of Lords forever and ever -Hallelujah! (repeat)

King of Kings forever and ever -Hallelujah! Hallelujah! And Lord of Lords King of Kings and Lord of Lords And He shall reign, and He shall reign And He shall reign, and He shall reign Forever and ever

King of Kings - Hallelujah! Hallelujah! And Lord of Lords - Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

He shall reign forever and ever King of Kings and Lord of Lords King of Kings and Lord of Lords He shall reign forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Halle-lu-jaah!



## Hark the Herald **Angels Sing**

Words by C Wesley. Music by Mendelssohn. Adapted by William Cummings. Public Domain.

Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled Joyful all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies With angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem

Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord Late in time behold him come Offspring of a virgin's womb Veiled in flesh the Godhead see Hail the incarnate deity Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus our Emmanuel

Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n born prince of peace Hail the Son of righteousness Light and life to all he brings Risen with healing in his wings Mild he lays his glory be Born that man no more may die Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth

Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

#### Joy to the World

Traditional. Public Domain.

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him

And Heaven and nature sing. And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Jov to the World. the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods. rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,

He rules the world with truth and grace. And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness,

Far as, far as, the curse is found.

And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love. wonders of his love

### Mary's Boy Child

Composer: Hairston Publisher: J. Albert & Son (Copyright) Intro: Bars Seconds

A long time ago in Bethlehem So the holy bible say Mary's boy child Jesus Christ Was born on Christmas day

Hark now hear the angels sing A new King born today And man will live forever more Because of Christmas day

Now Joseph and his wife Mary Came to Bethlehem that night Them find no place to bear the child Not a single room was in sight

By and by they find a little nook In a stable all forlorn And in a manger cold and dark Mary's little boy was born

Hark now hear the angels sing A new King born today And man will live forever more Because of Christmas day

Trumpets sound and angels sing Listen to what they say That man will live forever more Because of Christmas day

Trumpets sound and angels sing Listen to what they say That man will live forever more Because of Christmas day Be – cause of Christ- mas day





## O Come All Ye Faithful

Words by John Wade, translated by Frederick Oakley. Music by John Reading. Public Domiain.

O come all ye faithful Joyful and triumphant O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem Come and behold Him Born the King of Angels

O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Yea Lord, we greet thee Born this happy morning Jesus, to thee by glory giv'n Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing

O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels Sing in exultation Sing all ye citizens of Heav'n above Glory to God In the highest

O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

## **O Holy Night**

Words by J.S. Dwight. Music by Adolphe Adam. Public Domain.

O holy night The stars are brightly shining It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth Long lay the world In sin and error pining 'Til He appeared and the soul felt His worth

The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices For yonder beams a new and glorious morn Fall on your knees Oh hear the angel voices O night divine O night when Christ was born O night divine O night, O night divine

Truly He taught us to love one another His law is love and His gospel is peace Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother And in His name all oppression shall cease Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we Let all within us praise His holy name

Christ is the Lord Then ever, ever praise we Noel, noel, O night divine Noel, noel, O night, O night divine Noel, noel, O holy night



### **Silent Night**

Traditional. Words by Joseph Mohr. Music by Franz Xavier Gruber. Public Domain.

Silent night, holy night All is calm, all is bright Round you virgin mother and child Holy infant so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night Shepherds quake at the sight Glories stream from Heaven afar Heav'nly hosts sing hallelujah Christ the Saviour is born Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace Jesus Lord at thy birth Jesus Lord at thy birth

Silent night, holy night All is calm, all is bright Round you virgin mother and child Holy infant so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace

#### We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Traditional. Public Domain.

We wish you a merry Christmas We wish you a merry Christmas We wish you a merry Christmas And a happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring To you and your kin We wish you a merry Christmas And a happy New Year

Now bring us some figgy pudding Now bring us some figgy pudding Now bring us some figgy pudding And bring some out here

For we all like figgy pudding We all like figgy pudding For we all like figgy pudding So bring some out here

And we won't go till we've got some We won't go till we've got some And we won't go till we've got some So bring some out here

We wish you a merry Christmas We wish you a merry Christmas We wish you a merry Christmas And a happy New Year.

#### When A Child Is Born

Composer: Soleado/F Jay/Zacar Publisher: Chappel

A ray of hope Flickers in the sky A tiny star Lights up way up high All across the land Dawns a brand new morn This comes to pass When a child is born

A silent wish Sails the seven seas The winds of change Whisper in the trees And the walls of doubt Tumble, tossed and torn This comes to pass When a child is born

It's all a dream An illusion now It must come true Sometime soon somehow All across the land Dawns a brand new morn This comes to pass When a child is born.





Proudly inspiring Vision Australia's significant cause by filming the Creative Flashmob launch for Light a Candle Featuring Harrison Craig and the Melbourne Gospel Choir



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# FILMGRAPHICSPHOTOGRAPHYSCRIPT



Vision Australia is proud to launch the Carols by Candlelight

Pin & Win program this Christmas!

For just \$10 you have a chance to win over \$25,000 in cash and prizes.

Find the nearest Vision Australia volunteer to purchase a pin.



vision australia's carols by candlelight

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## Matthew Zhou's Story

Matthew Zhou is 11 years old and lives in North Ryde, NSW with his father Jia, his mother Ling and his twin sister Annabelle.

Ling describes her son as kind-hearted, calm, unassuming and strong-willed. He has many interests and loves computer games, Lego, playing soccer, swimming and music.

Matthew has Oculocutaneous Albinism and as a result has Photophobia, Nystagmus and Astigmatism. Albinism is a genetic condition that affects 1 in every 20,000 Australians.

After Matthew was formally diagnosed as a baby, a nurse referred the family to Vision Australia where they began working with their Occupational Therapist.

Their Occupational Therapist visited the family on a weekly basis to help with Matthew's development. She would set goals and work out strategies for Ling and Jia to help their son achieve developmental milestones.

From a social perspective, Vision Australia has provided support by organising catch-ups with other families whose children are blind or have low vision. This has allowed Ling and Jia to share their own experiences, while also giving Matthew the opportunity to make friends.

Vision Australia helped tailor Ling and Jia's home to give Matthew a safe environment and making his day-today life as easy as possible. Thanks to Vision Australia, they were able to secure funding for equipment to help aide Matthew's education, including a \$3,000 CCTV that helps magnify a regular computer screen. A specialist from Vision Australia's IT department then visited their home, helped set up the equipment, and taught Matthew how to use the technology. If it wasn't for Vision Australia's advice and guidance, they would be unaware that they are entitled to these grants.

When Matthew was younger he dropped things very easily, so his Vision Support Teacher recommended that he learn to play the piano to strengthen his fingers. Since then Matthew has proved be quite musically gifted and he now plays the marimba as well as the piano and received numerous prizes, playing at his school assembly and has even performed solo at the Sydney Opera House.

Vision Australia is such a big part of Matthew and his twin sister Annabelle's lives that when they turned eight years old, instead of presents they asked their friends and guests to donate to Vision Australia, raising over \$1,000 for the organisation. This year, Matthew's fundraising efforts continue and he has raised over \$3,000 for Vision Australia.

Matthew is so excited to be one of the Faces of Carols for 2014 and understands that it is a big responsibility. He is delighted to help the organisation that has given him and his family so much and is thrilled that the event combines his passion for music.

Initially Ling and Jia felt overwhelmed with their son's condition but Vision Australia taught them to focus on strengthening the vision Matthew did have, instead of focusing on his limitations.

Vision Australia also taught Matthew to accept his condition from a very young age and celebrate his differences by reading him a book called "It's Okay to Be Different" which teaches children about individuality and diversity. This Christmas, donate to Vision Australia's Light a Candle Christmas Appeal to provide children who are blind or have low vision across Australia with the services that allow them to reach their full potential and never let their low vision hold them back.

Matthew's Christmas wish is coming true on December 24, when he performs at Carols by Candlelight with Lucy Durack.



# Vision Australia warmly thanks our presenting partner and sponsors for their generous support:

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All proceeds from Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight® support services for children who are blind or have low vision.



blindness and low vision service



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