

RSCM WestNews  
Vol. 26 No. 2 March 2017  
Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

## From the Chairman

Apparently St Augustine of Hippo did not say, 'The one who sings prays twice.' (BTW, the Latin original has no male pronoun, so my translation is completely justified.)

I was once at a service where just before communion the congregation broke into Sister Janet Mead's setting of the Lord's Prayer. I admit up front that it's not 'my kind of music', but while singing it in that service, I realised that I was singing a song, not praying a prayer. I have heard of churches using Cliff Richard's 'Millenium Prayer', which put the words to 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Yet I have no problem singing (and praying) the Lord's Prayer to traditional chant in a Roman Catholic Mass, just as was the case when Anglicans used to sing it to Merbecke in a very similar style, i.e. syllabic chanting. Similarly, John Farmer's four-part setting which is frequently performed in Choral Evensong works as a prayer for me, whether as singer or hearer.

The three examples I have just cited all move straight through the text, just as one would when reciting the prayer, with no musical 'tricks' such as textual or musical repetition, or melisma. Mead's 'Our Father', by contrast, employs a Rondo format, so that the opening section of the song returns in the middle and at the end. I think it's that which makes it a song rather than a prayer. Cliff Richard's version has an extended doxology which repeats words, and also introduces text that is not from the liturgy (which alone should exclude it from use in a service).

It may be that my opening quote comes from St Gregory the Great, after whom Gregorian Chant is named. For church people of that time, singing meant the chant; there was a single melodic line only, and musical form and repetition as we know it today had not been invented.

It may be that sometimes church musicians need to point out that not everything that is prayed in worship should be sung. There are some superb settings of collects (Gibbons's 'Almighty and everlasting God' and Thomas Mudd's 'Let thy merciful ears, O Lord' come to mind) which are excellent anthems, but which I suspect no one would ever perform in place of the actual collect.

Do you disagree with me? If you do, great. Let the Editor know (of course any such disagreement would be phrased courteously and respectfully). Creating liturgy is always a matter of making choices, and it is always good to consider why we are making choices. I think the worst liturgy and church music arise out of 'We've always done it this way'!

And I haven't even mentioned Albert Malotte's 1935 setting for vocal solo, once sung memorably by Barry Humphries' character Sandy Stone.

*Regarding the AGM:*

Thank you to those who came to our Annual General Meeting. There was constructive discussion about the issues facing us with regard to our participation in the national RSCM, and I thank you for that. Your Committee will continue teasing out ideas as the next meeting of National Council at the end of May approaches.

It was good to welcome Steven Secker back to Committee after a couple of decades' break, and we look forward to his contribution. By contrast, having our first Committee meeting for a couple of decades without Deirdre Russell there took some getting used to.

Please keep us all in your prayers.

John Beaverstock

CHAIRMAN

## RSCM WA State Branch Officers for Year 2017

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### WestNews Information

**Please send material for publication direct to the Editors:**

**DISCLAIMER** Opinions expressed in WestNews do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors. Occasionally there might be deliberate errors in the text desired by those submitting.

**CONTENTS** The sources of any imported material contained in WestNews are acknowledged wherever this is possible. Apologies are offered to sources of material that for one reason or another may not have been properly acknowledged.

**LIBRARY** A room has been made available at St. Patrick's Anglican Church Hall, Beaufort Street, Mt. Lawley. A preliminary Catalogue will be available following the 2<sup>nd</sup> April event "What is in the RSCM Library. (see programme of events).

**WEBSITE** The website of RSCM Australia is [www.rscmaustralia.org.au](http://www.rscmaustralia.org.au) This website includes WA branch events, as well as details of the interstate branches. Please send details of items for inclusion on the website to the WestNews editors at [rscm\\_wa@bigpond.com](mailto:rscm_wa@bigpond.com)

**FACEBOOK** The RSCM Australia Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/RSCMAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/RSCMAustralia)



**Deadline for the next issue is April 17th 2017**

Hello Readers.

Sheila Byfield and Moya Sherlock have graciously volunteered to produce the next editions of West-News, so this is my last for the foreseeable future. My attention is now directed toward July's Choristers' Camp.

This edition is filled with the new and exciting events for the next two months of 2017, I hope to attend some of these events and to catch up with many of you as well.

Regarding Carol Crass' present condition, it is improving, so please continue to keep her in your prayers.

A reminder to all Campers, Camp next year is July 4th to July 9th, 2017. If you are starting to save for Camp, putting aside \$25 a week from here on will make sure that you will have saved up for Camp. More details to follow.

Lucas

## Proposed calendar of events, 2017

- April 2nd— "What's in the RSCM Library?".  
2-3:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Anglican Church Hall, cnr Beaufort St and First Ave, Mt. Lawley. An informal event to see and sing any of the items in the library.  
A cup of tea and biscuit to follow.
- April 30th— "Choir Share" event  
2-3:30 p.m. at St Barnabas' Anglican Church Hall, 104 Woolwich St, West Leederville.  
Sue Taylor and Louise Bell will lead this event, which will include a gospel music workshop. Afternoon tea will follow.
- May 6th— Cantor Workshop  
2-4 p.m. at St Mary's Cathedral, Perth.  
Jacinta Jakovcevic, organist and Director of Music at the Cathedral, will lead the workshop. Afternoon tea will follow.
- June 11th— Choristers' Camp Fundraising concert  
2-3:30 p.m. at St Patrick's, Mount Lawley.
- July 4th-9th— Choristers' Camp, Narrogin.
- August 12th— Choral Festival  
6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Basilica, Adelaide St, Fremantle.  
2 rehearsal dates for this event will be confirmed later.
- October 1st— Hymns for Saints and Angels  
2-3:30 p.m. at St Michael and All Angels, North Beach.
- November 4th — "Singing together" event  
2 p.m. at St Michael's, corner of Gunbower St and the Promenade, Mount Pleasant. Afternoon tea to follow.

## ANZAC Day Evensong at St Edmund's

St Edmund's Wembley will again be holding a Choral Evensong on Anzac Day, Tuesday 25 April 2017 at 5.00pm. The church is located at 52 Pangbourne Street Wembley.

Enquiries to Gloria Lygne – 9387 4507

Choir rehearsals for the service will be held at the church on:

Thursday 6 April at 6.00pm

Tuesday 11 April at 10.00am

Tuesday 18 April at 10.00am

Thursday 20 April at 6.00pm

Tuesday 25 April at 4.00pm

## April 2nd — What's in the RSCM Library?"

The RSCM Library has been relocated from Carol's Garage to a room in St. Patrick's Church Hall at Mt. Lawley.

Sheila Byfield will give an informal talk on what has been catalogued so far, and you are invited to come and have a look at what the committee has done so far, and join with others singing some of the repertoire.

We will enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit after the event.

## "Bread of Life" Afternoon — an afternoon of song and prayer

On Saturday November 5, about two dozen members and friends gathered at the air conditioned (it was the one hot day in a miserable Spring!) All Saint's College Chapel for an excellent afternoon of hymns, anthems, readings and prayers with the theme "Bread of Life", prepared by Gill Burbidge and Ruth Styles.

Some of the pieces were known to most of us - Here in this place, Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour (fancy Deirdre not knowing that!), Beauty for brokenness and Eat this bread, with volunteer soloists for the verses.

We made valiant attempts at Franck's Panis Angelicus and Elgar's Ave Verum.

New to most people was Margaret Rizza's Blessed Bread, which had a main chant with variations for verses. This is published by the RSCM in a booklet by Margaret Rizza called "Bread of Life", on which the afternoon was based.

The other hymn which few of us knew was Graham Kendrick's "Here is bread, here is wine" which I am told is in the new Ancient and Modern Hymn book.

Along with manna from the desert, the feeding of the 5000, and an entertaining story of Brother Angelo and St Francis, we rounded off the day with Guide me, O thou great Redeemer.

The afternoon was led by Gill, with John Beaverstock at the organ, and I'm sure that everyone who came enjoyed themselves.

## St Patrick's Basilica, Fremantle

### Pipe Organ Plus

18th March, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

The 2017 Pipe Organ Plus concert series commences with *Anniversary*, combining organ music with the angelic voices of The Winthrop Singers (in their second Pipe Organ Plus outing).

Marking the 10th anniversary of The Winthrop Singers and the 17th anniversary of Pipe Organ Plus, *Anniversary* features some all-time favourite choral and organ music, with pieces bound to inspire and excite within the acoustics of the Basilica.

Tickets available at: [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)

## From St Mary's Cathedral in the City

### West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) concert

**Thur 6th April**

7:30pm

Admission and ticketing: please check WAAPA website

*As we approach Holy Week, the classical vocal students present a varied programme of works directed by well-known English conductor Nicholas Cleobury.*

## From the Uniting Church in the City

### *Free Recitals at Wesley Church*

(cnr William & Hay Streets, Perth)

Wesley Music Recitals

Our free Wesley Music Recitals will begin again with our first recital of 2017 on April 21, 'An Easter Journey,' featuring Angela Currie on Organ.

The recitals last for approximately 45 minutes and are followed by light refreshments, allowing time to chat with the musicians over a cuppa and a cake. Feel free to eat your lunch while you enjoy the beautiful music.

For more info contact Music Director Angela Currie at [angelac@ucic.org.au](mailto:angelac@ucic.org.au) or the Church office on 6103 4222.

## FREMANTLE EISTEDDFOD 2017

Instrumental, Vocal and Choral sections.

Thursday 11th May -Sunday 21st May, 2017.

Venues: Fremantle Town Hall, and St.John's Anglican Church.

Closing dates for entries Friday 3rd March (early bird discount)  
Friday 17th March. (Full fees)

Website: [www.fremantleeisteddfod.org.au/](http://www.fremantleeisteddfod.org.au/)

All enquiries: email: [info@fremantleeisteddfod.org.au](mailto:info@fremantleeisteddfod.org.au)

Schedules, with entry forms, are available from Clef Music, Perth, Crescendo Music, Myaree, Tempest Music, Manning, Theo's Musical Instruments, West Leederville, and Zenith Music,