

Newsclaf

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Upcoming Events

Come & Sing Stainer's Crucifixion

Saturday 2 April 2022

St Andrew's Cathedral - details p3

Workshops with Roger Sayer

in planning for August 2021

Senior School Choirs Festival

17 October 2022

Junior School Choirs Festival

18 October 2022

South Coast choral workshop

in planning for September



From the Chair

This is the report I gave at the Branch AGM on 26 Feb.

Dear friends,

I have to admit that I found 2021 the most difficult of my professional life as a church musician.

Our last face-to-face workshop for RSCM was almost exactly a year ago, and we had a great time in Manly Presbyterian Church exploring many different ways of singing the Psalms. Yet from then until December 2021, we have had no in-person RSCM activities. However, it was such a treat on the 6th December to see so many dear friends again as we celebrated appropriately enough on St. Nicholas' day - Saint Nicholas being the patron saint of the RSCM. The 6th of December was actually the day that the RSCM was founded in the famous Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey in 1927.

Celebrating that day, we had over 100 guests in the palatial surroundings of the QVB Tea Rooms. Prior to this we had a service of choral evensong sung by the Choir of St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. This service was in fact only the second service that the choir had sung for six months due to COVID. After a sumptuous dinner it was a privilege to hear the Reverend Dr Michael Jensen, Rector of St Mark's Darling Point, speak to us so eloquently about music in his life, particularly the work of Johann Sebastian Bach.

.../2



What an absolute joy it was to be able to see people physically in the same room again, rather than just disembodied heads on a screen!

And yet here we are, only ten weeks since that dinner, New South Wales having been since ravaged by Omicron, (myself, my family and my choir included) reduced again to meeting virtually. I know I am certainly not the only one for whom COVID has put more of a strain on our lives than anything since the Second World War. How testing it has been for us as musicians to try to keep the flag flying, music running, when singing has been banned, and even church services have only been able to exist online.

However at the time of writing, and I say this hesitantly yet hopefully, Omicron seems to have maybe run its course in NSW and your committee has put together an ambitious and exciting series of events for 2022.

We do hope very much that you will be able to give your full support to them and attend in person and maybe bring a friend or two: if there's one thing that COVID-19 has taught us it is the importance of community. This - I think we'd all agree - is very difficult to replicate online!

I must let you know also that a couple of weeks ago Philip Reichardt and I travelled up to Brisbane where I chaired the national RSCM Council. More than half of the council felt unable to travel during these times, and I must tell you that we took the decision reluctantly to postpone for the third year the annual RSCM Winter School. I very much feel for our dear friends in Queensland, who have had immense disappointment for the third year running. They have and will again plan a superb winter school which deserves our full support.

We have invited Roger Sayer, the principal director of the 2022 Winter School to come out here in August this year to run workshops in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney with a view to furthering interest and whetting our appetite for the forthcoming 'Queensland inSpires' Winter School in 2023. We are currently working on details with Roger and it looks very exciting.

Having spoken of our exciting plans for this coming year I have to admit that it is with some trepidation as Proverbs 19:21 reminds us:

'many are the plans in a person's heart

but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails'.

So let us plan, pray and sing, but all the more at this time of great uncertainty in the world, fling ourselves onto our Rock of Ages.

Ross Cobb

Ross Cobb is the Chairman of the RSCM NSW Branch and President of RSCM Australia



Come and sing

STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

Saturday 2 April,
St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney



Tenor- Ben Oxley
Bass- David Watson
with St Andrew's Cathedral Choir
Sean Henderson, organ
Directed by Ross Cobb

12.30 - Workshop
4.30 - Performance

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BXPXT

We need your help : National Church Life Survey 2022

The National Church Life Survey (NCLS) is a quantitative survey of hundreds of thousands of church attenders, thousands of church leaders and thousands of churches in more than 20 Australian denominations (Catholic, Anglican and Protestant denominations) every census year since 1991.

Many parishes in our various denominations have recently or are about to ask parishioners to complete surveys for the current National Church Life Survey.

Your Branch Committee decided last year to commission a question for the Church Leader survey, one copy of which is completed by a senior representative of each participating local church. This is a different survey from the one which parishioners (church attenders) are invited to complete.

Having a question in the Church Leader survey represents a significant expenditure of our funds and so we would ask for your help in following up to see whether your church has sent in its completed Church Leader survey response.

The question we have commissioned asks about the kinds of musical activities which occur in your parish, and we hope will provide a rich source of information on which we can base future planning of branch activities.

Denominational Report

Uniting Church in Australia

I had a window into some musically creative work by UCA people when I joined a Christmas Carolfest last year. It was run by our local evening congregation but borrowed resources from near and far.

Readers of *Newsclaf* familiar with Anglican Evensong are more likely than most to know many settings of the song that Mary sang when entrusted with bearing Jesus (Lk 1:56-55). Glen Powell had just produced an energetic setting of his Magnificat for four women and piano. The video showed it presented in our local church at Burwood. It was great to hear fine, bold singing in that sanctuary, despite being unable to visit that space in person.

Uniting Mission and Education (UME) is the Synod (state-based) unit where Glen works, and I understand the special section [Uniting Creative Worship Resources](#) is largely his initiative. It is here you can find his Magnificat, and here that I was directed in order to follow up another

eyebrow raiser from the Christmas Carolfest. A young man from Leichhardt Uniting Church, Mikali Anagnostis, performed his song “God is Coming” with acoustic ensemble backing. The death of Lazarus is juxtaposed in the next verse with the ravage of bushfire after extended drought. In both cases, salvation is coming, but “coming just too late”. Yet the chorus is defiantly hopeful: “God is coming, God is coming, we won’t let the flame go out. We have seen it: change is coming: God is coming, and this light will not go out”. A bridge reflects on the witness of past saints: “Many hands hold this hope with me; some are certain, some in doubt. But in their eyes and voices is a light that won’t go out”. Then there’s a wonderful verse where the Saviour arrives to encounter, weep for, and raise Lazarus. The chorus returns in the second person: “You are coming, you are coming”. There’s a ‘bridge’ to follow – reflecting on regeneration of nature. A bridge? It’s the final section! But I think it’s aptly labelled. How can it be a coda when the last words rest on the submediant and assert faithful continuity: “this light will not go out”?

Nationally, there’s also a website just being built as a kind of directory of UCA songwriters. Unlike the defunct Songs That Unite, which aimed to be a song library indexed by theme and on a pay-per-item model, this will be a simple pointer to individual artists’ existing web sites, with perhaps a single page available to contributors who don’t have such a resource. Craig Mitchell is the main lead here.

Omicron Adaptations

I’ve noticed that Uniting Churches with a higher proportion of digitally-astute members are more likely to be conducting Sunday service via livestream only.

In contrast, people without access to such resources can be quite toey about seeing their church doors closed for extended periods, especially when official government prohibitions have been lifted and other churches are seen to be open and even sometimes carefully offering refreshment. Still, the conservative position delaying open house is understandable with stories like the 13 February [Background Briefing](#) episode revealing the impact of heightened Omicron cases on hospitals.

‘Hybrid’ church is the hardest to pull off successfully for all participants. It’s the most inclusive, but at a cost. A spoken message might go over well, but without professional attention, music is frequently diminished.

At St Stephen’s Macquarie Street, the focus was on being open rather than on livestreaming complete services. Music has always been central to ministry at SSMS, and during lockdown a big investment was made in infrastructure, both in organ improvements and in improving accessibility to the church with a lift. Heating, cooling, lighting and toilets have all been renewed to better welcome attenders, along with technology upgrades.

During open times but without congregational song, other opportunities were taken. To replace congregational hymns, St Stephen’s had instrumental voluntaries with some musicians who had missed out on playing at Friday Music, playing items during the service and each choral scholar performed a solo aria. They also sang shortened hymns (so the congregation wouldn’t get annoyed with not being able to join in) and organist Mark Quarmby played some hymn-based preludes throughout the service.

With the greater number allowed in 2021, the singers moved from the gallery to the front of the church. The choir at St Stephen's supports dedicated musicians with choral scholarships, but also includes other enthusiastic singers. A recruiting drive had seen some growth prior to the COVID outbreak, with a number of people who had no prior church connections. The choir reached 27 at one point.

With restrictions lifted, these newer people have not returned, but the choir remains at a solid number with the eight choral scholars and congregational volunteers. All the volunteers are currently tenors and altos, so balance is a challenge, although the choral scholars provide strong soprano and bass lines. Since the choir returned from its summer break at the end of January, a number of new singers (mostly altos and tenors) have joined the choir with an average of 22 choristers currently singing on Sunday mornings under the direction of Dr Huw Belling. The Church's Music Foundation is commissioning new choral works from young composers which will hopefully be premiered in the coming months.



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



Postscript

Congratulations to Mrs Heather Tredinnick of Bowral who was recently awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to music through choirs. Mrs Tredinnick has been involved with music throughout her life, beginning with church and community choirs, and continuing into a career as a music teacher for over 30 years. She is currently the choir conductor for the University of the Third Age (U3A) in Bowral and is also well-known for her crucial musical input to the Highland Singers, Southern Highlands Choirfest and Bowral Uniting Church.

Information and photo from <https://www.southernhighlandnews.com.au/story/7589478/meet-our-australia-day-bonours-recipients/>



In memoriam

Robyn Olliffe 10 Feb 1947 - 3 Jan 2022

Robyn was born and raised in Kingsgrove NSW, the only child of Harold and Eileen Brooke. She was introduced to the piano at age 3, and quickly developed a deep love and appreciation for music which would continue right throughout her life.

In 1959, Robyn sat the examination for entry into the Conservatorium of Music and was accepted. Upon completion she attained both her leaving certificate and Diploma of Music Education. Her first posting as a music teacher was to Gunnedah High School in 1968, where she developed a rich and wide-ranging music program by forming a choir, orchestra and brass band in addition to her regular classroom teaching. During this time she also continued her own studies, gaining her L. Mus. A. in Pianoforte (AMEB), and competed in numerous regional Eisteddfods in Tamworth and further afield.

Upon her return to Sydney, Robyn married John Olliffe in August of 1971 at St Thomas' Anglican Church in Kingsgrove where she had previously sung in the choir for many years.

In 1975, she gained her LTCL Performance Diploma in Piano and Flute, and later her ATCL Performance Diploma in Violin, all through Trinity College London.

Robyn and John eventually settled in South Turramurra, and in 1976, welcomed Lianne, their daughter, and in 1980, their son David. Whilst living in South Turramurra, they became part of the congregation of St Andrew's Uniting Church. For close to 20 years, Robyn regularly played the organ there and conducted the church choir, assisting both Rev. Colin Ford and later Rev. Paul Cameron.

Professionally, Robyn taught and directed musical programmes at a range of schools throughout Sydney, including Narwee, Forestville, Stanmore, St Ives, West Pymble and Bayview.

In 2000, after completing her Masters in Education, Robyn began a teaching position at Abbotsleigh School for Girls in Wahroonga which she enjoyed immensely. In addition to her classroom teaching, she conducted the choir and later on directed the infants' music programme.

During this time Robyn and John became part of the congregation of St James' Anglican Church in Turramurra, where she began conducting the choir. In 2013 Robyn joined the "Wesley Singers" as conductor and pianist, a local ladies' choir with a rich history dating back to 1958. In 2016, Robyn and John moved to the Anglicare Retirement Village in Castle Hill. Here Robyn continued sharing her talents by playing the organ and conducting the choir, then known as "The Village Singers". Robyn passed away peacefully at home on 3rd January 2022 at the age of 74 years.

Robyn was an extraordinarily gifted musician and educator, who was dedicated to learning and sharing her knowledge generously and humbly with all. She will be remembered for her positivity, optimism and her readiness to see the good in others. Her impact as an educator and director of music continues to live on in the lives of those she taught.

Robyn Olliffe was a member of RSCM NSW Branch since March 2005. *Newsclaf* thanks David Olliffe for sharing this tribute with us.



The richness of the Western liturgical music tradition is renewed in this collection of sacred music by Australian composers.

A DISTANT MUSIC

an ANTHOLOGY
of AUSTRALIAN
SACRED MUSIC



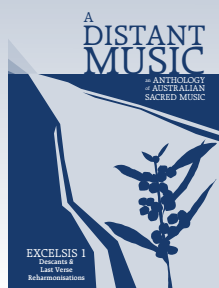
adistantmusic.com.au

A Distant Music is a new resource of sacred music by Australian composers. It draws inspiration from Multitude of Voyces' anthology series *Sacred Music by Women Composers* and is curated by church musicians Michael Leighton Jones, Daniel Mitterdorfer, Brooke Shelley and The Rev'd Christopher Waterhouse.

Vocal ensembles around Australia perform sacred music in the Western tradition by composers and arrangers mostly from the Northern Hemisphere. Yet this tradition has inspired many composers and arrangers in Australia, whose works are rarely performed or heard beyond their immediate environment. *A Distant Music* gathers these works from choir libraries and composers around Australia, and presents them for the rest of the world to explore and enjoy.

The first volume, *Excelsis 1*, is a collection of 25 descants and reharmonisations for hymns, with reproducible descant sheets. *A Distant Music* is an ongoing initiative. Future releases will include Mass settings, Anthems and Motets, Canticles and collections of Preces and Responses.

A Distant Music: Excelsis 1 is published by Crescendo Music Publications and is available for AU\$49.95 per copy from www.crescendomusicpubs.com.au. For volumes containing ensemble works, choirs will have the choice of purchasing whole printed volumes for their libraries, or PDF downloads of individual works.



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A Distant Music: Excelsis 1
Crescendo Music Publications
ISBN 979-0-9022611-8-0

cres<endo
music publications
crescendomusicpubs.com.au

“A Distant Music: Excelsis 1” reviewed

Published in October 2021, this useful book for organists and church choir directors is described as “the first instalment in a projected anthology of Australian sacred music.”

It consists of descants and/or reharmonisations of 25 traditional hymn tunes to be found (and hopefully still sung) in the majority of hymn books. Although none of the tunes themselves were written by Australians, the eighteen arrangers are already well known and respected in the field of Australian church music: Robert Boughen, Alistair Nelson, Peter Campbell, Walter Sutcliffe, Brooke Shelley, Philip Matthias, Michael Leighton Jones, Michael Fulcher, Peter Guy, David Drury, David Blunden, Graeme Morton, Philip Nicholls, Peter Nicholls, Ralph Morton, James Goldrick, Peter Jewkes, and Andrej Kouznetsov. Only one of these composers is female, no doubt reflecting the regrettable reality of the gender ratio of Australian musicians working in churches and cathedrals at a professional level.

It is usual practice for descants to be sung by a group of sopranos (or trebles) during the singing of the final verse of a hymn, with other voices singing in unison, where a grand and joyful conclusion is envisaged. Likewise, the reharmonisation in the organ part adds richness and variety - though still blending with the vocal part - and hopefully not causing the singing congregation any confusion. I enjoyed sight-reading these through on the organ, whilst attempting to sing along with the descant. As a confirmed alto, I was aware that my dulcet tones did not do them justice at all! The arrangements range from straightforward and conservative to more elaborate and florid.

An important and practical feature in the second half of the book is the provision of parts for the singers only, indicated by the header, “This page may be photocopied for use by the choir”. Each page provides melody line, with descant above, and the words of the final verse printed between. (As lyrics vary slightly in the many hymn books still in use, choir directors would need to check for any minor changes needed.)

The book concludes with interesting biographies of all the contributors.

A small number of items are just re-harmonisations without a descant. I believe that this book would also be useful to organists whose churches don't have a group of choristers confident to sing descants, as almost all arrangements contain sufficient musical interest to make an effective final verse on the organ. I'm looking forward to trying them out on my congregation soon.

Each item is arranged in alphabetical order of tune, followed by the first line of the hymn most commonly associated with it, for easy reference. Two of the hymns are given in two different keys. Printed on 61 pages of quality durable paper, it also sits comfortably on the music rest, and yes it stays open easily!

The editorial committee consisted of Michael Leighton Jones, Daniel Mitterdorfer, Brooke Shelley, and Christopher Waterhouse. We can look forward to future instalments in this significant and ambitious project to promote Australian sacred music. “Excelsis 1” is available at \$49.95 from

Crescendo Music Publications, based in Footscray, Victoria. Find them at www.crescendomusicpubs.com.au, or call 0414 648 837.

Even if you think that this book won't meet your needs, do check out the website and online store to see other interesting goodies on offer.

Heather Moen-Boyd

Heather Moen Boyd is the organist and music director at Scots Kirk Mosman and the Presbyterian Denominational Representative on the RSCM NSW Committee.



Latin Mass meets Tango!



Coro Austral, Sydney's specialist Spanish and Latin American choir, is about to present a sacred work that has been 2 years in the planning!

We originally scheduled the Australian Premiere of Argentinian composer **Martín Palmeri's** *MisaTango* (*Misa a Buenos Aires*) as part of our 10th anniversary celebrations in 2020. However, as we all know, Covid took over and everything – particularly everything choral – was affected, so our plans were put on indefinite hold.

We are now delighted to announce that we will perform this magnificent work, conducted by Artistic Director Margot McLaughlin, in the beautiful Grand Hall of Mosman Art Gallery in Sydney at 3pm on Sunday 10th April.

Composed in 1995/6, *MisaTango* received its first performance in Buenos Aires in 1996, and was the opening piece for the 2013 International Festival of Sacred Music and Art in Rome in a concert in honour of Pope Francis. Although it is performed extensively in Europe and the Americas – and there is even a regular *MisaTango Festival* in Vienna – it has never been performed in Australia – until now!

MisaTango combines the Roman Catholic Latin mass with music in the *nuevo tango* style developed by Astor Piazzolla, who revolutionised the tango by incorporating elements from jazz and classical music. The work can be performed with full orchestra, a small ensemble, or solo piano. Palmeri has maintained the harmonic and melodic characteristics of the tango with the instrumentalists, giving the singers full liberty to just 'sing the mass'.

Guest artists for this performance are pianist Tom McCorquodale, a tango specialist and former member of *TangoOz*, who established the quintet *Barrio Del Tango* in 2019; and Colombian-born soprano Paola Monroy, a most versatile singer and passionate advocate for Latin American music, who is also a co-founder of, and singer with, MIA (*Music from Iberoamérica in Australia*).

MisaTango will be complemented with performances of choral and solo works, including tangos by Carlos Gardel, recognised as the 'father of tango', and by the renowned Astor Piazzolla.

Coro Austral is a Sydney-based auditioned chamber choir with a wide repertoire, from Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American music through to well-known Western mainstream classical. As

well as presenting regular concerts, we have performed at the *Blackbeath Choir Festival* and as guest choir at *Australian Jewish Choral Festivals*, and in 2017 we undertook a performance tour through Cuba.

We also regularly participate in Easter, Advent and Christmas Services at St Augustine's Catholic Church in Balmain and St Joseph's Catholic Church in Rozelle. Both churches have excellent acoustics, and our participation in these services reflects the strong relationship we have developed with the parish through rehearsing in the beautiful and historic St Augustine's Hall, the original sandstone church of the Balmain parish.



We are always on the lookout for experienced choral musicians to audition as permanent or casual singers. Ability to speak Spanish is not required, but you should be able to read music and enjoy exploring new repertoire, language and cultures.

David Goodwin, Administrator, *Coro Austral*

Mobile: 0410 505 562

Website: <http://www.coroaustral.org>

Coro Austral presents *Tango* at 3pm, Sunday 10th April
Grand Hall, Mosman Art Gallery, 1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman
Entry by donation. Reservations essential through [Trybooking](#)

St Mark's organ scholar aims to inspire spiritual growth



Organ Scholarship recipient interview: Stacey Yang

Stacey Yang commenced her St Mark's Anglican Church Darling Point Organ Scholarship in November 2021. She was thrilled to be given this opportunity, commenting: "The timing of the scholarship offer was amazing. After the Covid lockdowns and the interrupted performance opportunities, it has been wonderful to be able to play the organ publicly again and use my skill to benefit others." Stacey is passionate about her music ministry: "Through playing beautiful music I hope to create not only positive feelings, but to enhance people's experience of church. I want to encourage people to have a better faith, strength and hope."

Stacey is enjoying playing for the St Mark's community and feels fortunate to be working with Director of Music, Dr William Clark OAM, and also the St Mark's Choir. The Anglican church liturgy is another weekly highlight.

Stacey has been playing the organ for 13 years. She was attracted to the organ because it is "a sophisticated, rare and inspirational instrument and because of the surrounding beauty (architecture) of the actual organ." When asked what she enjoys most about playing the organ, Stacey shared: "The ability to explore new sounds and develop a massive and diverse repertoire." In her opinion, being a good organist involves a diverse range of skills. In her case this involves musical skills (such as conducting, singing, improvisation and the ability to work with a choir) and an understanding of language, religious and history disciplines.



Stacey is currently completing her doctoral degree (organ performance and literature) at Eastman School of Music USA. She also works as a piano accompanist (collaborative pianist and opera teacher) and is the pianist for the Sydney Male Choir. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, singing and language.

Come and enjoy listening to Stacey's organ playing during St Mark's weekly 8:00am Choral Communion service. Stacey will also play at a scholarship recital at St Mark's later in the year.

Please visit www.stmarksdp.org for more details



The Cathedral Singers are very pleased to be back rehearsing. We sang at St John's Gordon at 9.30am on Sunday 20th February in a service which was our Re-dedication for 2022.

We look forward to being able to sing at other churches again this year and already have some dates planned. Other churches are still understandably uncertain of making a commitment.

After so many months of not being able to sing as a choir, we suddenly had opportunity at the end of last year and sang six different times, whether singing carols or Christmas services. We were very blessed to be able to do so. Services include:

Month	Date	Time	Event	Venue
March	25	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Holy Spirit North Ryde
April	15	2.30pm	Stainer's "Crucifixion"	St John's Gordon
May	29	3.30pm	Short concert	St Jude's Bowral
May	29	4.00pm	Evensong	St Jude's Bowral

We are now very keen to get back to normal and to encourage other choristers to join us.

We rehearse once a week on Wednesday and sing services 2-3 times per month

If anyone is interested, please contact Jan Kneeshaw, for more details.

Jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au

9144 4915

0411 785 117



Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Congratulations on his OAM award to Mr Charles Quinton Clark of the Queensland Branch of RSCM



ST MARY'S SINGERS

Join a cathedral choir today

St Mary's Singers is the resident volunteer choir of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

Our repertoire features many of the great treasures of the sacred music canon including Mozart and Haydn masses and anthems and motets from the Renaissance to modern works by the greatest composers. The choir also sings Latin chants and psalms.

We provide liturgical music on the second Saturday of each month for the 5.30pm Vespers followed by the 6pm vigil mass at St Mary's Cathedral and on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter, also presenting concerts and Come and Sing events throughout the year.

Rehearsals are weekly on Monday nights during academic term time between 6.30pm-8pm in the cathedral precincts.

Numbers fluctuate but membership sits around 50 voices.

Members pay a yearly subscription fee of \$280. This can be paid annually or termly.

Membership is always open, and we are actively seeking and welcoming new members. We are friendly and welcoming and are here for our collective love of choral singing. We strive for a high standard.

There is no audition process, but singers should have good music reading skills and be able to sing well and in tune.

You don't have to be a Roman Catholic, but you will need to respect the traditions of the Catholic faith to participate in the liturgical life of St Mary's Cathedral.

If you are interested in joining, you can come along for a month to experience the rehearsal process and a Cathedral mass service after which you will be asked to pay the membership fees.

If you can't commit to being part of the regular choir, can join occasionally when we invite nonmembers to join is for special concerts and to sing at



Christmas. To stay abreast of these happenings, we recommend subscribing to ***The Missive***. This is our weekly newsletter, and you can subscribe to it whether or not you are a member. Sign up via our website stmaryssingers.com.

You will find out about concerts and all choir news through ***The Missive*** and our Facebook page.

Please consider joining St Mary's Singers for the opportunity to learn from Australia's finest church musicians, to be able to sing in the splendour of St Mary's Cathedral Sydney and to make new friends who share your passion for high-quality choral music. If you are interested, please email our membership secretary Lydia Merrill and request an application form and member information: merrylyd3@gmail.com



The Choir of
Christ Church St Laurence
Railway Square, Sydney

Sam Allchurch
Director of Music

David Tagg
Organist

After another 12 months of musical change and disruption and upheaval, the Choir of Christ Church St Laurence is starting to return to some of our more ambitious (and recently neglected) repertoire, and to plan further into the future, always with our congregation's and choristers' best interests at heart. Just as parishioners are required to wear masks in church, the choir is doing likewise, including while singing. Although this does not allow for ideal music-making, we recognise it as a useful way to continue protecting ourselves against COVID while also offering solidarity with our listeners (who tell us they enjoy singing in masks about as much as we do!).

As usual, our recent Christmas celebrations were book-ended by the Parish's Advent and Epiphany Carols Services. Just three days before Christmas, and on a minimal schedule of rehearsals, we also had the great joy of being able to perform *Messiah*: the largest choral undertaking in the Parish for over 12 months, and one that was very warmly received by both the 'COVID-full' house in the church and the several hundred ticket-holders watching at home via the Australian Digital Concert Hall. It seems almost inconceivable but our subsequent Christmas celebrations – with their musical menu of Mozart (*Spatzenmesse*), Darke and Marenzio – felt almost like an anti-climax after that!

In the second half of this year, we plan to complete our current recording project that, like so much else, was paused during 2021. It will be the latest in a series that follows the cycle of the church year and will feature music for the three great post-Easter feast-days: Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity. We will also be premiering a new set of evening canticles by Australian composer Andrew Ford.

This setting of the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis has been supported by a commissioning circle that includes the Anglican Cathedrals in Brisbane, Perth and Hobart, Christ Church North Adelaide and Trinity College Melbourne. Finally, we hope to be able to enjoy our also-postponed tour to Hobart. We are looking forward to the opportunity to sing and travel together, not least as this trip was itself planned as a replacement for our previously-cancelled European tour (!).

The full schedule for the Parish's 2022 Organ Recital series is currently being finalised, but the first recital for the year will be held on Sunday 20 February at 5.30pm in the church. Samuel Giddy

(Senior Organ Scholar at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney) will present a selection of music by J.S. Bach, Bartok, Franck and Widor. Entry will be by 'note donation'. Recitals are usually held on the third Sunday evening of the month, followed by Solemn Evensong at 6.30pm.

The Choir of Christ Church St Laurence sings at the Parish's High Mass (10.30am) and Solemn Evensong (6.30pm) services each Sunday, as well as at selected weekday feasts. The scale of the music within each of these liturgies continues to be shaped by the NSW Health guidelines. All of our services are COVID-safe events, and everyone is welcome.

Michelle Imison

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

Music at St James' King St

It wasn't quite the Summer we were expecting.

Thankfully, our Advent and Christmas services were able to take place as planned, despite the looming shadow of Omicron. Sadly, the January orchestral masses we had planned were postponed, but we have every reason to be confident they can be performed later this year. With any luck, the commissioned *Mass of St James'* by Gabriel Jackson can be performed on St James' Day (as had been intended in 2020). In their place during February were Haydn's ever popular '*Little organ mass*' and the *Communion Service in G* of the 'other Jackson' (actually, the original), Francis Jackson. This performance was in acknowledgement of Francis' death in January 2022 at the very impressive age of 104. He was Director of Music at York Minster for 36 years, where he succeeded Edward Bairstow, and his contributions to British church music have been widely recognised.

Because of the uncertainty of the last two months, I'm not in the position to give you details of upcoming choral concerts and special services this coming year. But the Lunchtime Concert series has recommenced in-person and online. And I can tell you that after Easter we will be resuming Bach Cantata services, and there will be a choral concert series this year. Please check in with <https://www.sjks.org.au/music/whats-on/> or follow St James' on <https://www.facebook.com/stjameskingstreet/> to find out about upcoming events.

I do want to draw your attention to the opportunity to audition for the St James' Singers. This volunteer choir continues to play an essential role in the liturgy of St James', and it provides a musical outlet for its members that can be hard to find elsewhere during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Singers rehearse and perform fortnightly, and their musical repertoire is expanded from what it was pre-COVID, because they are now regularly singing at Choral Eucharists and Evensongs. Anyone interested should contact me, Alistair Nelson, at organist@sjks.org.au or 8227 1308.

Alistair Nelson

Alistair Nelson is Organist at St James'

A word from Rev John Bunyan

FREE, MOSTLY AS NEW, HYMNOLOGY &c.

A collection of books related to hymns etc will be available from my house.

Most books are as new, some new, all free although donations welcome. They notably include J. R. Watson's *Annotated Anthology of Hymns* and *The English Hymn: A Critical and Historical Study*, Nicholas Temperley's two volume *Music of the English Parish Church*, and *The Harvard University Hymn Book* (1st, 3rd, and 5th editions). And *Glory to God: A Companion* by well-known hymn writer &c., Carl P. Daw whom I have heard speak on occasion. Although a companion to the hymn book of the Presbyterian Church (USA) – at whose San Francisco seminary I studied long ago, this is the most useful commentary of which I am aware, of much practical value for musical directors, organists, and ministers especially in that it includes for every hymn "Performance suggestions and Liturgical Use". I should like to find a church or a choir that in due course would like to have this collection.

Available now are (1) many 100s of other Christian books, especially historical, biographical, and liturgical. And (2) some 100s of non-religious non-fiction of various categories from science and conservation to politics and poetry. And (3) some special *collections* for which lists are available – Authorised Version and Biblical, Scottish, military, Learning Latin, Royal Family, diarist Francis Kilvert, poet R. S. Thomas, and British India, &c. Again, most are as new, some new, some rare, many recently published, all free although donations welcome.

Moore College took a van-load of books not in its marvellous library and Mary Andrews College followed but great numbers remain. The only ones for which a reasonable payment may be suggested are (4) a number of beautiful, new gift books, mostly leather bound, mainly Bibles and Prayer Books, plus a box of first editions (e.g. 1984).

It would help me, at 86, of course to find homes for these; my three brothers all have serious illnesses and distant cannot visit, let alone assist in any way. But I hope some of these books could help schools, students and ordinands, churches and charitable groups, parish stalls and book fairs, particularly anyone in need.

If you can, please pass this note on to others who may be interested.

Contact : PO Box N109, Campbelltown North, 2560 or 02.46.272.586 or bunyanj@tpg.com.au

(or, only if any problem with the latter, my hospital office email, john.bunyan@health.nsw.gov.au).

My house, "Colenso Corner", 7 Richard Avenue, Campbelltown is accessible by bus or taxi as well as car.

A word from Sister Marie Levey rsj

My book, *The Place of the Kyriale*, is now available as an ebook on two platforms:

Amazon kindle: https://www.amazon.com.au/Place-Kyriale-Ordinary-Catholic-History-ebook/dp/B09RK37CMB/ref=sr_1_1?crid=PESNQDXKXPY3&keywords=The+Place+of+the+Kyriale&qid=1644891806&srefix=the+place+of+the+kyriale%2Caps%2C376&sr=8-1

Apple iBooks: <https://books.apple.com/au/book/the-place-of-the-kyriale-the-ordinary-of/id1609547149>

The book also appears on the **Paulist Press** website with a link to the two platforms. <https://secure.stpauls.com.au/strathfield/the-place-of-the-kyriale-the-ordinary-of-mass-in-catholic-history-liturgy-and-music.html>

Of course it is also available anytime in hard copy in hard copy price (plus postage if required) from The Shop at Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney.

Thank you to those who supported its production.

Marie T Levey rsj

Marie T Levey rsj is Patron of The Gregorian Schola of Sydney



MUSIC @ ST PAUL'S
St Paul's Choir

LOVE TO SING?

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING
THE MUSICAL TREASURES OF THE CHURCH?**

The St Paul's Choir has been providing quality choral music for nearly 150 years in the beautiful Edmund Blacket church of St Paul's Burwood.

The choir's repertoire spans over 1000 years from Gregorian chant through to the music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

If you are interested in singing the musical treasures of the Church, there are currently some vacancies in the Choir.
Some choral experience and sight-reading ability is preferred.

For more information, or to find out how you can support the music at St Paul's, please contact the Director of Music, David Russell (music@stpaulsburwood.org.au)

A Concert of Pilgrimage and Peace

In memory of the world-wide victims of COVID-19

Sunday 27 March 2022 5.00pm
St Paul's Anglican Church, Burwood

THE MATER CHORALE

Michael Deasey OAM FRSCM - Conductor

Mark Quarmby - Organist

Andrew Goodwin - Guest Soloist

Duration approx. 1 hour

Donations, in note currency, welcome at the door for St Paul's ministry outreach

Friday, 29 April - Sunday, 1 May Haydn's Creation



224 years after its premiere, Sydney Chamber Choir joins the **Australian Haydn Ensemble** for the first Australian period-instrument performance of Haydn's magnificent oratorio *The Creation*. Thrilling orchestral colours, mighty choruses and lilting arias from a genius at the height of his powers.

Conducted by Roland Peelman, there will be two performances as part of the **Canberra International Music Festival** and one performance at **City Recital Hall, Sydney**.



CORO
AUSTRAL

Tango by Willem Haenraets

Artistic Director
Margot McLaughlin

Tango

Featuring the **Australian Premiere** of
MisaTango (*Misa a Buenos Aires*) - **Martín Palmeri**

with works by **Carlos Gardel, Astor Piazzolla** and more
Soprano **Paola Monroy** Piano **Thomas McCorquodale**

3pm, Sunday 10th April 2022

Mosman Art Gallery, 1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman

Entry by donation
Reservations essential
COVIDsafe conditions apply

Enquiries: 0410 505 562
www.trybooking.com/BXHFN
www.coroaustral.org



On behalf of ANCA we are very pleased to announce that the inaugural ANCA Research Conference has been rescheduled for Friday 29th and Saturday 30th April 2022 online.

We look forward to starting an exciting new conversation around informing choral best practice within our community.

The conference is an opportunity to bring together choral directors, music teachers, voice practitioners, singing teachers, and researchers in a collegial, informative conference setting.

The format of the conference will be a series of online sessions spread across the two days. You can book for either one or both days. More information on the presenters and their presentations will be displayed shortly here <https://choralfest.org.au/research-conference-2022-sydney/>

To book a ticket for the conference [click here](#)

Aleta King (ANCA Research Chair, Conference Convenor)

Debra Shearer Dirie (Conference Convenor)

ANCA NSW / ACT committee

For all other enquiries regarding the Research Conference, please email researchchair@anca.org.au

A poster for St James' Lunchtime Concerts. The background is a grayscale image of the St James' Church facade. The text is centered and reads: 'St James' Lunchtime Concerts' in a large, elegant serif font; 'Supporting Sydney's Musicians' in a smaller serif font; 'Wednesdays 1:15pm, \$10' in a bold serif font; 'Enjoy performances by pianists, organists, singers, solo instrumentalists, chamber ensembles & choirs' in an italicized serif font; 'Attend in person or view online for up to a week following the concert' in an italicized serif font; 'All proceeds go to the musicians and livestreaming costs' in a small serif font; and the website 'sjks.org.au/music/lunchtime-concerts/' in a small serif font. At the bottom is the 'S^T.JAMES' Music' logo.

St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney
7pm, Good Friday, 15 April 2022

MESSIAH

Handel



Susannah Lawergren

soprano

Russell Harcourt

alto

Brad Cooper

tenor

Christopher Richardson

bass

St Andrew's Cathedral Choir

The Ancient Academy of St Andrew's

Ross Cobb - conductor

www.trybooking.com/BYHXT

Tickets \$15 - \$90

7pm, Good Friday, 15 April 2022

MESSIAH

Handel

Handel's immortal masterpiece is performed in the atmospheric setting of Australia's oldest Cathedral, by Australia's oldest Choir.

A true Sydney tradition on Good Friday- the world-famous choir of men and boys are joined by a fantastic team of international soloists; Susannah Lawergren: Soprano (Australia/UK), Russell Harcourt, Australia), Brad Cooper: Tenor, (Germany /Australia) and Christopher Richardson: Bass (Australia), and are accompanied by the Ancient Academy of St Andrew's on period instruments, directed by Ross Cobb. The Concert is introduced by the Dean, Sandy Grant. Messiah was written for the choirs of Dublin's St Patrick's and Christchurch Cathedrals to sing together at Easter 1741 conducted by Handel himself.

Come and hear this extraordinary music performed as he would have heard it- sung by a choir of boys and men with professional soloists.

St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney

tel. 02 92651661

sydneycathedralmusic@gmail.com

www.sydneycathedral.com



www.trybooking.com/BYHXT



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH Burwood



CHORAL EVENSONG 2022

5:00pm on the following Sundays:

27 February – *Sesquicentenary Festal Service*

12 June – *Bellringers' Service*

3 July – *Octave of Sts Peter & Paul*

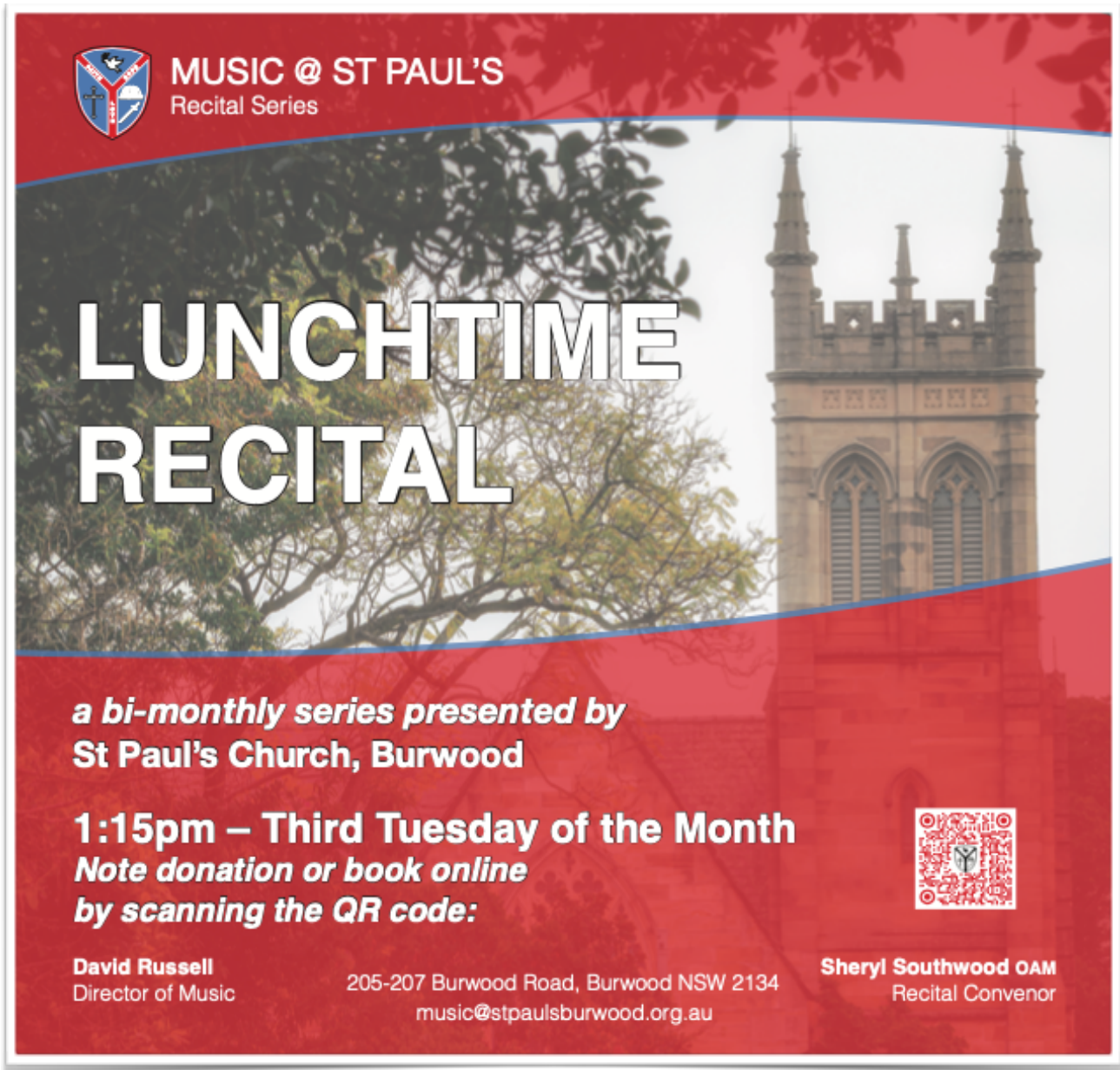
24 July – *First Evensong of St James*

2 October – *Octave of St Michael & All Angels*

20 November – *Christ the King*

Refreshments served in the Parish Hall following each service

205-207 Burwood Road Burwood NSW 2134 (02) 9747 4327 info@stpaulsburwood.org.au
Fr James Collins OAM Rector



MUSIC @ ST PAUL'S
Recital Series

LUNCHTIME RECITAL

a bi-monthly series presented by
St Paul's Church, Burwood

1:15pm – Third Tuesday of the Month
Note donation or book online
by scanning the QR code:

David Russell
Director of Music

205-207 Burwood Road, Burwood NSW 2134
music@stpaulsburwood.org.au

Sheryl Southwood OAM
Recital Convenor




A **CD** commemorating the installation of the 2019 South Island Organ Company organ at St John's Gordon has been recorded, entitled *Noteworthy* is available for sale from the St John's Gordon website at <http://stjohnsgordon.org.au/st-johns-music-association/> or for download or sale at <https://soundwright.com.au/?product=noteworthy>. The CD features music by J.S. Bach, Dubois, Guilmant, Handel, Howells, McKern, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams, and others; played by Dr Brett McKern. A commemorative booklet including information on the organ and music with many beautiful photos of the organ is included.

A **booklet** entitled ***A History of the Music and Organs of the Anglican Parish of St John the Evangelist, Gordon*** has been produced. By Dr Brett McKern, it chronicles the parish music from early records to recent times, with detailed chapters about and many photographs of the organs. It is 92 A4 pages including colour photographs.

The CD and booklet are \$20 each or both can be purchased together for \$35 plus postage and packaging. An order form is at the end of this issue of Newsclaf.



St John's Music Association Inc.

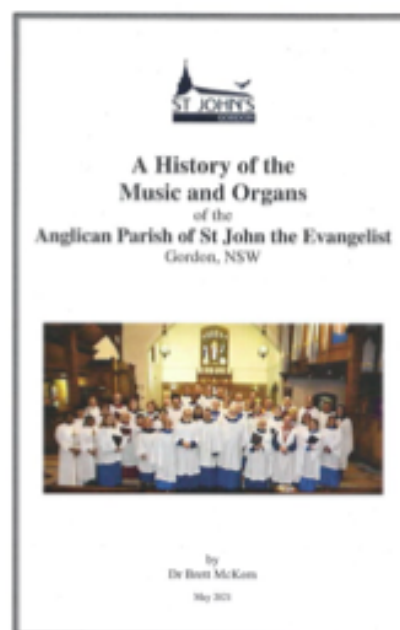
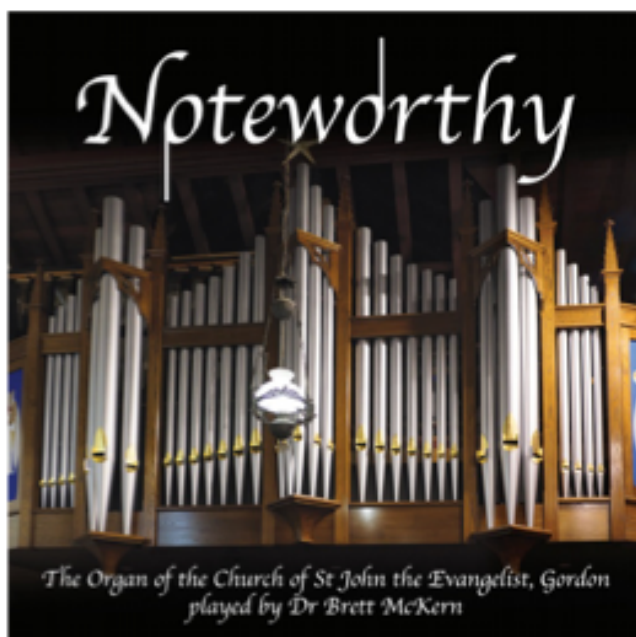
ABN 42 391 040 657

PO Box 295
GORDON NSW 2072

E: musicassociation@stjohnsgordon.org.au

St John's Music Association announces the release of two works by Dr Brett McKern, St John's Director of Music from 2008 to 2021:

- A CD album of organ music entitled *Noteworthy* played on our new organ
- a comprehensive History of Music at St John's Gordon.



You can now purchase these works by completing this order form and emailing or sending it to the address below together with your payment.

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

		Price	Quantity	Subtotal \$
CD <i>Noteworthy</i>	Collected from the church	\$20.00		
CD <i>Noteworthy</i>	Posted	\$25.00		
History booklet	Collected from the church	\$20.00		
History booklet	Posted	\$27.00		
CD and History	Collected from the church	\$35.00		
CD and History	Posted	\$47.00		
TOTAL				

- ☐ Cheque payable to St John's Music Association
- ☐ EFTPOS
- ☐ Direct credit to the Association's bank account BSB 032-089 A/c 274644.
 ○ Please include your name in the description box.

Contact details for St John's Music Association:

Email: musicassociation@stjohnsgordon.org.au

Treasurer: Dennis Wood M: 0414 462 201

PO Box 295, GORDON NSW 2072

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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.*

COVID-19 STATEMENT

RSCM NSW Branch is committed to the principle that all people who participate in church music activities should be able to do so in safety and without compromising their physical or emotional wellbeing.

As well as being our God-given responsibility to those whom he has placed over us, in the interests of our health and safety during this time of COVID-19, your committee urges all members to follow strictly the requirements of the health authorities and also the guidance provided by our church leaders.

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Friday 29 April 2022