

# Media Backgrounder

## THE ENSEMBLE



### HANNAH CLIFF

Hannah commenced vocal training at the age of six with Berenice Auckland (1996 to 2005), going on to train with Jason Barry-Smith (2006 to present). In 2007, she completed her High School Certificate at Brisbane Girls Grammar School. Her performances include the title role in *Cinderella* and Miss Hannigan in *Annie* (for Brisbane Junior Theatre) and Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore* (for Centre Stage Players). In 2005 and 2006, she travelled to China to perform as a soloist at the Sino-Australian Arts Festival (which was televised internationally).



### ELISE HELLER

Elise commenced vocal training at the age of 15 with Donna Langford. She has been a member of the Queensland Youth Choir for 11 years, and this year joined the Brisbane Chorale. During her studies at Kedron State High School, Elise performed at senior investitures, graduations, and assemblies. She studied extension music in Year 12 and also participated in Opera Queensland's *Moving Opera!* program (2006). Elise has received placements in the Brisbane and Enoggera Eisteddfods, as well as placements and a Senior Encouragement Award (2007) in the Queensland Youth Choir's President's Trophy Night.



### CASEY McCOLLOW

Casey has trained in singing, dance and acting. In 2008, she graduated from Central Queensland University (CQUniversity) with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre. Her performances include the title role in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Evilene in *The Wiz* and Gladys in *The Pajama Game*, as well as understudying the role of Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors* and the title role in *Cinderella*, and performing in the ensemble of *High School Musical* (for CQUniversity). In 2006 and 2008, she appeared in the schools touring production of *Choices* for the Queensland Department of Health.



### GEORGINA PURDIE

Georgina commenced vocal training at the age of 12 and is currently under the tutelage of Antonia Breen. She is presently undertaking studies in a Bachelor of Biomedical Science Degree at The University of Queensland. Georgina has performed with the Australian Youth Choir and the Moreton Bay College Choir. She is currently a member of Resonance of Birralee.



### KATE STUART

Kate commenced vocal training at the age of six with Pat Robbins Music, going on to train with Rhonda Coady at the age of 10. She currently trains with Jessica O'Brien. Kate is a Year 9 student at Ormiston College where she is a member of the Chamber Singers and the Jazz Band. She is also a member of Queensland Youth Choir's Vivace Voices. Her performances include the role of Madame de la Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast* (for Ormiston College), as well as performing in the children's ensembles of *Turandot* (for Opera Queensland) and *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (for Harvest Rain Theatre Company). In 2008, Kate won the Junior Section of Redland's Got Talent.

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## HENRY GOAKES

Henry commenced vocal studies at age 10 with Geoffrey Ashenden. He is a Year 11 student at the Brisbane School of Distance Education. Henry has sung in the Vienna Boys Choir, Brisbane Birralee Blokes (which was ABC Classic FM's 2007 Choir of the Year) and Gondwana Voices. He has appeared in productions of *Carmen*, *A Masked Ball* and *La bohème* (for Opera Queensland), *Treasure Island* (for Brisbane Arts Theatre) and *Hänsel und Gretel* (with the Vienna Boys Choir).



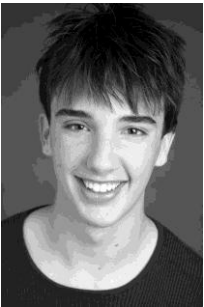
## SAMUEL HICKEY

Samuel commenced vocal training at the age of nine as a member of St John's Cathedral Choir (under the direction of Dr Robert Boughen). He is presently undertaking studies in a Bachelor of Biomedical Science Degree at The University of Queensland. In 2005, he received his Associate Diploma on violoncello. Sam's performances include the roles of Mr Bumble in *Oliver* and a brother in *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (for Somerville House and Anglican Church Grammar School). He is currently the lead vocalist and bassist of the band *Three Dirty Birds* (which won the Nova 106.9 Rock School Competition in 2006).



## THOMAS OLIVER

Thomas commenced vocal training at the age of 16 with Kerrie Miles-Dubber. He is a Year 11 student at Iona College and a member of the Senior Choir and Senior Band. His performances include the roles of a Student in *Snapshots from Home* and Troy Bolton in *High School Musical on Stage!* (for Iona College). Thomas is also the lead singer for his band *The Usual Suspects*.



## TAYLOR PEARCE

Taylor commenced vocal training at the age of 12 with Lee Noral. He is a Year 11 student at Rivermount College. His performances include the roles of Frank in *Mack and Mabel* (for the Beenleigh Theatre Group) and the Artful Dodger in *Oliver* (for Brisbane Arts Theatre). He also appeared in productions of *Bugsy Malone*, *The Little Mermaid* and *Raggedy Ann* (for Beenleigh Theatre Group).



## PAUL TABONE

Paul began performing at the age of nine. He has obtained high level grades in piano, voice and music theory and was recently named Most Promising Voice for Music Theatre at Central Queensland University (CQUniversity). His performances include the role of Baron Scarpia in Kim Kirkman's production of *Tosca The Technopera* (for BAKK Studios) and the title role in *The Wiz*, as well as appearing in productions of *Cinderella*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *High School Musical*, *The Pajama Game* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (for CQUniversity). He also performed as a soloist at the *2008 Carols in the City* (which was broadcast by Channel 9), and is currently appearing as Pavarotti in *Pavarotti Viva!* (for Vavachi Entertainment).

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