

Entry type: Person  
Entry ID: AWE4780

Curphey, Judith

(1929 - 2025)

Born	19290917, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Died	20251031, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Artistic director, Music teacher, Musician

Summary

Judith Curphey OAM was the founder and Artistic Director of the Australian Girls Choir. Judith enjoyed a successful career as a classroom music teacher before starting the Choir upon her retirement in 1984.

Judith wanted to challenge the accepted convention that boys sing ‘better’ than girls, and create a female choir with a uniquely Australian sound and high artistic standards, a group of girls and young women which could dance as well as sing, and was renowned for its quality of presentation. She was still playing an integral role with repertoire selection, performance direction and staff mentoring into her nineties.

The Choir has grown from just 150 choristers in Melbourne, to now over 3,500 choristers in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Since its formation it has toured to destinations all over the world, and has performed for dignitaries including President Barack Obama, Queen Elizabeth II, The Honourable Julia Gillard AC and Pope Benedict XVI.

## Events

### **1943 - 1943**

at Presbyterian Ladies College, Perth, Western Australia

### **2004 - 2004**

Awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to music, particularly through the Australian Girls Choir.

### **1929 - 1929**

Born in Melbourne, Victoria

### **1963 - 1965**

Commences career as classroom music teacher at The MacRobertson Girls' High School

### **1957 - 1957**

Daughter Jane Curphey is born

### **1984 -**

Founder and Artistic Director of the Australian Girls Choir (AGC). Auditions girls around schools in Melbourne and selects 150 girls who attended the first rehearsal on 7 March 1984 at Burwood State College (now Deakin University).

### **1953 - 1953**

Marries Rex Curphey, moves to London. Works as a piano accompanist at a ballet school.

### **1935 - 1935**

Moved with Family to Perth, Western Australia

### **1966 - 1974**

Moves to Kew High School as a music teacher, becomes Head of Music

### **1975 - 1983**

Moves to Ringwood High School (now Ringwood Secondary College) as Director of Music

### **1948 - 1948**

Retruns to Melbourne, enters Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and completes Performers' Diploma

### **1956 - 1956**

Returns to Melbourne

### **1938 - 1938**

Schooled as a boarder at Loreto Convent, Perth, Western Australia (Now John XXIII College)

### **1955 - 1955**

Son Simon Curphey is born

## Published resources

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### **Author Details**

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**Created** 18 November 2011

**Last modified** 17 December 2025