

RSCM M WestNews

Vol. 26 No. 3

May 2017

Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

I am writing this on the afternoon of Good Friday. It has become the pattern that I get home from church, make my lunch and settle down to listen to some appropriate music. What to choose? Stainer's *Crucifixion* – but I had the pleasure of accompanying the St Barnabas Singers in their performance at St Edmund's, Wembley a week ago. It might be one of the Bach Passions, but this year I settled for Part 2 of *The Apostles* by Elgar.

We are so fortunate to have ready access to good performances of great works. Adrian Boult's 1974 recording of *The Apostles* was the only one until 2012 when Mark Elder's performance with the Hallé Orchestra was released. We're unlikely to have it performed in this country: it is Elgar's largest musical canvas, with very large orchestra, organ, chorus, semi-chorus and six soloists. It's also perhaps too overtly Christian for these times while not having the performance tradition of *Messiah* behind it. Elgar's focus on the repentance of Judas is masterly, and heaven seems indeed to open in the final Ascension section.

RSCM exists to remind us that we must also value and support live performance in churches. Some have wonderful musical resources, others do wonderful things with just a few willing people. I trust that all our members have enjoyed a spiritually fulfilling Holy Week and Easter with good music in the mix.

Immediately before the Wembley *Crucifixion* performance I mentioned above, I had the privilege of playing the organ for the funeral of Murray Russell, husband of Deirdre, our former Chairman, in a packed-out Willetton Uniting Church. Revd Stuart Good, another former Chairman, shared in the conduct of the service. Two of Murray's and Deirdre's grandchildren sang solos, and the family together sang Howard Goodall's 'The Lord is my shepherd'. There were a number of faces from past Junior Choir Camps in that family group, testament not only to what we can give young people on Camp, but also to Deirdre's enthusiasm to ensure that members of her family were able to take part in them. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Deirdre and the family.

The Branch's focus now turns towards this year's Camp, to be held in Narrogin in July. Please put the fund-raising concert at St Patrick's, Mount Lawley on 11 June into your diary and start encouraging your friends, family and even people you don't particularly like to come to what will be a very worthwhile afternoon of fine musical performances.

Please keep Jacinta Jakovcevic, Steven Secker and myself in your prayers as we prepare to travel to Adelaide at the end of May for National Council. As those who were at our AGM know, there are some difficult issues that need to be faced.

I look forward to seeing people at our forthcoming events.

John Beaverstock

CHAIRMAN

Please note that forthcoming RSCM events are highlighted in blue on page 3.

Don't forget the workshop at St. Barnabas, Sunday April 30, 2.00pm

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for Year 2017-2018**

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LIBRARY The library is now situated at St.Patrick's Anglican Church, Mt Lawley. Please contact Sheila Byfield to gain access.

WEBSITE The website of RSCM Australia is 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 W.A. Secretary at ken@taylor.org.au

FACEBOOK The RSCM Australia Facebook page is www.facebook.com/RSCMAustralia



Deadline for the next issue is June 22nd.



Hi Everyone,

As advertised in the last WestNews, we have taken over the publishing of the newsletter for the time being, and the Committee thanks Lucas for looking after it for the last year or so. Although Moya has experience, having produced the WestNews previously, we are really only filling the gap, until Carol Crass and Brad Wake are able to resume the task.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, although her shoulders are still a problem, we're hopeful that Carol will be taking her first steps in a long time.

Please make a note of the forthcoming events advertised in this WestNews, both for the RSCM and other groups and try to support them.

Moya and Sheila

WORKSHOP FOR CANTORS

Saturday 6th May 2.00pm—3.30pm at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jacinta Jakovcevic, Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary's Cathedral will lead a workshop to assist those who sing as Cantors in their churches. Afternoon tea will follow.

CHORISTERS' CAMP FUND-RAISING CONCERT

Sunday 11th June, 2.00pm

To assist with the running of this year's Choristers' Camp, a fund-raising concert will be held at **St. Patrick's Anglican Church, Beaufort Street, Mt. Lawley.**

Programme will include Instrumental and Vocal Items

Admission \$15– and \$10– concession. Afternoon tea will follow.

CHORISTERS' CAMP 4th—9th July

Please find a Flyer for the Annual Choristers' Camp, which is to be held at the W.A. College of Agriculture, Narrogin, on Page 7 of Westnews.

**For Registration forms and further information contact Lucas Phillips laphillips@inet.net.au
It would be appreciated if you would be able to display a copy of the flyer in your church, local library, or school.**

ANNUAL CHORAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, 12th August at Basilica of St. Patrick, Adelaide Street, Fremantle

Prior to our Annual Choral Festival, rehearsals will be held

2.00pm 6th August, St. Patrick's Anglican Church, Mt. Lawley

7.00pm 10th August., Choir room at St. Patrick's Basilica, (entry Parry Street, Fremantle)

4.15pm, Choir room, St. Patrick's Basilica, prior to service at 6.00pm.

Please make early entries in your Diary. We shall be singing a Mass written by our Chairman, Mr. John Beaverstock, for the Choristers' Camp, plus several anthems.

WHAT'S IN THE RSCM LIBRARY

Report by Sheila Byfield.

As most of you know, when the Uniting Church in Claremont had renovations, our Library had to be moved, and it ended up in boxes in Carol Crass' garage. However, last year, St. Patrick's Church at Mt. Lawley allowed us to move it into a small room in their hall. So far, members of the committee have unpacked and arranged multi-copy anthems, masses, a few evensong responses, psalms, festival service books, organ music, and some other items, but there are still a large number of single copies yet to be categorized.

On Sunday, April 2nd, a small group of members gathered to see what is going on in the RSCM Library. We had a quick sing-through of some pieces—The Mass of St. Chad by Gordon Appleton, written for Choristers' Camp some years ago, The Mass of the Quiet Hour by Oldroyd, and a Mass by W. Mathias, "Brother James' Air" by G. Jacob, and a very operatic "There is a Green Hill" by Gounod.

There is a container full of old melody line English Hymnals, and another container full of old Psalters. If anyone would like these please contact the committee.

Although there is not a formal "borrowing system" set up at this stage, if you wish to go and look at the library, or borrow from it, please contact Sheila Byfield, and we can arrange access for you.

Report by Joshua Adams on

RSCM SUMMER SCHOOL, ADELAIDE, JANUARY, 2017

I attended the 2017 RSCM Summer School in Adelaide to complete my Gold Award. Whilst I'm extremely pleased to have received it with honours, there were a host of other memorable experiences that I found interesting and beneficial to my studies as a university music student.

As well as being my first Summer School, it was also the first time I've been to Adelaide. Whilst similar to Perth (with the hot weather persisting for the first few days), some notable differences were the abundance of beautiful churches and restored heritage, and the closeness of the hills to the ocean that I noticed from the aeroplane and from in the city.

Within hours of arriving at Aquinas College I felt at home. It was reminiscent of St George's College here in Perth, where I sang a weekly evensong with the Winthrop Singers in my first year at UWA. Whilst the grounds felt familiar, the majority of people at the Summer School weren't, so I naturally felt a little overwhelmed. I needn't have worried though, as meal times quickly became a way for me to meet fellow church musicians from around Australia and New Zealand who were welcoming and eager to chat.

Something I found really interesting from the conversation at lunch was the richly ecumenical nature of the group. Between these conversations and the opportunity to sing evening prayer services at churches of differing denominations, I felt like I got a real insight into the differences and similarities in faith that I hadn't previously been aware of. Whilst I'm no stranger to singing in a choir, the repertoire we covered for these services was exhilarating, and Malcolm Archer was a superb director.

Whilst all the workshops and presentations I attended were informative and enjoyable, a highlight was attending (and being a part of) Jacinta's workshop on J.E. Dodd, and a presentation of music of the period on a Dodd organ. Learning so much about this particular subject, and organs in general, was something I hadn't thought about prior to the Summer School, but is something I'm glad to have experienced.

After juggling times to sit the exam for the Gold Award, the day finally came. The different components of the assessment were numerous and extensive, but I went in confident from the preparation I'd done in the months leading up to the Summer School, and from the knowledge and skills I've amassed from singing at St Mary's Cathedral for about 10 years. Fortunately it all went well, and I left the exam feeling like I'd done as well as I could have hoped.

The trip to Adelaide was a unique experience that I'll remember as a highlight in my musical career so far. The knowledge and experience I gained from completing the award and participating in the Summer School has changed the way I sing, as well as the way I think about singing in a church music context.

Joshua Adams

Editors' note: Joshua was presented with his Gold Medal (the first awarded to a Western Australian) by our Chairman, at the 11am Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Palm Sunday.



Photos by Ron Tan/Archdiocese of Perth

Following the visit of the Tallis Scholars to St. Mary's Cathedral late in 2016, one of the bell ringers wrote the following acrostic poem.

T hey opened their mouths
A nd
L egendary,
L audatory,
I nspiring.
S ong came forth

S ublime
C lossal,
H eavenly,
O pulent,
L ovely,
A ngelic,
R egal,
S ensational !

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ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Concert Series: Concert 1 Sunday 21st May, 2.00pm

An afternoon with Mr. Dodd and Mr. Hobday. Featuring both Cathedral Pipe organs. Richard Offen will provide anecdotes about life in Perth in the early 1900s. Admission \$28/\$24 concession.

An afternoon tea and concert package also available at extra cost: \$40/\$35 concession. This package entitles the holder to the concert AND an early 1900s afternoon tea served during interval in the Cathedral's Parish Centre and adjoining courtyard. Bookings for the afternoon tea package close on **Monday 15th May**.

Tickets: ticketswa.com 6488 2440

WASO Chorus Concert 1: Sunday 28th May, 2.00pm

Admission and ticketing: please check WASO website

WASO chorus sings Fauré's 'Requiem'.

Community Singing 1 Sunday 25th June 2.00pm Admission: \$15/12 concession.

Book at: music.cathedral@perthcatholic.org.au 9223 1377

SING with the choirs of Church of the Resurrection, Swanbourne.

The Church of the Resurrection, Swanbourne, is currently auditioning for their Junior Choir (Ages 8—12) and Senior Choir (Ages 13—18). The choirs provide young singers with training to a high level in music theory, sight reading, aural skills and vocal technique.

Auditions will be held in May, 2017. For more information, please contact the Director of Music:
ph: 9384 2958 or *email*: office@resurrectionswanbourne.com.au

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Great Choral Classics Friday May 5 7.30pm

Fauré's Requiem and Walton's The Twelve - Joseph Nolan - Conductor
St. George's Cathedral Consort, Stewart Smith - Organ

The WASO Concertmaster Monday July 3 7.30pm

An Evening with Laurence Jackson, WASO Concertmaster, and Joseph Nolan, St. George's Cathedral Organist-
Tickets available online from ticketmaster.com.au, or by phone on 136.100

Concerts at One Wednesdays, May 17 and 31, June 7 and 21, July 5

Featuring music students from W.A. High Schools, the Yoon Sen Lee Music School, W.A. Academy of Performing Arts, UWA Music Society, and St. George's Cathedral Asst. Organist Michael Lukin.
Admission free, with a retiring collection.

PIPE ORGAN PLUS

Monday 5 June 10.30am—Midday—2pm—3.30pm.

In association with the **Fremantle Heritage Festival** and the **Organ Society of Western Australia**, **Concert 2** will be a **RAMBLE** around the streets of Fremantle on the Monday June public holiday, visiting four historic churches for a series of concerts featuring splendid music - St. John's Anglican Church, Scots Presbyterian Church, Wesley Uniting Church and St. Patrick's Basilica.

Eva-Marie Middleton—mezzo soprano // Margaret Blades—violin // Louise McKay—violoncello
Dominic Perissinotto—pipe organ.

Parking available during the day at St. Patrick's Basilica

Transport available between venues on the Fremantle Tram -limited places, pre-booking essential before 26 May.

Opportunity to have lunch from 1-2pm Lunch not included in ticket price.

Ticket for all 4 Sessions \$75-, \$60- concession, and \$30 u/18. Transport \$40-. Single sessions available.
Online booking, visit www.trybooking.com/OODY Postal bookings to Pipe Organ Plus, PO Box 181 Fremantle.

UNITING CHURCH in the City

Free Recitals at Wesley Church (cnr William & Hay Streets, Perth)

Wesley lunchtime recitals are returning on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, with an extra recital on 26th May. As always, the recitals begin at 1pm and will continue right up until Christmas. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards alongside great chat! Further information about recitals and other musical events happening at Wesley can be found at <http://www.perthunitingchurch.org.au>

MEDIEVAL MAYHEM comes to Gosnells.

The All Saints Players will feature the world premiere of the riotous melodrama *The Clottingham Castle Carry On* written especially for the show by local playwright and director Pixie Hind.

The fast-paced two-hour show will be held in the hall/theatre on the corner of Dorothy and Hicks Streets, Gosnells and has evening performances on **Saturdays June 10, 17 and 24** when the doors open at 6.45pm and dinner served at 7.00pm. Doors open at 1.30pm for matinee performances on **Sundays June 11, 18 and 25**, show at 2.00pm.

Tickets are \$30 for evening shows. Matinee performances are \$20, which includes high tea in the interval.

To enjoy a terrific night or afternoon out, book by telephoning Peter on 9393.2236. Group bookings welcome.



Choristers Camp 2017



Discover a whole new family...

Sing new songs!

Make new friends!



The Choristers Camp: Narrogin 2017!

The Royal School of Church Music Australia offers a residential camp for 8 -18 year olds who have a passion for singing. It is run every winter in Western Australia, and can be anywhere from Geraldton to Esperance, but this year, the week-long residential event will be based in Narrogin!

Choir Camp is about more than just singing. It is a place of companionship, acceptance, laughter and fun where, over the years, many participants have made life long friends that get to meet up again and again as they come back each year. Voice For Life badges can be

earned, and a wide variety of music is covered.

Camp fees include all meals, activities, accommodation, transport, and music.

Applications close on 30th June, but apply before 31st May for your discount!

What: Annual Choristers Camp

When: 4 July 2017 until 9 July 2017

Where: WA College of Agriculture, Narrogin

email for more information - laphillips@inet.net.au

