

A LOVER OF SOUND

After a lifetime of different hearing devices, Haydn finally finds the one

Haydn Ryan is a proud lover of sound.

Having had hearing loss for most of his life, Haydn's relationship with sound, like many relationships, has seen him face emotional and mental ups and downs. He has tried almost every hearing device under the sun.

So, when it comes to sound and hearing aids, Haydn knows what he's talking about.

Today, 42-year-old Haydn is happily settled with Lyric, Phonak's 100% invisible hearing device. But not for the reasons you might think.

Once you've heard Haydn's story, you'll understand how he came to have such an in-depth appreciation of sound and why he chose Lyric.

A MOTHER'S INSTINCT WARDS OFF LIFELONG SILENCE

Within moments of meeting Haydn, it's clear he's an exceptional communicator.

Born and raised in Sydney's stylish suburb of Balmain, growing up he was surrounded by an extremely supportive family, group of friends and community.

His mother was the driving force in ensuring her son received the most appropriate hearing support, the same driving force that led her to potentially save her son from total deafness as a baby.

"THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HIM"

Haydn was born with normal hearing, but at 11 months old, Haydn's mother took him to hospital, her instincts telling her something was drastically wrong with her child.

At first, she was told by the doctor that there was nothing wrong with him and to take him home, but she insisted on more tests.

As a result, they discovered Haydn had bacterial meningitis. Thankfully, they were able to catch the disease early and Haydn escaped total deafness but suffered 80% hearing loss in his right ear and 20% loss in his left ear.

So began a lifelong journey of hearing support for Haydn and with that, came a special bond with numerous audiologists.

"Most young people have an interest in the latest DJ, whereas for me, my relationship with an audiologist is far more important. They're my 'celebrity'."

"I'm often asked from a patient's perspective, what makes a good audiologist and for me, I'd say that to be a good audiologist, you just need to be a good human being. Have a beautiful EQ as well as the educational backing."

"When an audiologist takes a genuine interest in you and can anticipate the right solution for you, it's so important for the patient. That's how I ended up with the right device for me in the end."

It was his audiologist who recognised that his younger brain was probably better suited to an analogue device and that's when she suggested he try a new hearing device by Phonak called Lyric.



LYRIC, MUSIC TO THE EARS

Despite Lyric being the world's only 100% invisible hearing aid, the concealed nature of the device surprisingly wasn't what attracted Haydn, as he was used to wearing behind-the-ear hearing aids all his life.

Instead, what appealed to Haydn was the clear and natural sound and hassle-free nature as you don't take it out every day, it just stays in your ear for months at a time, 24/7.

"I can understand for first-time users that the invisibility aspect is a draw-card, but that wasn't the main factor for me."

"Lyric is placed in the ear about 4-6mm away from the ear drum, much closer than any other hearing device I'm aware of, meaning less wastage of sound."

"It gives a much clearer sound, months at a time, until the battery starts to run down and you're given another brand new device by your audiologist."

"The incredible results have meant that my relationships with family and friends have improved as it reduces the time spent on the communication piece in favour of enhancing my relationships. I'm no longer missing out on conversation."

COMMUNICATION IS KEY TO A HAPPIER LIFE

Haydn is a successful mortgage broker, who has recently relocated to Melbourne.

"I'm in a profession where I speak and ask a lot of questions, so you have to listen, and my Lyric helps me enormously."

"In a way, my life is completely richer for going through the experiences I have. Beautiful things come out of dark places and this can sometimes be more pronounced in the hearing-impaired community."

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"A lot of people say, 'what's your hearing loss?', but I don't think that's how the conversation should go."

"I think it should be, 'Are you a lover of sound?', or 'What's your relationship with sound?'. I want to change the discussion to make it a positive conversation, because there are amazing solutions out there, just like Lyric."

"So, I'd like to leave you with a question. 'Are you a lover of sound and do you want to keep it?'" □

Lyric™ Fast Facts

- Lyric can be worn 24/7, for months at a time.
- 100% invisible.
- It's positioned completely inside the ear canal and provides clear, natural sound while staying out of sight.

For more information and to arrange a free trial, visit: bit.ly/PhonakLyric

Disclaimer: Lyric is not appropriate for all patients. See a Lyric Provider to determine if Lyric is right for you. Lyric is water resistant, not waterproof, and should not be submerged under water. Duration of battery life varies by patient and is subject to individual ear conditions.