

Newsclaf

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From the Editor

*... as we lift up our voices and sing to the Christ Child,
the Heavenly King*

This slim edition of Newsclaf comes to you with the best wishes of your committee in this joyful season.

This issue was to have included an in depth interview with a famous Sydney church musician which Ross Cobb conducted earlier this year, however some final editing was required and so we have that article to look forward to, hopefully in the first edition of the New Year.

Due to personal commitments, I will be retiring from the Committee at the next Annual General Meeting but I would like to thank the many readers who have contributed articles, advertisements and letters to the editor over the last seven years that I have been Newsclaf editor.

Pamela Summers

Pamela Summers sings with the Mater Chorale and the choir of St Swithun's Anglican Church Pymble



R S M

Royal School of Church Music
AUSTRALIA
New South Wales Branch



Denominational Report

Uniting Church in Australia

Leichhardt Uniting Church has shared a policy, expressed mainly as a series of questions to ask when deciding on songs to include in and exclude from worship. It's gathered a lot of interest and approval from various places.

Leichhardt identifies as an LGBTIQA+ affirming, feminist, justice-oriented Uniting Church congregation which seeks to be anti-racist. Here are the questions. The policy, while copyright, is free to distribute with appropriate attribution:

<https://www.leichhardtuniting.org.au/music-curation>



When considering a song for LUC repertoire we ask questions including:

Musicality

- How **singable** is this song by a congregation?
 - How easy will it be to learn and follow for those who aren't musically trained, and will it sit comfortably within the average person's vocal range?
- Will we be able to effectively achieve a rendition of this song with the **instruments** that we usually have available?
 - Some songs may be beautiful, but because of production style and instrumentation, are difficult to replicate or translate to our specific worship context, with our musicians and instruments.

Theology

- Does this song have an **individual or community** focus?
 - Does it use 'I' language or 'we' language?
 - Generally, for worship services, we prefer songs with a community focus that unify us. Sometimes, 'I' songs can work well in a reflective context.
- Who is being **addressed** in this song/whose **perspective** is this song from?
 - Are we singing to God (e.g. 'the Earth is Yours'), or is it Jesus/God singing to us (e.g. 'Come As You Are')?
 - Generally, we seek songs that are from our human perspective addressing God – we sing in worship. Less often, we sing songs as God/Jesus talking to someone.
- What **language** does this song use for God and us?
 - Is it masculine (He/Him/His, mankind) or gender-neutral? (It is sometimes possible to make small changes to this for our context without impacting the flow of the song)

- Does the song use the language of one gender to describe God, or multiple?
- Does it use gendered language that implies power-over e.g. 'Lord', 'King', 'Judge'?
- Generally, we seek songs that refer to God as God (rather than a gendered pronoun, because God is beyond gender), and that describe us as being a myriad of gender expressions.
- What is this song saying about the idea of **salvation**? What is it saying about Jesus and humans in this context?
 - Is it reflecting substitutionary atonement or similar theology?
 - Some of the language that this theology commonly uses refers to Jesus as "perfect" or "sinless" or "saviour" and humans as "sinners", "guilty" etc. Other penal substitutionary atonement words include "wrath", "blood", "satisfied" and "sacrifice."
 - That is, is there an unhelpful binary between perfect divinity and sinful humanity in this song?
 - Generally, we seek songs that are rooted in the inherent beloved-ness of every person, and in non-violent atonement theology.
- Does this song reflect our belief that **faith is to be lived out**?
 - Does it call us into the journey of discipleship beyond Sunday worship?
 - Does it call us to do justice as an act of love?
 - How does this song describe the realm/kingdom of God?
 - Does it value a global citizenry, and a humility that demonstrates that if we serve the will of God, we will be about peace and justice, not war and violence? Do the lyrics include the meek, invite the lonely, and resist the colonizing oppressor?
 - fortresses. It may feel great to be on the side of a victorious army, but it means there is a people who are conquered, rather than a world in which war and conquest are defeated. We must remember that Jesus generally did not identify with conquerors.
 - Generally, we seek songs that do not only draw us inward, but outward and forward as an expression of devotion and discipleship.

Other

- **Who is this song by**, and what contexts might this song have been used in before?
 - We need to be aware that songs can be trauma triggers for some people if they have been sung in harmful spaces (e.g., some in our congregation have had negative experiences with mega-churches). This doesn't necessarily dictate whether we use the song or not but is an important consideration.

- What identities are represented in our choice of songwriters overall? Is there a trend toward cis-het white men, or is it more representative of the wonderful diversity within our congregation? What contexts do these songwriters come from? What theologies have formed them?
- What is the **mood** of this song and how can we envisage it being used in worship?
 - Reflective/contemplative vs call to action vs celebration.
 - Does it correspond to a part of the liturgy, or liturgical year?
- What is the **memory/legacy** of this song?
 - Why is this song so well loved and cherished? Is there a story or tradition that makes this song extra special? Is it possible that this song is something of a 'sacred cow'?
- How might this song and its message be received by different sorts of **newcomers** to the congregation? Or people from diverse backgrounds?
 - If a song comes from a different context to our own, will it be led authentically, or might it be performed as cultural appropriation?
 - Does this song use nationalistic or militaristic language/imagery?
 - e.g. warfare, victory, soldiers, battle,

© August 2022 (approved by LUC Church Council - 14 August 2022)

V1.1 (edited 24 August 2022)

With thanks to Gabi Cadenhead, Sophie Van Dijk and Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White



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

Events

The Cathedral Singers

- where the choir will be in December 2022 -



Sunday	18	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Gordon
Tuesday	20	6.30pm	Carol singing	Forestville RSL



THE RADIO COMMUNITY CHEST'S
81st Annual Presentation

HANDEL
Messiah
2022

RADIO COMMUNITY CHEST

COMBINED CHURCH CHOIRS • GRAND ORGAN • ORCHESTRA

SYDNEY TOWN HALL
Saturday 17 December 2022 – 3.00 pm
Sunday 18 December 2022 – 3.00 pm

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

Conductor
TIM CHUNG

Organist
MARK QUARMBY

Soprano
LANA KAINS

Contralto
ELLENA HICKS

Tenor
ALEXANDER YOUNG

Bass
JEREMY BOULTON

TICKETS
City Recital Hall – 2 Angel Place
(02) 8256 2222
www.cityrecitalhall.com/whats-on/events/handels-messiah

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.handelsmessiah.org.au

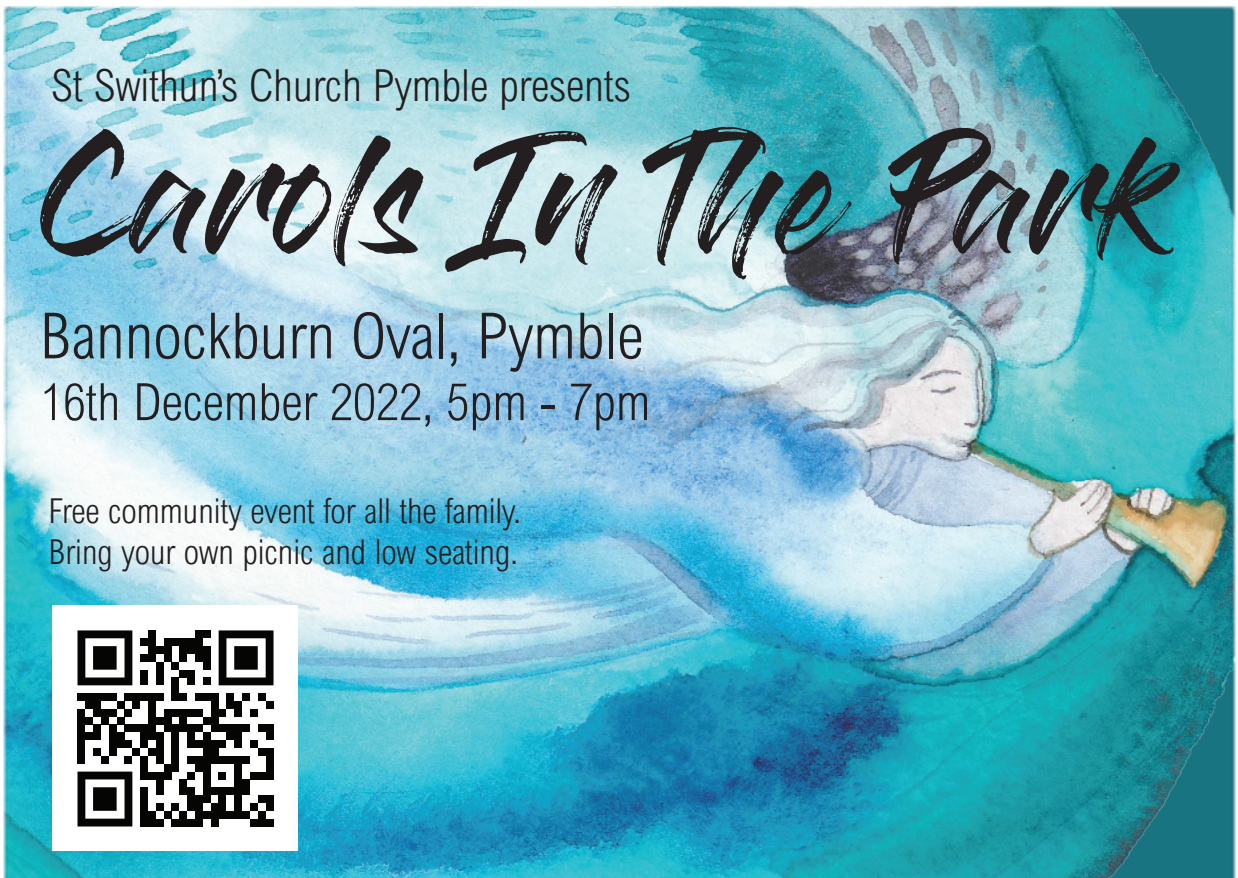
CITY OF SYDNEY

St Swithun's Church Pymble presents

Carols In The Park

Bannockburn Oval, Pymble
16th December 2022, 5pm - 7pm

Free community event for all the family.
Bring your own picnic and low seating.



THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
PROUDLY PRESENTS

A CHORAL
CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION 2022

A CONCERT FEATURING
THE ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND SINFONIA AUSTRALIS
WITH MUSIC BY BACH, HANDEL, LAURIDSEN AND RUTTER,
AND FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS.



FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER

BOOK NOW AT
www.cathedralchoir.sydney/accc
or (02) 9220 0481





Please join us for

CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S BIRCHGROVE

Sun Dec 11 6.00pm
Lessons and Carols
Cathedral Singers

Sat Dec 24 5.00pm
Christingle (Children's)
service

Sat Dec 24 7.00pm
Christmas Eve service

Sun Dec 25 9.30am
Christmas Day service

www.stjohnsbalmmain.org.au
125 Birchgrove Road Birchgrove



Christmas Services

Saturday 24th December

5pm Family Christmas Celebration
10pm Christmas Communion

Sunday 25th December

8am Traditional Communion
10am Contemporary Christmas Celebration

St Swithun's Pymble | Cnr Telegraph Rd and Merrivale Rd, Pymble | swiz.org.au 9488 7377



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR AT ANY
OF OUR SERVICES. WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!

Friday 16 December

7pm - Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18 December

5.30pm - Beer and Carols

Christmas Eve

4pm - All Ages Christmas
8pm - Jazz Christmas
11pm - Choral Communion

Christmas Day

8am - Choral Communion
10am - All Ages Christmas



For more information, please visit
<https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on>

ST MARK'S
ANGELICAN CHURCH DARLING POINT

1 GREENOAKS AVENUE, DARLING POINT
STMARKSDP.ORG PH 02 9363 3657

From Advent to Christmas

**A SERVICE OF
READINGS AND CAROLS**

with
The Mater Chorale



The Chapel of the Good Shepherd
Cardinal Freeman Village, Ashfield

Saturday, 17 December 2022, 5pm

Christmas Eve and Day in the Anglican Church in Hunters Hill

Christmas Eve for All Ages

6:00pm 24th December @ All Saints'.
Includes Nativity Play, Holy Communion
and carols.

Christmas Eve by Candlelight

9:00pm 24th December @ All Saints'.
Includes Holy Communion and carols.

Christmas Day Holy Communion

8:00am Holy Communion @ St Mark's, or
10:00am Holy Communion @ All Saints'.



All Saints' Church
Ambrose St

St Mark's Church
Figtree Rd

www.aphh.com.au
02 98172167



Sunday December 18th

8am (St Mark's) & 10am (All Saints')
Fourth Sunday of Advent & Blessing of
"Christingles" for children.

Sunday 8am @ St
Mark's Church
Figtree Rd

Sunday 10am @
All Saints' Church
Ambrose St

www.aphh.com.au
02 98172167




 THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF
CHRIST CHURCH ST LAURENCE
 RAILWAY SQUARE, SYDNEY | CONSECRATED 1845

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

2022

SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS EVE
 11.30PM
 SOLEMN MIDNIGHT MASS

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS DAY
 7.30AM EUCHARIST
 9.00AM SUNG EUCHARIST
 10.30AM SOLEMN HIGH MASS




CHRISTMAS @ ST PAUL'S

Sunday 18 December
 5:00pm **Carol Service**

CHRISTMAS EVE
 Saturday 24 December
 9:30pm **Choral Eucharist**

CHRISTMAS DAY
 Sunday 25 December
 9:00am **Choral Eucharist**

Fr James Collins OAM
 Rector



Summer Festival of Church Music



St Andrew's Church, Cambridge

Friday 20th January ~ Sunday 22nd January 2023

DIRECTED BY:

Neil Shroff, MNZM, B Ed, FLCM, ARSCM, LTCL.

CO-DIRECTOR:

Paul V Ellis, MNZM, President RSCMNZ, Mus B, Dip Mus,
ARCO, FTCL, LRAM, Dip Tchg, ACert, CM, FNZAO, FRSCM.

CHAPLAIN:

The Reverend Liam Phillips, BApTh, Dip CS, Dip PA

Director - Neil Shroff

Neil first became involved in church music when he played for his first service aged 12. He took over as choirmaster in his local church at the age of 18. He received a QE 2 bursary for studying the UK and has served as musical director in Auckland parishes including Saint Mark's, Remuera and Saint Matthews-in-the City. He has been director of music at Saint Andrew's, Epsom since 2002. In 1970 he founded the Auckland Boys' Choir and directed it for 30 years, taking the choir on tours throughout NZ, to Australia, Japan and the west coast of Canada and the USA. A school principal by profession Neil was involved in school music, including being a conductor and accompanist for the Principal's Town Hall music Festival for 20 years.

Workshop & Choral Tuition - Paul Ellis

Paul Ellis has been involved in Church Music since being a Chorister at Christchurch Cathedral. He has directed music at many churches in Christchurch and has served as a Locum at three Cathedrals. He was Director of Music at Christchurch Cathedral. Since 2008 he has directed the music at St Michael and All Angels in Christchurch and runs a vibrant young peoples' programme. He has directed and contributed to many RSCM choir schools and courses for over 30 years.

Chaplain - The Reverend Liam Phillips

He is currently Priest-in-Charge of St Jude's Parish, Avondale, Auckland. He holds qualifications and is greatly interested in the Arts and Liturgy. He is Chaplain to the RSCM, Auckland.

Organists/Accompanists

David Brookes ARSCM - Organist, All Saints Church, Matamata

Stephen Hamilton QSM - Organist, St Andrew's Church, Epsom,
Auckland

Roz Robinson B Ed - Organist, St Andrew's Church, Cambridge

~ PROGRAMME ~

Friday 20th January:

Issuing of music from **6.30pm**.

7.00pm: Meet and greet, a run through music, refreshments.

8.30pm: DEVOTIONS

Saturday 21st January:

9.30am: DEVOTIONS

9.30 - 11.00am: WORKSHOP

11.00—11.30am: MORNING TEA

11.30am - 12.30pm: WORKSHOP

12.30 - 1.30pm: LUNCH

1.30 - 3.00pm: WORKSHOP

3.00 - 3.30pm: AFTERNOON TEA

3.30pm: VOICE FOR LIFE

4.00: MUSIC FOR SMALL OR INCOMPLETE CHOIRS

4.30 - 5.30pm: WORKSHOP

5.30pm: DEVOTIONS

6.30 - 9.00pm: DINNER

Sunday 22nd January:

9.00am: REHEARSAL

10.00am: SUNG EUCHARIST

11.30am - 2.30am: FREE TIME - LUNCH, SIGHTSEEING

2.30pm: REHEARSAL

4.00pm: ECUMENICAL SERVICE

5.15pm: REFRESHMENTS AND FAREWELLS

SATURDAY DINNER:

Guest Speaker and venue – TBA

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Led by The Reverend Jennie Savage



Vicar, St Andrew's Church, Cambridge.



Please register your expression of interest (including your name, address and telephone contact) before 28 October 2022 to:

Neil Shroff (for Auckland area) - nesushroff@xtra.co.nz

Jill Brookes (for Waikato area)

jill.brookes12@gmail.com



Queensland InSpires 2023

Save the date:
1 - 8 July 2023
Brisbane, Australia

Roger Sayer QueenslandinSpires Course Director



"He is, without exaggeration, an extraordinary artist, whose humanity shines in the impeccable artistry that flows from his hands...."

- Hans Zimmer, award-winning composer

ST MARTINS & ST PETERS **NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER
6 PM

ST MARTINS - 9B ARNOLD ST KILLARA

Merry Christmas



BORN IS THE KING

Contacts

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nsw.centralwest@rscmaustralia.org.au

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.

VISIT US ONLINE: www.rscmaustralia.org.au

FIND US on Facebook: RSCM NSW

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

newsclaf@rscmaustralia.org.au

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION:

17 February 2023

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