

Newsclaf

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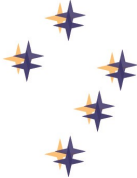


From the Editor

Dear Friends

As I sit to write this, we are only five weeks away from Christmas, and already the mad rush is well underway. When I saw all the Advent calendars full of chocolates and novelties in the local shops, I could not help but wonder if anybody buying them has the slightest idea what Advent is all about. As Christians, we can really use this season to remember the coming King.

At the start of October, it was wonderful to have St Andrew’s Cathedral full of children’s voices singing the Lord’s praises in our Senior and Junior School Choral Festivals. You can read more about the events on page 3.



Members of your committee have been busy planning some events for 2025, and if they all go ahead, everyone is going to be very busy. We will keep you informed of things coming up, but do make a note of the proposed dates which are set out later in this issue.

A number of RSCM members have Advent and Christmas services and concerts coming up that are advertised in the issue, and I hope that there are some events that will be of interest.

Finally, as we approach 25th December once more, your RSCM NSW Committee would like to wish you all a peaceful and Spirit filled Christmas. May we all take the opportunity to re-focus on the words of those wonderful carols that we enjoy at this time of year, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Peter Black

Peter is the Membership Secretary of RSCM NSW and interim editor of Newsclaf. A cellist and singer, he is a member of St Phils Caringbah.*

**We are on the look out for a regular editor, so if you are interested or would like more information, please get in touch.*



Introducing our new committee members

#3: Joanna Barlow

Dr Joanna Barlow
(MBBS, DPM, FRANZCP, LMusA, GradCertDiv, ACertPW).

I am the music director at Charlestown Presbyterian Church in Newcastle, and have recently been assisting with the music at Scots Kirk, Hamilton, which I have greatly enjoyed. (Yes, there are now two Novocastrians on the RSCM committee!) I come from a choral tradition, having been part of the choir and senior madrigal group while at school at MLC in Melbourne, and have sung in and conducted a few community and church choirs over the years. Currently, at both churches, we sing some traditional hymns as well as more modern repertoire with band accompaniment. I sing and play the piano, and enjoy writing parts for junior instrumentalists that are commensurate with their age and stage, to encourage them to be involved in music ministry, and help to develop their ensemble skills.

Having done my AMusA in Musicianship some years ago, I recently completed my LMusA, under the tutelage of Dr Brett McKern.

At Charlestown, I'm also responsible for pastoral care, I'm a deacon, and am on the women's ministry committee. By profession, I'm a psychiatrist and work in private practice.



In my spare time (clearly, I need therapy myself!) I'm a member of the academic board of the Guild of Church Musicians, I'm on the Scots College council (Bellevue Hill). and a member of the Gospel, Society and Culture Committee of the NSW/ACT Presbyterian church. I was for over twenty years a teaching leader with Bible Study Fellowship, but retired this year.

I'm married to Malcolm, a cardiologist, and have two adult sons. I'm looking forward to continue to promote and champion church music, both traditional and modern, through being part of the RSCM committee, having admired its work for many years.

Joanna is the Presbyterian representative on your RSCM NSW Committee and can be contacted via email at: nsw.presbyterian@rscmaustralia.org.au

Senior and Junior School Choral Festivals

For two afternoons, St Andrew's Cathedral-Sydney was filled with the joyous sound of children's voices as NSW branch of RSCM played host to our School Choral Festivals.

The senior festival had not been held since before COVID hit us all, so it was wonderful to see students gathering once more for an afternoon of choral singing.

Both days were led by Dr Graeme Morton from Brisbane who flew down for the occasion. He expertly guided the students through the repertoire. For many, this would have been their first time singing in a cathedral, and under a professional choral expert.



The Senior event featured students from The King's School, and St Andrew's Cathedral school. Their repertoire included the opening Gloria from Vivaldi's Gloria, and Stanford's arrangement of O For A Closer Walk, along with Graeme Morton's setting of Christ The Lord is Risen Again. The service also included In Christ Alone, and Here I Am Lord.

The juniors filled the cathedral with Sing to The Lord from Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, along with O Jesus Be Our Friend and Guide by J W Fanck, and Graeme Morton's adventurous arrangement of Go Tell It On The Mountain.

The service started with a rousing rendition of Tell Out My Soul by the late Timothy Dudley Smith, and again closed with Daniel Schutte's Here I Am Lord. Junior schools attending included Arden, The King's School, The Scots College, and St Andrew's Cathedral School.

Both days we were blessed to have the gifted Sam Giddy accompanying the services on St Andrew's mighty organ, and the services were led by The Rev Dr Roger Chilton with addresses by Dr Mark Earngey on Monday, and Jonathan Adams on Tuesday

After rehearsals, the students devoured multiple pizzas outside the cathedral, leaving no uneaten slices, yet all were well fed. They then returned to the cathedral for the services attended by both parents and the public

Often when reading CMQ (the UK publication from RSCM), I am impressed by the number of events for young people, so it was very encouraging to experience something similar here in NSW.

Many thanks go to the schools that participated, as well as their dedicated music teachers and the RSCM committee members that put the events on.

If you have associations with any schools that may be interested in future events, do please both tell them of these events and pass their details to us so that we can keep them informed of future events.

Peter Black

"The RSCM provides an opportunity for like-minded choristers and schools to come together and raise their voices in song, in a beautiful building in the heart of Sydney. I have enjoyed being part of the RSCM as a former St Andrew's Cathedral chorister and now as a teacher, and I encourage you to consider bringing your choir to this annual event of song and worship"

Stephan Kooper
Head of Preparatory School
Music





Photo credits, Oscar Smith, Philip Reichardt, Peter Black

People's Choice

It's your turn to choose the music!

**Sydney
Chamber Choir**

Sam Allchurch
Conductor

With organ and piano



Saturday, 23 November 5.00pm

Verbruggen Hall
Sydney Conservatorium of Music

It's your turn to choose the music! We've asked you for your favourites, and put them together into one glorious evening of choral delights. Whether it's music from centuries past or hot off the press, throbbing with passion or sparkling with humour, we can't wait to sing it for you!

Tickets

\$75/\$65 to \$50/\$45
Students and Under 30s \$30

Book online

sydneychamberchoir.org

Program includes

Bach

Singet dem Herrn ein
neues Lied (Section 1)

Irving Berlin, arr Vance
Cheek to Cheek

Jonathan Dove
Ring out, wild bells from
The Passing of the Year

Maurice Durufé
Ubi caritas et amor

Gabriel Fauré
Cantique de Jean Racine

Handel
Zadok the Priest

**John Lennon/Paul
McCartney, arr Whitwell**
Yesterday

Clare Maclean
Christ the King

Monteverdi
Christe, adomamus te

**Henry Purcell/
Sven-David Sandström**
Hear my prayer, O Lord

Rachmaninoff
Bogoroditse Devo
from All-Night Vigil

Joe Twist
Magpie and Lorikeets
from Timeless Land: An
Australian Song Cycle

Victoria
O magnum mysterium

Vivaldi
Gloria in excelsis Deo
and Cum sancto spiritu
from Gloria

Anglican Parish of Hill All Saints' Church

Ambrose Street, Hunters Hill

CHRISTMAS Carol Festival

Sunday December 8

7 p.m. (please be there
earlier, if possible)



Everyone Welcome

www.aphh.com.au

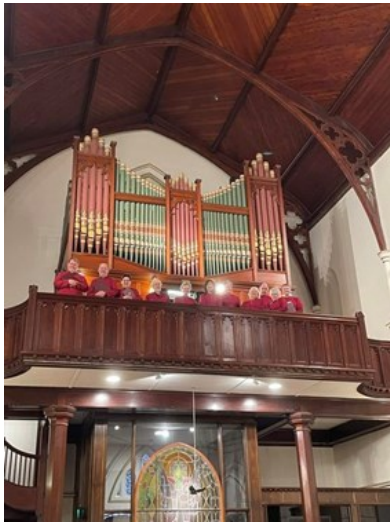
poster by
Juliette
Bentley

The Cathedral Singers



As most of you know, The Cathedral Singers is an independent auditioned choir that is based at St John's Gordon and sings in churches who enjoy traditional worship of all kinds. We are ecumenical and are happy to sing wherever such music is appropriate. Our repertoire is many and varied, with music that is old and modern.

In recent months we have sung at St John's Balmain, St Ives Uniting Church, Holy Spirit North Ryde, Holy Spirit Terrigal, Mary MacKillop Place and St Mary's Cathedral. Earlier in the year we sang at St Andrew's Cathedral as well.



Goulburn

Last weekend we enjoyed our annual "Country Tour" and travelled to Goulburn and Canberra, singing at St Peter and St Paul Old Catholic Cathedral Goulburn on Saturday evening and then at St Paul's Manuka in Canberra where we joined in their Sung Eucharist. We appreciated the welcome we received in both places and at St Paul's enjoyed being able to sample goodies from various countries in their fundraising market afterwards.



Canberra

In the coming weeks, we will again be busy and would love to see any RSCM supporters.

- Sunday 24th November at St Ives Uniting Church at 9.30am – Morning Service including four anthems for Christ the King.
- Sunday 15 December at 6pm – Lesson and Carols at St John's Balmain
- Tuesday 17th December from 7.0- 8.30pm - Carols at Forestville RSL (Just to be different!)
- Sunday 22nd December at 7.00pm – Lessons and Carols at St John's Gordon
- Tuesday 24th December - St John's Balmain - 7pm – Christmas Eve Eucharist
- Holy Spirit North Ryde – 9.30pm – Christmas Eve Mass

As you can see, we are a busy choir who love singing together to assist in worship in many places. We would love to hear from anyone who would consider joining as in 2025, preferably as a fulltime chorister but also as a deputy.

Checkout our website -www.cathedralsingers.org.au.

**If you would like to join us, contact our Director, Jim Abraham on 0405 817 276 or myself as Secretary – Jan Kneeshaw on 0411 585 117, 9144 4915
jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au**



ST MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH DARLING POINT

CHORAL *Scholarships*

16-25 YEAR OLDS | UP TO \$7500 FOR A FULL SCHOLARSHIP

ENQUIRE OR APPLY: **OFFICE@STMARKSDP.ORG**

SUBMIT CV, DETAILS OF CHARACTER REFEREES
AND A WRITTEN REFERENCE FROM A
VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL TEACHER

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS: 2 CONTRASTING PIECES,
SIGHT READING AND INTERVIEW

SCHOLARS MUST BE:

- CURRENTLY STUDYING MUSIC
- OPEN TO A CAREER IN MUSIC
- A GIFTED MUSICIAN
- EXCELLENT SIGHT-READER
- WORK WELL IN AN ENSEMBLE

DUTIES INCLUDE:

- 7.20AM REHEARSAL AND 8AM SUNDAY CHORAL COMMUNION
- CHRISTMAS AND EASTER SERVICES
- 2-3 CONCERTS EACH YEAR
- OTHER OCCASIONAL SERVICES



Choral Scholarship opportunity

St Mark's Anglican Church Darling Point is awarding choral scholarships to scholars aged 16 - 25 years of age, up to the value of \$7,500 p.a.

Apply now! Submit a CV, details of character referees and a written reference from a vocal/instrumental teacher to office@stmarksdp.org

Auditions will require applicants to present two contrasting pieces, sight reading and an interview.

Visit <https://stmarksdp.org/ministries/st-marks-music/> for all the details.

St Mark's has a highly regarded choir which sings weekly at the 8am Holy Communion service under the direction of Dr William Clark, OAM.



ST MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH DARLING POINT

ORGAN

Scholarship

\$9000 P.A.

ENQUIRE OR APPLY: **OFFICE@STMARKSDP.ORG**

SUBMIT CV, DETAILS OF CHARACTER REFEREES
AND A WRITTEN REFERENCE FROM AN INSTRUMENTAL
TEACHER

SCHOLARS MUST BE:

- CAPABLE PIANIST/ORGANIST
- STUDYING ORGAN
- ABLE TO ACCOMPANY
- EXCELLENT SIGHT-READER
- WORK WELL IN AN ENSEMBLE

DUTIES INCLUDE:

- 7.20AM REHEARSAL AND 8AM SUNDAY CHORAL COMMUNION
- CHRISTMAS AND EASTER SERVICES
- 2-3 CONCERTS EACH YEAR
- OTHER OCCASIONAL SERVICES



Organ Scholarship opportunity

St Mark's Anglican Church Darling Point is awarding an organ scholarship to scholars, up to the value of \$9,000 p.a.

Apply now! Submit a CV, details of character referees and a written reference from an instrumental teacher to office@stmarksdp.org

Visit <https://stmarksdp.org/ministries/st-marks-music/> for all the details.

St Mark's Choir
presents

An Afternoon of French Music

Programme includes Requiem by Faure and other French works with
Organist David Drury and Cellist Geoffrey Gartner

Sunday 24 November, 2pm

Entry by Programme. \$25

<https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>



A Friends of
St Mark's Event

Join us for Christmas this year at any
of our services. We'd love to see you!

Sunday 15 December

5.30pm - Carols and BBQ

Thursday 19 December

7pm - Festival of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

5pm - All Ages Christmas

11pm - Choral Communion

Christmas Day

8am - Choral Communion

10am - Christmas Service



St Mark's Anglican Church
1 Greenoaks Ave, Darling Point
Visit: stmarksdp.org/whats-on | Phone: 02 9363 3657



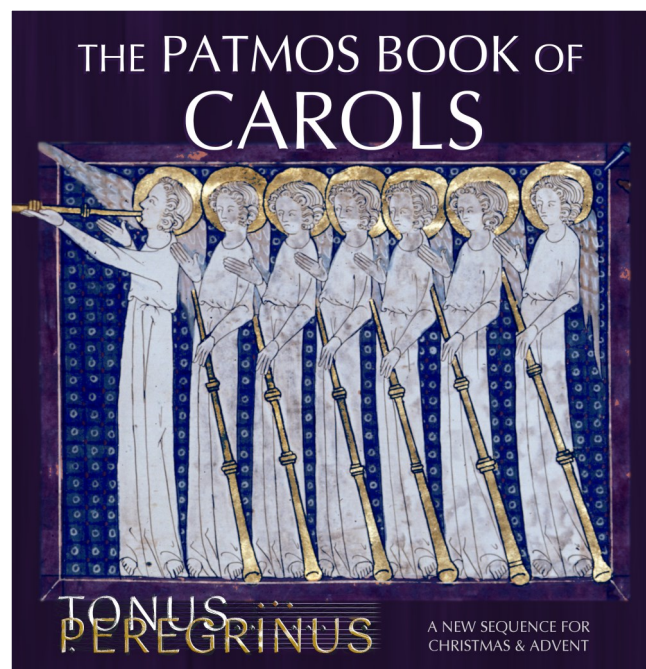
CHRISTMAS AT
ST MARK'S

Carolling all the way... or “It’s beginning to sound a lot like Christmas”

THE PATMOS BOOK OF CAROLS TONUS PEREGRINUS

The secular world focuses on Christmas way before the beginning of Advent, let alone the actual season of Christmas. For musicians recording Christmas albums, however, it can feel like Christmas all year round: making new arrangements and preparing scores in the first quarter of the year, recording in April and May (in our case in a château near Dieppe and in London’s Charterhouse), editing the audio and writing programme notes over the next few months, and finally releasing the album in time for Christmas. Of course, the Christmas story is evergreen, and is at the heart of the story of Redemption – the idea that God became Man, and was born as a baby – “Today in the city of David”. Recording the TONUS PEREGRINUS double album of **The Patmos Book of Carols** brought home to me the emotional range of the story and its characters, from mystery and expectancy, through earthy joy and celebration, via the pain of mothers and fathers in Bethlehem, to the awe and heavenly glory of the Second Coming: and so, our sequence of carols goes from Advent to Christmas, and beyond to the next Advent.

21 years ago, Naxos Records released our first carol album, **The Naxos Book of Carols**, which I called “24 carols for musicians”. It’s all too easy to lose the joy of Christmas when confronted with the same lukewarm harmonies of familiar tunes for the twentieth time, over the course of a few weeks. The idea was to put some real meat (and spice) into these arrangements – to give singers and players something to get their teeth into, and to be able to enjoy these words and melodies afresh. The new arrangements in **The Patmos Book of Carols** include *The Angel Gabriel*, *Once in royal David’s city* (with the opening solo reimagined as a duet), *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*, *Unto us is born a Son*, both the *Sussex Carol* and the *Coventry Carol*, and one of two very different versions of *In the bleak midwinter*!



The Patmos Book of Carols album cover image incorporating Seven angels with trumpets from BL Royal 15 D II, f. 136v Apocalypse (the ‘Welles Apoc-

The Patmos Book of Carols gets its name from the Book of Revelation written down by John while exiled on the Greek island of Patmos, not far from the seven churches on the mainland (now Turkey). The seven trumpets of Revelation are echoed in the acrostic 'ERO CRAS' – "Tomorrow I will come" in the sevenfold Advent 'O' Antiphons. Our 24 carols are structured as a sequence in seven sections, unfolding a narrative journey through the Christmas story: *Expecting, Rejoicing, Offering, Cherishing, Reflecting, Adoring, Seeking*. Although the music ranges from Mediaeval to Contemporary, even the modern carols draw directly, sometimes explicitly, from the ancient.

We've expanded our repertoire of brand-new carols in **The Patmos Book of Carols** with no fewer than sixteen works composed by members of the ensemble: Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, Alexander L'Estrange, Richard Eteson, and me (as well as two other members of my extended family, John and Jonathan Pitts). This late harvest of carols is, in many ways, the result of us being together as an ensemble for over a quarter of a century (more than 30 years in some cases), and together we have explored the world of carols in a unique way. Having recorded a previous album, **Vinum et Musica**, in a château, we started this album by reconvening in France, this time at the Château de Sainte-Marguerite-sur-Mer. Living together brings a patina to the recording experience that is hard to replicate in any other way – the games of boules, the shared cooking, the walks along the seashore – made the music we made "lived in" in an intangible but audible way.

The new carols include three from Joanna, one of the Royal School of Church Music's best-selling composers, three by her husband, Alexander, two carols by Richard Eteson, as well as surprisingly uptempo settings of *Hark! the herald angels sing* and *It came upon the midnight clear* by my cousin Jonathan. There's an extended bout of carol-singing and wassailing around William Byrd's *An Earthly Tree*, culminating in Eteson's *A Jolly Wassel-Bowl* with added gallery band and percussion. My own settings of Thomas Hardy's *The Oxen* (composed for Christopher Watson at Trinity College, Melbourne) and *Miryam's Lullaby* (written for and first performed by The Song Company) also feature on the second volume of **The Patmos Book of Carols**, which ends with a rousing hymn by my youngest brother, John Pitts, *Lord Jesus, come!*

I hope that this new set of 24 carols will again give church musicians a welcome early Christmas present: some of the sheet music is already available at <https://www.patmoscarols.com/music> and more will be coming soon.

Antony Pitts
November 2024



LINKS:

<https://www.patmoscarols.com/>

<https://the-patmos-book-of-carols.1equal.music/>

<https://www.tonusperegrinus.co.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@tonusperegrinus>

<https://x.com/tonusperegrinus>

TONUS PEREGRINUS at the Château de Sainte-Marguerite-sur-Mer, relaxing between recording sessions



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Burwood

CHORAL EVENSONG

CHRIST THE KING

5:00pm – Sunday 24 November 2024

Guest Preacher: The Rev Jonathan Adams (St Andrew's Cathedral)

Fr James Collins OAM
Rector

followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall

David Russell
Director of Music

info@stpaulsburwood.org.au

ST PAUL'S MUSIC **c** inc. ||

† Supporting the Choir of St Paul's and its music program.

† Training singers, conductors and organists by providing scholarships.

† Providing funding for recordings and tours associated with the Choir of St Paul's.

† Maintaining and acquiring musical instruments in collaboration with the Parish.

† Underwriting activities to enhance the music at St Paul's.

† Supporting the public performance of music within the Parish including recitals, concerts and liturgical performances.

St Paul's Music Inc. exists to promote the performance of choral, organ and instrumental music and related activities at St Paul's Burwood.

ALL DONATIONS
OVER \$2 ARE
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF ST PAUL'S MUSIC INCORPORATED
SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2024**

following Evensong for Christ the King

For more information contact: publicofficer@stpaulsburwood.org.au



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Burwood
presents



SYDNEY CANTATA PROJECT

CPE BACH

MAGNIFICAT in D Major

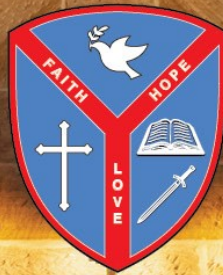
Jack Stephens | Angela Brun | Sally-Anne Russell
Richard Butler | David Greco

St Paul's Anglican Church, Burwood

Saturday 30 November 3pm

Tickets | tinyurl.com/cpebachmagnificat





CHRISTMAS @ ST PAUL'S 2024

CAROL SERVICE

5:00pm Sunday 15 December

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday 24 December

9:30pm Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 December

9:00am Choral Eucharist

Fr James Collins OAM

Rector



CONVERSION OF PAUL

Sunday 26 January 2025



8:00am **Said Eucharist**
with hymns

10:00am **Choral Eucharist**
Setting: **Communion Service in G**
Francis Jackson
Motet: **Teach me, O Lord**
Thomas Attwood



MUSIC @ ST PAUL'S
Recital Series

2025 LUNCHTIME RECITALS

1:15pm – Third Tuesday of the Month

18 February

18 March

15 April

20 May

17 June

15 July

19 August

16 September

21 October

18 November

*Note donation or book online by scanning the QR code
Supported by St Paul's Music Incorporated*



David Russell
Director of Music

music@stpaulsburwood.org.au

Sheryl Southwood OAM
Recital Convenor

The Story Behind the Hymns

HARKING TO THE ANGELIC HERALDS

Christmas is fast approaching, a fact that we know, not because we follow the church calendar and find ourselves in Advent, but because the ubiquitous and inescapable carols have begun in shops and malls everywhere. We have unnumbered opportunities to hear “Hark! the herald angels sing” in as many versions as we can imagine and many more than we can endure. Charles Wesley has a lot to answer for!

His hymn has had a somewhat chequered history. It first appeared in the second edition of the Wesley brothers' *Hymns and Sacred Poems* of 1739, under the title ‘Hymn for Christmas Day’. The original had ten four-line verses:

Hymn for Christmas-Day.

HARK how all the Welkin rings
“ Glory to the King of Kings,
“ Peace on Earth, and Mercy mild,
“ God and Sinners reconcil’d !

2. Joyful all ye Nations rise,
Join the Triumph of the Skies,
Universal Nature say
“ Christ, the Lord, is born to Day !

3. Christ, by highest Heav’n ador’d,
Christ, the Everlasting Lord,
Late in Time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin’s Womb.

4. Veil’d in Flesh, the Godhead see,
Hail th’Incarnate Deity !
Pleas’d as Man with Men t’appear
Jesus, our *Immanuel* here !

5 Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace !
Hail the Sun of Righteousness !
Light and Life to All he brings,
Ris’n with Healing in his Wings.

6. Mild he lays his Glory by,
Born—that Men no more may die,
Born—to raise the Sons of Earth,
Born—to give them second Birth.

7. Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix in Us thy humble Home,
Rise, the Woman’s Conqu’ring Seed,
Bruise in Us the Serpent’s Head

8. Now display thy saving Pow’r,
Ruin’d Nature now restore,
Now in Mystic Union join
Thine to Ours, and Ours to Thine.

9. *Adam’s* Likeness, Lord, efface,
Stamp thy Image in its Place,
Second *Adam* from above,
Reinstate us in thy Love.

10. Let us Thee, tho’ loft, regain,
Thee, the Life, the Inner Man .
O ! to All Thyself impart,
Form’d in each Believing Heart.

If this original is compared with the version we now sing, we can see that many changes have been made. George Whitefield, the Wesley brothers’ early friend and later opponent, was first. There was no copyright in those days and publishers were free to make any changes that they desired. Whitefield published his eight-verse version, omitting verses 8 and 10, in his *Collection of Hymns for Social Worship* of 1758, for use for his Tabernacle Congregation in Moorfields, London.

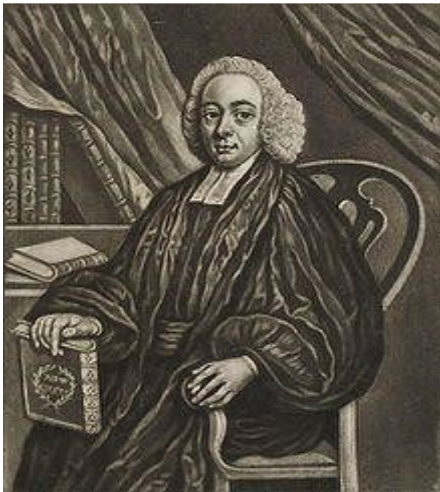
HARK! the Herald Angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King!
 Peace on Earth, and Mercy mild,
 God and Sinners reconcil'd.

Joyful all ye Nations rise,
 Join the Triumphs of the Skies;
 Nature rise and worship him,
 Who is born at Bethlehem.



George Whitefield

The original "Welkin" refers to the sky, the firmament or the heavens and, even in 1739, was somewhat archaic. His change to the first line probably saved the hymn from ultimate obscurity, but, as Andrew Gant suggests, "new-born King" is less theologically accurate than "King of Kings". It reduces the cosmic sense of the original to a more secular earthly event, one king among many.



Martin Madan

The last two lines of the second verse were then changed to their present form,

*With the angelic host proclaim,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

in Martin Madan's *Psalms and Hymns* of 1760. Madan, originally a barrister, was converted by John Wesley and took holy orders, becoming chaplain to the London Lock Hospital, an institution for the treatment of venereal diseases. He ultimately fell out of favour for advocating, in a book called *Thelyphthora, or a Treatise on Female Ruin*, polygamy as a solution to the many sexual sins he observed. He thought, it seems, that polygamy would absorb all the surplus women and incorporate them into families.

In his *Collection of Psalms and Hymns* of 1775, Richard de Courcy omitted two more verses, leaving six in all. A significant change was then made in an appendix to a 1782 edition of Brady and Tate's *New Version of the Psalms of David*. This appendix reorganised the hymn into three verses of eight lines each and created a chorus with the first two lines of Whitefield's first verse. Thus, the modern form was achieved.

The original verse 4 ending was changed to:

*Pleased as man with men to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* of 1861. The original line, 'Pleas'd as Man with Men t'appear', attracted some attention because of its possible implication of heresy. The Docetic heresy appeared in the second century as an attempt to solve the problem of the incarnation. How could God become human? The proposed solution was that he didn't, he only appeared to. Thus, the humanity of Jesus was an illusion.

The name of the heresy comes from the Greek “to seem” (δοκεῖν). Docetism was condemned by the Council of Nicaea in 325. The condemnation appears in the Nicene Creed in the words “became truly human”. There is no suggestion that Wesley adhered to this heresy but the possible implication may have prompted the editors of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, ever with an eye orthodoxy and its effects on sales, to make their change.

An exception to the now customary three-verse hymn is *The New English Hymnal*, which still retains a fourth verse combining the original verses 7 and 8 with the suggestion that it might be omitted, which it invariably is. Thus, this hymn is now not exactly as Wesley wrote it, being possibly the most changed of all his hymns. The changes certainly ensured its continued use. Wesley was not, however, pleased with the changes made by Whitefield and Madan and the hymn disappeared from the Methodist collections for some time. The practice of altering their hymns had become so common that John Wesley complained publicly:

Many gentlemen have done my brother and me (though without naming us) the honour to reprint many of our Hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome so to do, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them; for they really are not able. None of them is able to mend either the sense or the verse. Therefore, I must beg of them one of these two favours; either to let them stand just as they are, to take them for better for worse; or to add the true reading in the margin, or at the bottom of the page; that we may no longer be accountable either for the nonsense or for the doggerel of other men.

But, by 1845 it had reappeared in the latest edition of *A Collection of Hymns for the use of the People Called Methodists*.

The text has been parodied on many occasions. Many of us will remember this:

Hark the herald angels sing
 “Beecham’s pills are just the thing”,
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 Two for adult, one for child.



Beecham’s Pills were a well-known laxative manufactured in the United Kingdom between 1842 and 1998. The business provided the wealth for the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham (1879-1961). More recently, a parody has advertised the Burger King chain:

Hark, I heard my best friend ring,
 “Let’s have lunch at Burger King.”
 With chicken sandwiches both spicy and mild
 And Kids Club meals for every child.
 Don’t you worry ‘bout your thighs
 As you order extra fries.
 We don’t need no special sauce C
 uz the Whopper is the boss.
 Hark, I heard my best friend ring,
 “Let’s have lunch at Burger King.”

Perhaps in times of pollution and climate change, this version is more appropriate:

Hark the Carol singers choke,
 from the smog and fumes and smoke.
 See them rub their itching eyes
 while soot pours from the skies.
 Filthy air their throats expel,
 gasping out The First Noel,
 Joyful Voices cough and hack,
 While fresh snow is turning black.
 When their final song is sung,
 they'll head home with one less lung.

Finally, those with a cynical view of politics might prefer this:

Hark! the politicians rant,
 Giving their self-serving slant;
 Social justice, so they say,
 Is a pipe-dream—far away.
 Insurance lords are our salvation,
 They know what's good for the nation.
 If somebody starts to think,
 Suddenly they are labelled 'pink'!
 People, can't you recognize
 That these are whopping monstrous lies?

Neither the original nor the parodies would work without a memorable tune. The Wesley brothers first set the hymn to the same tune as they used for Charles' 'Christ the Lord is ris'n to Day', which was first published in the same edition of *Hymns and Sacred Poems*. This tune appears to be 'Easter Hymn' from *Lyra Davidica* of 1708. Our present version of this tune includes Hallelujahs at the end of each line, which the original Wesley text of the 'Easter Hymn' did not have. Both hymns have the same 77.77 meter and could thus be sung to the same tune. A version of 'Easter Hymn', with the words to 'Christ the Lord is ris'n to Day', appears under the name, 'Salisbury Tune' in John Wesley's first tune book, commonly known as *The Foundery Collection*, of 1742, but this version already has the Hallelujahs included. So, the identity of the original tune is somewhat uncertain.

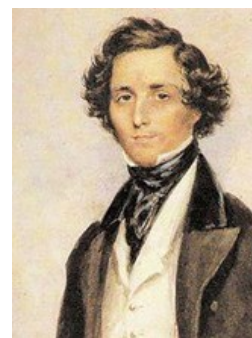
An alternative possibility is "Savannah", which also appears in the Foundery Collection. This is the tune to which Wesley's Easter hymn is set in the *New English Hymnal* (No. 113), although without Wesley's first verse. It has no Hallelujahs.

The hymn has been sung to many tunes over the years, including 'Newton's Double' from the Oxfordshire village of Adderbury, which dates from before 1850:

Handwritten musical score for "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" by Felix Mendelssohn. The score is written on two pages of manuscript paper. The left page is numbered 439 and the right page is numbered 440. The music is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the staves. The score includes a title "No. 51 Newton's Double" and a note "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing".

There can be no doubt, however, that the popularity of the hymn is due to the tune to which we now sing it. That eponymous tune by Felix Mendelssohn, ("Mendelssohn" in the *New English Hymnal* but "Berlin" in some other books) was adapted in 1855 by the English organist, Williams Hayman Cummings, from the cantata *Festgesang* (*Festive Hymn*) of 1840. The *Musical Times* of 1897 described how Cummings did it.

Mr. Cummings informs us that he eagerly procured everything that Mendelssohn composed as soon as it was published. While playing over the chorus in G he was at once struck by its adaptability to the words 'Hark! the herald angels sing'. He copied out the parts, and the tune was sung with great enthusiasm by the congregation at Waltham Abbey. He soon afterwards began to receive so many applications for manuscript copies that he took his arrangement to Messrs. Ewer and Co., who published it in 1856.



Felix Mendelssohn

The tune's rousing notes tempt us, usually successfully, to sing the hymn with great energy, which is what is required for the words.

Perhaps you will enjoy even the shopping mall versions a little better now.

Michael Horsburgh



ADVENT
Evening Song

SAT 30 NOV, 2024 | 5PM

ST SWITHUN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
2A TELEGRAPH ROAD, PYMBLE
02 9488 7377

WWW.SWIZ.ORG.AU

Free - All Welcome!

SITUATIONS VACANT

St. Mary's Cathedral in Perth, Western Australia is seeking a Master of Music to lead and develop its renowned Music Program, which has a rich history of over 150 years. The program aims to be a center of excellence, recognized as one of the best liturgical choir programs in Western Australia and Australia. The Master of Music will enhance the Cathedral's profile by fostering relationships with schools, performing arts, and religious institutions, and by ensuring a high-quality music program. Key responsibilities include selecting, educating, and conducting choirs of boy and girl choristers, managing music staff, coordinating visiting choirs, and developing fundraising strategies. The Master of Music will also work on growing youth engagement through a Youth Mass and uphold the ethos of the Catholic Church.

Candidates should have a post-graduate qualification in music, experience in children's education, and preferably a background in Catholic liturgical settings. Proficiency in organ playing and knowledge of choral techniques, Catholic liturgy, and music notation software (Sibelius) are essential. Strong communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills are required. The position involves collaboration with various stakeholders and requires a proactive approach to problem-solving and program development. The role also includes administrative duties such as coordinating schedules and maintaining safeguarding compliance.

Relocation support will be provided to successful applicants including VISA Sponsorship.

Applicants should submit a cover letter addressing their alignment with the position, along with their resume. Please email recruitment@wcasolutions.com OR apply directly through Seek [Master of Music Job in Perth WA - SEEK](#)

¡TONE UP! at The Old Monastery, Stroud, NSW, 23–26 January 2025

Join us to explore the magnificent vocal polyphony of Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, and their contemporaries. Learn to read the original notation in order to sing from the newly restored Sadler Partbooks and the perennial Dow Partbooks. Encounter anew the sublime music of Tudor England within the unique and beautiful surroundings of The Old Monastery, Stroud. Led by conductor, composer, and early music specialist Antony Pitts.

Staying at Stroud is being part of a family – dinners are an important communal experience and may also include music-making. Culinary companions interested in leading the catering activities (everyone is expected to take part and to help) are also welcome.

Full price: \$680 | Scholarship: \$340 (for emerging professionals or students – please indicate if you are applying)

Culinary companion: \$420 | Creative residency: \$510 (by invitation)

Optional extra night's stay (either Wednesday 22nd or Sunday 26th): \$75

Price includes rustic accommodation in single rooms (BYO sheets, pillowslips, towels, toilet-ries), breakfast essentials, communal dinner, all music scores and ensemble tuition for singers. We start around 10.30am on Thursday and finish around 4pm on Sunday.

Apply today – Applications due Fri 13 December (early applications encouraged):

<https://www.tonus.au/toneup-apply-old-monastery>

<https://www.tonus.au/toneup/c/0/i/83369423/toneup-old-monastery-stroud-nsw-thu-23-sun-26-january-2025>





J.S. Bach - Cantata 140 **‘Sleepers awake! A voice is calling’**
(*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*)

St Andrew’s Cathedral, Sydney
Advent Sunday, December 1st, 10:30am

Preacher: The Rev. Jonathan Adams
Penelope Mills - soprano, Kent McIntosh - tenor, Richard Anderson - bass
The Choir of St Andrew’s Cathedral
The Orchestra of The Ancient Academy of St Andrew’s
Ross Cobb - director

www.sydneycathedral.com



St Andrew’s Cathedral
Christmas Carol Services 2024
Thursday 19th December, 7pm
Christmas Eve 6pm, 8pm, 11pm
Christmas Day 10am

sydneycathedral.com

Hymnfest

Ten Glorious Hymns played by Ten Organists



Sunday 9 February 2025 at 2pm

St Alban's Anglican Church

3 Pembroke St, Epping

(Close to Epping Station)



Come join us in this ecumenical event involving all
the congregations of Epping and surrounding
suburbs and local residents



Help us 'lift the roof off' the church with sacred song

"When we sing, we pray twice" — St Augustine

All welcome!

Event goes on rain, hail or shine.



JUMBLED CAROLS



Can you untangle these Christmas carol titles?
(Hint—all carol names feature in '100 Carols For Choirs')

1. Dow holy jotter
2. Armpit overusing
3. Hastie whispers
4. Crave crotonyl
5. Bettie followeth menthol
6. Adamo handwritten Reggy
7. Alleged harkens thrashing
8. Deathly hove thinly
9. Shy, thick. Fight Herod! Brew, sleep then saw child
10. Adele chirp shoppers
11. Amati Dutchmen helicoptering
12. Elton flew shirt
13. Alice synod vindictory
14. Antonino sours sub
15. Thin singlet
16. Adamson folds lengthwise
17. Doodler hinging rhyming
18. Amelia holely offcut
19. Agnew Ayn maria
20. A better milk whinnied

Answers on page 30



Giorgione, *Adoration of the Shepherds*, 1505-1510, National Gallery of Art, Washington



Paul Gauguin, *Baby (Nativity of Tahitian Christ)*, 1896, in the public domain.



SAVE THE DATE



2025 is shaping up to be a very busy one for RSCM NSW. Please note that all these events and dates are provisional and we will confirm each one closer to the time.

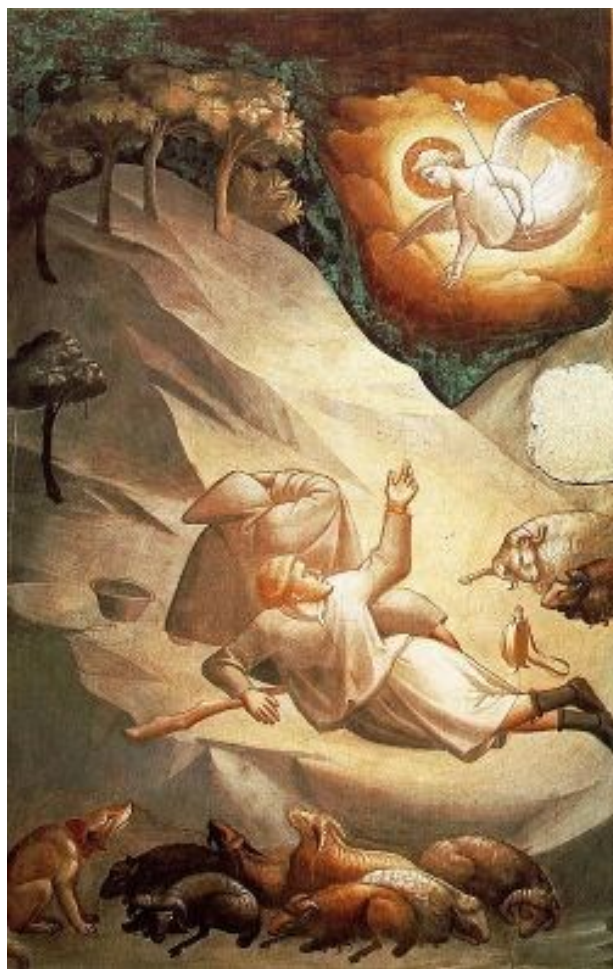
22 Feb	Workshop and AGM
22 March	Hymn Festival—NSW South Coast
5 April	Workshop—TBC
10 May	Prom Praise—Sydney Town Hall
1 August	Midwinter Dinner
2 August	RSCM Choral Day
4/5 August	Senior / Junior Schools Choral Festival
25 October	Festival of Great Hymns
15 November	Christmas Themed Event

Newsclaf Issues 2025

Issue 1	February (contribution deadline 3 Feb)
Issue 2	May (contribution deadline 5 May)
Issue 3	August (contribution deadline 4 August)
Issue 4	November (contribution deadline 3 November)

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.*



Taddeo Gaddi *Annunciation to the Shepherds*
Basilica of Santa Croce, Florence



Botticelli *The Mystical Nativity*, 1500-1501,
National Gallery of London, UK..

JUMBLER CAROLS—Answers

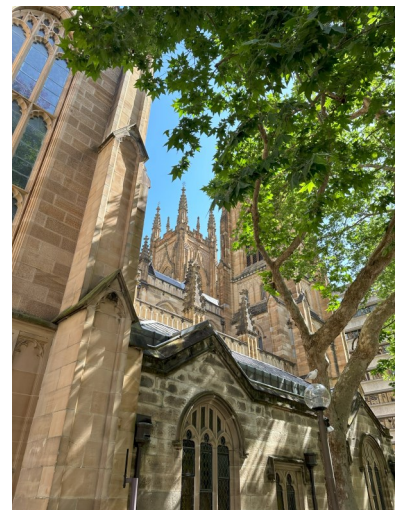
1. Joy To The World
2. A Virgin Most Pure
3. I Saw Three Ships
4. Coventry Carol
5. O Little Town of Bethlehem
6. A Great And Mighty Wonder
7. Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing
8. The Holly and the Ivy
9. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night
10. Shepherd's Pipe Carol
11. It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
12. The First Nowell
13. Once in Royal David's City
14. Unto Us Is Born a Son
15. Silent Night
16. As With Gladness Men of Old
17. Ding Dong Merrily on High
18. O Come All Ye Faithful
19. Away In A Manger
20. In The Bleak Midwinter





Your RSCM NSW Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your families and loved ones, a very joyous and peaceful Christmas and New Year as we celebrate once more the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your support during 2024, and we look forward to all that 2025 has in store for us all.



YOUR COMMITTEE

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New South Wales Branch

