

Newsclaf

Save the date

Christmas 2019

Tune in to ABC radio to hear the recording of Lessons and Carols from St Andrew's Cathedral conducted by John Rutter with the Sydney inSpires festival chorus and children's choir and the National Youth Choir of Australia

RSCM NSW Workshop and Annual General Meeting

14 March 2020

Queensland inSpires

5 - 20 July 2020

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From the Editor

It was with great sadness that we received news of the death of Sir Stephen Cleobury CBE on 22 November. Until just a few short weeks before *Sydney inSpires* in July this year, Sir Stephen had been expected to be one of our directors of music for the festival, with the service of lessons and carols as the centrepiece of his involvement, in the tradition of King's College Cambridge where he was the esteemed director of music from 1982 until his retirement on 30 September this year. Vale Sir Stephen.

Sydney inSpires was of course our biggest event this year but we also held a Sir David Willcocks Composer Anniversary workshop and service with Christopher Watson at the Hunter Baillie Memorial Church, a Songs of Praise workshop in Berry, a Junior School Choirs Festival at St Andrew's Cathedral and helped stage a Voice for Life introductory workshop at St Alban's Church Epping. Quite a year!

We look forward to seeing you all at our next workshop and AGM on 14 March 2020 (full details in our February 2020 edition of Newsclaf). So at this Advent time, on behalf of Ross Cobb and the entire committee, we wish you all the very best for Christmas and the year to come.

Pamela Summers

Pamela Summers is a branch committee member, a chorister at St Swithun's Anglican Pymble and in the Mater Chorale

Reports

RSCM NSW Branch Event - 2019 Junior Schools Choirs Festival

The 2019 RSCM NSW Junior Schools Choirs Festival took place on Tuesday October 22nd and was held at St Andrew's Cathedral. Ross Cobb, Director of Music, St Andrew's Cathedral, was the Festival Director and Heather Moen Boyd was the Organist.

It is always such a rewarding experience for students from different schools to come together for this occasion, celebrating the best of the wonderful choral work going on in our schools. This year we were fortunate to welcome SCEGGS Darlinghurst, Arden, Cranbrook, Trinity Grammar Prep and St Andrew's Cathedral School.

The students arrived at the Cathedral at the conclusion of their school day and rehearsed for an hour and a half before breaking for an enthusiastically-received pizza dinner. A variety of classic and contemporary sacred music was sung: *Immortal, Invisible* (St Denio) with descant by Barry Rose, *Magnificat* in E flat by George Dyson, *How Can I Keep From Singing?* arranged by John Scott, *An Irish Blessing* by Barry Rose, and *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me* by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson and Michael Farren.

Some of the choristers in rehearsal at the Festival under the direction of Ross Cobb



The Festival Service, led by the Rev Canon Christopher Allan, Sub-Dean of the Cathedral, commenced at 6.15pm and concluded at 7.15pm.

Students, teachers and parents were all extremely positive in their feedback about the Festival. We look forward to the 2020 Junior Schools Choral Festival and to the resumption of the Senior Schools Choral Festival in 2020 as well.

Josie Ryan

Josie Ryan is the Catholic Church representative on the RSCM NSW Committee and a committee member of the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network



St Andrew's Cathedral filled with students, parents and friends for the Festival Service.

Still thinking about Sydney inSpires? For recordings and photos of Sydney inSpires events, go to:

http://www.soundwright.com.au/online-store/?slug=index&cPath=25_38 and

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o_0LSW0ll6YQn3ODNG31tQKHGFBhhH9_

Voice for Life Workshop

The RSCM Voice For Life Workshop, held at St Alban's Anglican Church Epping, on Saturday 26 October, 2019, was well attended, and provided a great overview of the material in the acclaimed Voice For Life program, focussing on the Dark Blue workbook and the Bronze Singing Award.



The Presenters were: Ross Cobb (RSCM President/Director of Music St Andrews Cathedral); Philip Reichardt (RSCM Secretary/Director of Music All Saints Hunters Hill); Pamela Summers (RSCM/ St Swithun's Pymble); Meg Matthews (formerly RSCM NSW Chair and accredited Voice for Life singing award examiner), and myself. Each presenter provided an insight into their particular area of expertise. Ross – Repertoire and vocal training – took us through some selections from the repertoire required for the Bronze Exam, identifying various elements that may prove challenging for individual singers and choirs alike. Philip – Musical knowledge – took us through a journey from the basic elements of music notation, through to working with more challenging and complicated time signatures and genres of music. Pamela – the RSCM Bronze exam – provided us with a comprehensive overview of preparing for and sitting the Bronze exam plus some helpful hints to smooth the way. Meg – choir in context – from her many years of experience as a choral director in a wide variety of contexts, as Voice for Life singing award examiner and formerly as Chair of the RSCM NSW Branch – provided us with extensive insights into her wide experience in this area; Michelle – sight singing and aural tests – some helpful hints to approach acquiring and developing skills in this area.

Later in the afternoon there was a Q&A session with a panel of experts: Philip Reichardt, Michelle Lee and Guy De Villiers (from Australian National Choral Association – ANCA) who collectively answered questions raised from the participants at the workshop – allowing fresh insights to a variety of choral issues.

Michelle Lee

Michelle Lee is the Choir Director at St Alban's Anglican Church Epping

Below: some of the Voice for Life workshop participants.

Right: Michelle Lee & Philip Reichardt





The Mater Chorale English Cathedral Crawl 2019

The Mater Chorale was founded as the Mater Hospital Centenary Chorale in 2005 by Dr Jim Wilkinson OAM, a senior anaesthetist at the Mater in North Sydney. Its initial focus was a Concert with the NSW Doctors Orchestra in 2006, to celebrate 100 years of service by the Sisters of Mercy to the people of North Sydney. Jim invited friends from other local choirs, as well as hospital staff to join the group for what was envisaged as a one-off event. The founding musical director was Sheryl Southwood OAM, and she encouraged the group to remain together, and grow and diversify in musical expertise over the subsequent years, featuring at hospital celebrations and fundraisers. A highlight of each year continues to be the singing of Christmas Carols around the hospital, often welcoming newborns in Maternity ward with strains of “Infant Holy”. Sadly, Jim retired due to poor health, but keeps the choir updated with musical snippets by email.

Subsequent musical directors, Ross Cobb and Michael Deasey OAM, have developed the Chorale into an experienced liturgical choir, with an annual round of Evensongs, concerts, the Holocaust Memorial service and hospital events. In 2017 Michael, along with manager Gerry Hayes, conceived of a tour to England to act as choir in residence during the English Summer holidays.

The touring party, comprising twenty three singers ranging in age from teens to eighties, was supplemented by two English colleagues. Organist Eric Tyson, known to many in Australia, joined us for the two weeks of our tour. A week in Lichfield Cathedral, famous for its three spires and uniquely pitched organ, was followed by a week in Winchester Cathedral. The medieval splendour of these buildings, and their rich history formed a stunning backdrop for Evensong and Sunday services. Choir member Andrew Channon’s anthem “God is our refuge and strength” was described as “refreshing” by the Dean of Lichfield, and the anthems of SS Wesley were at home in Winchester where he served as organist.

Michael Deasey OAM conducting the Mater Chorale during Choral Eucharist in Winchester Cathedral (photo by Dr Michael Hennessy)



Beyond the singing, there was much to enjoy about the English summer, not least The Ashes. Lichfield put on for us an amazing light show to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the moon landing, and a food and wine festival (gin being all the rage). Salisbury's embroideries and architecture were celebrated in a novel launched during the trip, "A single thread" by Tracy Chevalier, which gives a unique insight into the workings of the Cathedral in the 1930's. Sightseeing trips also had a liturgical theme, with visits to Salisbury Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral, Cambridge chapels and Ely Cathedral. A private tour of Christ's College Cambridge and the opportunity to sing in its chapel were provided by Peter Cane, husband of the Master, Australian Jane Stapleton. Sitting in Darwin's chair, and looking down into the chapel from Lady Margaret Beaufort's "star chamber" were highlights.

We were supported on tour by an attentive array of "groupies", family and friends, including Rev Tony McMiles, and photographer Dr Michael Hennessy. Tenor Dr Peter Campbell was joined in Winchester by his son Hamish, a cinematographer. Peter and Hamish took the opportunity to interview Michael Deasey about his work with choirs, and the resulting delightful video, featuring the sounds of the Chorale, can be seen at this link: <http://www.hamish-campbell.com/documentary-profile-michael-deasey/>.

The enormous work of organisation by Michael, Gerry and librarian Lynn Bock led to a very well organised adventure. All of Michael's special directions were taken down and set to chant by Heather Moen-Boyd, as a permanent reminder that we were actually listening when he warned us to "shade off" at the ends of the lines or "not to come in like the battle of Britain". He was noted to smile several times during the trip at moments of special glory (or relief).

The Chorale will be singing carols at the Mater Hospital on 17 December 2019, and is available for weddings, liturgical events and country parish visits in 2020.

Fran Boyle

*Prof Fran Boyle AM
(Decani tenor in the
Mater Chorale)*

Right: The Mater Chorale
in Lichfield Cathedral

(photography by Dr
Michael Hennessy)

Ed Note:

Congratulations again to Michael Deasey who received his FRSCM award at Celebration Day in Salisbury Cathedral on 5 October 2019



*"With all the company of heaven"**RSCM International Summer School, Norfolk UK, 5 - 11 August 2019*

In August this year, I attended my first RSCM International Summer School. They are only held every three years or so, and as I was due to join the Mater Chorale tour to Lichfield and Winchester two weeks later (see previous report), this seemed an ideal opportunity to do so. It was a very good decision as it turned out. The course was based at a conference centre in the countryside about a half hour drive from the centre of Norwich.

After the complete extravaganza of church music that was Sydney inSpires in July, this course aimed for a more limited palette of experiences in a quiet and reflective setting. There were only about sixty participants, most of whom were from the UK but there were a sizeable group from North America including a large and friendly delegation from a church choir in Toronto, Canada. I think I was the only representative not only of Australasia but of the entire Southern Hemisphere! I really enjoyed getting to know people over the week that we rehearsed, sang and ate together, and not just the other delegates but the teaching staff who were RSCM staffers along with some guest lecturers and a composer in residence.

Right: me on the left side in this rehearsal photo



Our daily routine involved a service of morning prayer after breakfast. Every day also concluded with a worship service at 9pm. There was an amazing variety of styles in these twice daily acts of worship from spoken prayer through choral settings, from early music to contemporary worship songs. Sometimes we were a cappella and at other times there were instrumental accompaniments from piano, violin and flute through to guitar. I personally loved music at both ends of the spectrum: Thomas Tallis and Victoria on the one hand, and music by Margaret Rizza and the Iona Community on the other. These were all wonderful times of prayer and praise but the highlight for me was the service of Compline we had in the beautifully preserved chapel of a nearby former convent. We all walked in a long single file through the dark by the light of our phone torches till we reached the convent chapel. Compline being a service of quietness and reflection, we walked there in silence, and afterwards walked back through the dark silently and retired to our rooms for the night without speaking.



The theme for the week was Christian pilgrimage, with a focus on angels and 'all the company of heaven'. I particularly enjoyed a walking tour of Norwich led by the Rev Helen Bent, head of Ministerial Training, during which we visited the shrine of Mother Julian and saw the cell in which she spent, by choice, more

than forty years of her life, praying, having visions and writing. And we participated in a pilgrimage ourselves as we prepared for and then went and visited 'angel-roof' churches in East Anglia. I'd not heard of these before and found them curious and very beautiful. One such roof was in the church of St Peter Mancroft in the centre of Norwich but we also had a day trip by coach where we made a personal pilgrimage to angel roofs in surrounding counties.

Our first stop was All Saints church at Necton where the hammer beam roof decorated with wooden angels was erected in the 1400s. We had prayers and music from the period including a setting of Psalm 150 ed.

Thomas Ravenscroft (1590 - 1633). Next stop was the St Nicholas Chapel in King's Lynn.

This is the largest chapel of ease in England, and though now deconsecrated, was still beautifully looked after. Here we heard an *Ave Regina* of Leonel Power who died 1445, and for contrast, we sang Song for Athene by John Tavener written in 1994.

The next church was St Wendreda's in the town of March. Here we sang the plainsong *Sanctus* from *Missa de Angelis*, then the *Alleluia Veni Electa mea* by John Taverner (1495- 1545) which was my favourite of the music we sang on our day trip. Finally, we went to Ely Cathedral - my first visit to this amazing place. We sang first in the Lady Chapel, a repeat of the Song for Athene, then moved to under the lantern in the main part of the Cathedral where we sang the Stanford setting of Psalm 150. On our coach trips between locations, we had excellent talks about the history from Rev Helen Bent and about each piece of music from early music academic, Silas Wollston.

Another day we visited Benjamin Britten's residence called the 'Red House' which has the most wonderful garden and library and music studio where he composed. Later in the afternoon, we sang choral evensong at the church in Aldeburgh where Britten and Pears are buried in the churchyard, and ended our day with a windy but fun fish and chip supper served near the sea wall of the shingle beach there.

What a privilege to have had the chance to sing in such amazing spaces as Ely Cathedral already mentioned. We also sang a Vespers service in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Norwich and ended our week with a choral eucharist service in the Norwich Anglican Cathedral. Here we sang alongside the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir the Widor *Messe Op 36* and the rarely performed "The Company of Heaven" by Benjamin Britten.

I experienced many new things musically and sang a lot of Latin (which I don't normally do at home in Sydney). It was good to feel we are part of a world wide community of Christians worshipping in music. I wonder where the next one will be held?

Pamela Summers (pictured in Norwich Cathedral) is on the RSCM NSW Branch Committee and is a chorister at St Swithun's Anglican Church Pymble



Denominational Report - Uniting Church in Australia

As a young teenager, I used to play harmonium for the church services in the out-centres of our rural parish. Before I'd ever got close to the pipe organ in our church, these little reed organs were quite familiar to me. In fact, there was one in the Sunday School that – along with the hymn book – did more to advance my sight reading than any formal training.

Along with the Revised Church Hymnary and “Alexander’s No 3”, my main supply of music came from my late Grandfather’s collection. They became useful when I had to play at Binalong, Boorowa and Galong. Titles like “Gems from the Masters” and “Selected Voluntaries” gave me something to play before and after service, and during the offering.

I usually chose the ones that didn’t move too fast! Neither my fingers nor the breath control I could deliver to the reeds really did justice to anything more agile.

Some years back, it was my pleasure to hear one of these done properly. Radhika Sukumar* teamed up with Claire Wright and presented Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater*. I heard human voices giving nuance and meaning to what had just been two more notes under my right hand. I heard the context and felt the passion. Both Rads and Claire are now ordained ministers of the Uniting Church, but at the time they had no such office. This was something they wanted to do. Rads is often found exercising contemporary idioms, but she and Claire went out of their way to share this around a number of churches and locations during Holy Week.

And just last week, at my home church in Burwood, the extraordinary Apollo Quartet brought another reedy recollection into splendid new life. From the first movement of Corelli’s Christmas Concerto I sensed that I knew something of this piece – but the energy and excitement were of a completely different order. One movement after another of agile, joyful, impeccable playing. Then the final, graceful Pastorale, which I recognised as the piece I’d encountered as a “selected voluntary”.

The players have retained engagements in professional bodies like the Australian Opera Orchestra and the SSO. What were they doing, playing at a suburban Uniting Church? Once again, it was the initiative of individuals who care about sharing what they know is good. Violinists Kelly Tang and Rebecca Gill were Sydney Symphony Fellows in 2013, and Kelly’s home base church is Burwood.



Church growth strategies will often encourage leaders to look statistically at what will meet people’s needs. They will look at what people say they like, and try to match in kind. They will give extra weight to activities that engage participants directly. In this context, church councils and ministry leaders are unlikely to be the urgers of classical music. We can be thankful that they give permission.

And we can give thanks for those churches where the special role of fine music is nurtured and encouraged as a focus. Burwood Uniting Church sits between MLC School – a Uniting Church school – and St Paul’s Anglican Church, up the road. The commitment to excellence in music at both places has made St Paul’s a natural place for MLC School’s annual concerts. The ongoing music recital program at St Paul’s has its own outreach potential, often oiled by wonderful afternoon teas that help the gathered to feel connected. If we wear the label “Uniting”, this is something else to celebrate.



In other very recent news, an event of note occurred on Saturday (23rd November) which missed my attention: **Revivify** was billed as a “high energy contemporary worship event led by young people!” Revivify’s subtitle is “Many Cultures: One in Christ”, and this one was hosted by Tonga Parish. I will try to get a report from an attender for a forthcoming *Newsclaf*. The Uniting Church I think deserves kudos for specifically elevating voices that might struggle otherwise to be given windows of leadership. A story awaits on how the strong tradition of singing in Tonga is carried forward by newer generations, and how God can be glorified by valuing every voice of praise.



*Hear Radhika and Noel Debieen discuss Advent and music - common ground across contrasting backgrounds! <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/godforbid/tis-the-season/11745980>

David Powell

David Powell is a member of the Uniting Church in Australia Church Music Committee and UCA Representative on the RSCM Branch Committee since 2011



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BURWOOD

We warmly invite you to join us for

A Service of Lessons and Carols 2019

Saturday 14 December at 5.00pm

In the Chapel of the Good Shepherd
Cardinal Freeman Village, Victoria Street Ashfield

A second Service will be held on

Sunday 22 December at 7.00pm

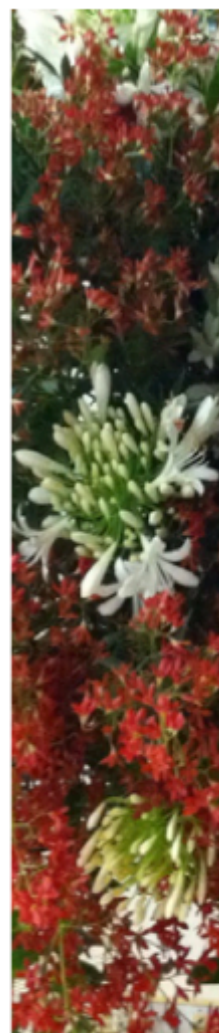
in St Paul's Burwood
205-207 Burwood Road Burwood

Christmas services Choral Eucharists

Tuesday 24 December at 9.30pm

Wednesday 25 December at 9.00am

- St Paul's Choir will sing at all services -



News from the Choir of Christ Church St Laurence



The Choir of
Christ Church St Laurence
Railway Square, Sydney

Sam Allchurch
Director of Music

David Tagg and Hamish Wagstaff
Acting Assistant Organists

The new church year is nearly upon us, and musical preparations for the forthcoming festive season are in full swing at Christ Church St Laurence.

Our **Advent Carols Service on Sunday 1 December at 6.30pm** marked the beginning of preparations for Christmas, and featured music by composers such as Byrd, Leighton and Mendelssohn, as well as antiphons, responses and hymns appropriate to the season.

Its companion **Epiphany Carol Service** will be held on **Sunday 5 January**, also at **6.30pm**. The Epiphany service will include music by Lassus, Mathias and Rutter, among others alongside seasonal antiphons, responses and hymns. This carol service is free and all are welcome.

There will be music at Christ Church St Laurence for two Christmas services:

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass: Tuesday 24 December, 11.30pm

Introit: Dominus dixit ad me (Gregorian chant)

Setting: Spatzenmesse 'Sparrow Mass' (Mozart)

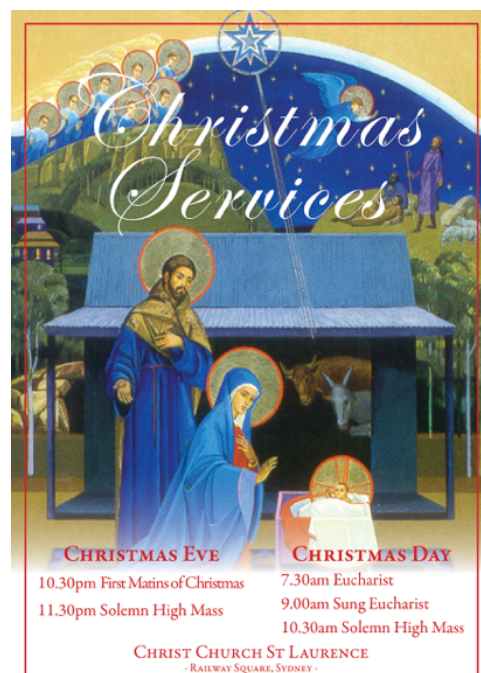
Motet: Nativity Carol (Rutter)

Christmas Day High Mass: Wednesday 25 December, 10.30am

Introit: Puer natus est (Gregorian chant)

Setting: Spatzenmesse 'Sparrow Mass' (Mozart)

Motet: Hodie Christus natus est (Marenzio)



Monthly organ recitals, on the Parish's lovely 1892 Hill & Son organ, have now concluded for 2019 and will recommence in the new year. These recitals, usually held on the third Sunday of the month, are at 5.30pm – concluding just in time for the service of Solemn Evensong. Entry remains by note donation and all are welcome.

The main choral services at Christ Church St Laurence, Solemn High Mass (10.30am) and Solemn Evensong (6.30pm), are offered every Sunday – including throughout the month of January – and there is also music for selected weekday feasts. Full details are available in the Parish [Music Calendar](#).

Michelle Imison

Michelle Imison is the Publicity Officer, Choir of Christ Church St Laurence

Through dissonance to harmony, combined choirs unite to magnify the Lord

On Thursday evening, 31 October 2019, choristers from the Anglican churches of St John's in Beecroft and St Alban's in Epping gathered together with the choir of the Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill to prepare to praise God in Evensong at All Saints' Church in Hunters Hill on the following Sunday - the Feast Day of the Parish. Under the musical direction of Philip Reichardt and with Ian McLeod, organist of St John's at the keyboard of the Henry Bevington & Sons 1887 (3/25 mechanical) pipe organ at Hunter's Hill, the first combined rehearsal commenced shortly after 7pm, to the *sotto voce* accompaniment of the Rev'd Michael Armstrong, his family and a small group of helpers from the parish community busily dismantling decorations from an All Hallows' Eve liturgy, which had been held shortly before. The choristers of St John's had the benefit of having sung the same repertoire at Evensong the Sunday before in their own parish. During this first combined rehearsal, however, it became apparent that different editions of the Stanford in B^b were being utilised. Ordinarily this would not have been such an issue; but, when dissonance was attributed to different notes being written in the different editions, Kerrie (All Saints' Deputy Director of Music) quickly came to assist - with one edition being provided for all to sing from. There is much merit in singing from the same hymn sheet - especially when the hymn is the Hymn of the Incarnation! The rehearsal progressed well from this point - with occasional discussions & preferences regarding tempo, phrasing, pronunciation and advice as to how to approach a *diabolus in musica* tritone - the combined choir went on to magnify the Lord.

On Sunday afternoon, the second combined rehearsal commenced at 2pm. Thanks to All Saints' choristers, Cheryl and Layna, for having arranged for light refreshments for the combined choir between practice and the Evensong commencement at 4pm on Sunday 3 November 2019. Evensong was an upbuilding celebration, led by the Rector of the Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill, the Rev'd Michael Armstrong - with the Dean of Newcastle, the Very Rev'd Katherine Bowyer, as guest preacher.

The Order of Service featured the following:

Processional hymn: "For all the saints who from their labours rest" - to the tune of *Sine Nomine* composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Introit: Day by Day (composed by Martin How)

The Barry Rose setting of Psalm 121 "I will lift up mine eyes" for the Queen's Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral

Anthem: God is a Spirit (composed by William Sterndale Bennett)

Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis (composed by Charles Villiers Stanford)

Versicles were chanted by the tenor cantor of St John's, Beecroft and responses by the combined choir

Recessional hymn: "Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days" - to the tune of Paderborn - later form of the German traditional melody 'Maria zu lieben' from the 'Paderborn Gesangbuch', 1765.

Jeffrey Gough

Jeffrey Gough is a chorister in the choir of All Saints' Anglican Church, Hunters Hill



News from Sydney Chamber Choir

In 2020, Sydney Chamber Choir is thrilled to bring you three programs of choral masterworks.

We start with Handel's **Messiah** in all its Baroque glory: magnificent choruses, sublime arias performed by a superb array of soloists, in collaboration with passionate early music specialists The Muffat Collective.

Paul Stanhope's **Requiem** is likely to become a masterwork of our time and we're thrilled to be giving the world premiere, in a concert that also includes music of Arvo Pärt, James MacMillan, Mary Finsterer, Carl Nielsen and Tomás Luis de Victoria.

Then, in **Secret Music**, you'll hear a masterwork that deserves to be known better. For forty years, Frank Martin kept his Mass for Double Choir locked away – a secret between himself and God. In our final concert for the year, we will reveal the exceptional beauty and emotional intensity of this exquisite work for unaccompanied voices, paired with the premiere of a major new work by Australian composer Joe Twist.

In addition to our own concert series, we are also delighted to be appearing again with the Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra, in a performance of Haydn's masterwork **The Creation**.

We look forward to welcoming you to this unique season of masterworks, old and new!

Sam Allchurch

Artistic Director

MESSIAH

SATURDAY 14 MARCH, 6.00PM
CITY RECITAL HALL

REQUIEM

SUNDAY 21 JUNE, 3.00PM
VERBRUGGHEN HALL
SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

SECRET MUSIC

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER, 3.00PM
VERBRUGGHEN HALL
SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

THE CREATION

PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN ROMANTIC &
CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY 10 MAY, 3.00PM
CITY RECITAL HALL

THE GREGORIAN SCHOLA OF SYDNEY

Invitation

to an **OPEN NIGHT** of *The Gregorian Schola of Sydney*
on Thursday February 13, 2020 commencing at 6.30pm at
St Bede's Catholic Church, 43 Pyrmont Street, Pyrmont.
The schola is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary.

In order to celebrate the achievement of thirty years the *schola* is preparing for, and offering, an **OPEN NIGHT**. The evening will include singing by the group and will present, amongst other things, several items from different Masses in the *Kyrie*. For example, the traditional Mass IX *Cum Jubilo* using its fifteenth century manuscript source, followed by a *Kyrie* composed by St Hildegard of Bingen d.1179. This last is one of the earliest complete music works by a known composer. In comparison to the centonized *Cum Jubilo Kyrie*, the cascading melismas of Hildegard's work reveal the individual talent of one brilliantly creative person.

In an increasingly secularized world, the singers of *The Gregorian Schola of Sydney* have aimed to contribute to faith, education, and culture in these last thirty years. We now seek your support for the next thirty years by coming to this **OPEN NIGHT**.

Mr Harry Stephens, church architect, member of the National Liturgical Commission, and Executive Committee Chairman of the *schola*, will share his thoughts on the design and meaning of our logo.

Dr Marie T Levey rsj, musicologist and patron of the *schola*, will compare sung chants with their medieval sources.

Mrs Ellen O'Connor, secondary school teacher with over twenty years' experience of music ministry in Sydney parishes, and our wonderfully talented musical director, will keep us on track for the evening.

Entry will be by voluntary donation. For hospitality and general preparation we need to know if you are coming. In your reply by email, kindly include a telephone contact.

Please invite your friends, or pass on this message.

The **OPEN NIGHT** is simply **COME—SEE—HEAR**.

But of course we'd like you to join the *schola*.

RSVP to stephens.harry@gmail.com

Enquiries John Russell 9419 5838

There will be audience participation on the **OPEN NIGHT**.
If you would like to be part of the *schola* itself for that February evening
at least two prior rehearsals would be required.

THE RADIO COMMUNITY CHEST'S
79th Annual Presentation

*Not just a very good performance ...
but an uplifting experience ...*

RADIO COMMUNITY CHEST INCORPORATES
Messiah
HANDEL'S IMMORTAL ORATORIO

COMBINED CHURCH CHOIRS • GRAND ORGAN • ORCHESTRA

SYDNEY TOWN HALL
Saturday 14 December 2019 – 3.00 pm
Sunday 15 December 2019 – 3.00 pm

*The Radio Community Chest gratefully acknowledges
the support of the Council of the City of Sydney.*

Conductor
TIM CHUNG

Organist
PETER KNEESHAW AM

Soprano
JESSICA BLUNT

Contralto
DOMINICA MATTHEWS

Tenor
SIMON GILKES

Bass
HAYDEN BARRINGTON

TICKETS
City Recital Hall—Angel Place
(02) 8256 2222
www.cityrecitalhall.com

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.handelsmessiah.org.au

CITY OF SYDNEY

St Pauls' Burwood Lunchtime Recitals

Tuesday 17 December 2019

1.15pm – 1.45pm in the Church, 205-207 Burwood Road, Burwood

You are invited to join **Kathryn Dries** (voice) and **Callum Close** (organ)
as they perform a selection of stunning sacred and Christmas songs.

Donations are always welcome.

Refreshments follow in the Rectory

Positions Vacant

Music Ministry Director - Cathedral Parish of St Michael and St John, Bathurst, NSW

- 12-month contract with an option of a further 12 months with favourable feedback and results.
- 18 hours per week (Two and a half days equivalent, flexible)
- This role will require availability on weekends and after hours.

The role of Music Ministry Director is to support the existing members of the music ministry as well as fulfil the role of Cathedral Children's Choir Director, and possibly Cathedral Choir Director.

For more information including selection criteria and details of how to apply:

<https://cathnews.com/home/jobs-list/132-newsletter/36757-music-ministry-director-cathedral-parish-of-st-michael-and-st-john-bathurst-nsw>

Applications close 4.00pm, Monday 16th December 2019

St Mary Magdalene's Catholic parish in Rose Bay is looking for an organist

to cover its Christmas masses. There are three services: 9pm on 24 December, 8am on 25 December and 9.30am on 25 December 25. They are paying \$150 for the organist.

Christmas Services at St Swithun's Anglican Church Pymble



December 15	Gingerbread Making and Family Service
December 22	8am Holy Communion 10am Traditional Lessons and Carols 5pm BBQ and Carols on the Lawn
Christmas Eve	5pm Young Families Service 10pm Holy Communion (Followed by a Champagne Supper)
Christmas Day	8am Choral Communion 10am Contemporary Service

Tired of traditional last verses? Then try ...

Creative Last Verses

by Steven Nisbet



Reharmonisations & descants for
last verses of 107 well-known hymns
in a different, creative and
sometimes jazzy style.

2nd Edition out now: 107 arrangements all notated on Finale!

The late Dr Gerre Hancock, former organist at St Thomas Church, New York City, described Steven's first set of reharmonisations as "excellent arrangements" and encouraged him "to keep up the superb work".

More recently, Anne Marsden Thomas, noted English organ teacher commented on Steven's "inventive harmonies" & described *Creative Last Verses* as a "a godsend to countless organists".

Local organists have described the settings as "tasteful", "elegant & stylish" and having "more interesting chord progressions than other commercially available last verses".

Price \$50 (or \$65 posted within Australia)

To order or request more free samples and contents index, email your name & postal address to Dr Steven Nisbet: rsnisbet@optusnet.com.au

Christmas Services at St Stephen's Uniting Church, Macquarie St Sydney:

Sunday 22 Dec - 10am - Nine Lessons and Carols with choir, brass, harp, and organ

Christmas Eve - 11pm - Carols with choir, brass, harp, and organ

Christmas Day - 10am - Morning Worship with choir and organ



Mark Quarmby - Director of Music

Nico Tjoelker - Organ Scholar

Dr Huw Belling - Choral Director

www.ssms.org.au

SydneyCathedral.com

Cnr of George & Bathurst Streets
(next to Town Hall Station)



**ST ANDREW'S
CATHEDRAL**

**PROCLAIMING CHRIST
IN THE HEART
OF THE CITY**



1819  2019

Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS EVE **3.30PM** - CONTEMPORARY SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE **6.00PM** - WITH THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR & BRASS

CHRISTMAS EVE **8.00PM** - WITH THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR & BRASS

CHRISTMAS EVE **11.00PM** - WITH ADULT CHOIR & BRASS

Christmas Day

CHRISTMAS DAY 8.30AM - HOLY COMMUNION (**NO CHOIR**)

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00AM - CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION (WITH THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR & BRASS)



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

St Mary's Road, Sydney

24 December

5:00pm : Vespers

6:00pm : Vigil Mass with Congregational Carols

8:00pm: Choral Vigil mass (Carols from 7:30pm)

11:15pm: Readings & Carols

12:00am Midnight Solemn Mass

25 December

7:00am : Mass

9:00am : Mass with Congregational Carols

10:30am: Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)

6:00pm: Mass with Congregational Carols

For Sale

Cherylee Stead writes to Newsclaf:

I have a 4 rank extension pipe organ for sale. The original pipe work was in poor condition but I have managed to replace most of the pipes.

The organ has a detached console & has electro magnetic action.

Console is standard dimensions.

Pipe Case would be as big as a 2 door wardrobe & 9ft high.

Make an offer (I paid \$15 000 for it 30 years ago).

Need gone as we are unfortunately selling our home.

Our contact is via mobile only:

Mr William Stead 0407485116

Organ is located at Wallerawang, NSW

The specification is as follows:

Great Organ

Open Diapason 8ft now replaced with unda maris pipes

Principal extension to 4ft, 15th 2ft extended from 4ft

Dulciana 8ft

Stopped Diapason 8ft

Nazard 2 2/3rds

Gamba 8ft

Swell Organ

Lieblich Gedact 8ft

Flute 4ft

Piccolo 2ft

Dulciana 8ft

Dulcet 4ft

There is a Tierce 1 1/3rd, a Quint 1 3/5th & also a 1 ft rank. These pipes do not extend to the full extent.

The organ has a common bass.

Pedal Organ

Bourdon 16ft

Bass Flute 8ft

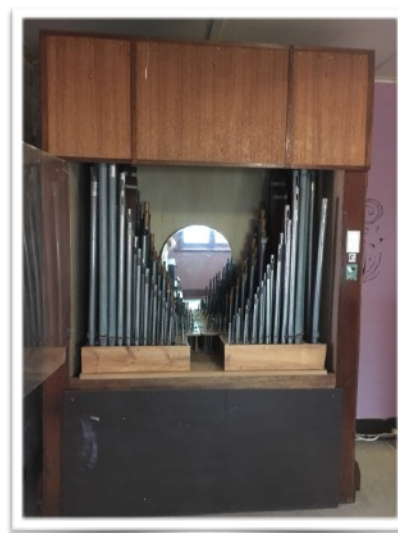
Coral Bass 4ft

Couplers

Swell to Great

Swell to Pedal

Great to Pedal



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RSCM Choristers' Prayer

*Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants,
who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips,
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts,
we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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Royal School of Church Music
AUSTRALIA
New South Wales Branch

