

RSCM



WestNews

Vol. 26 No. 6

NOVEMBER, 2017

Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear friends,

As we approach the end of both the Calendar and Church years, we look both forward and back. Our time for review as an RSCM Branch is our Annual General Meeting in February 2018, details of which you will find in this WestNews. At that meeting the Branch receives and (hopefully) accepts the Chairman's and Treasurer's report. It's an important occasion, and I hope that a good number of you will make the effort to come to St Mary's Cathedral to be there and (more importantly) make your contribution to the meeting.

I recently attended the funeral of John Larnar, whose work has inspired so many church communities. I might well say that John was responsible for me coming to Western Australia over 30 years ago, because it was the prospect of having the organ of Guildford Grammar School Chapel at my disposal that was the main attraction to move to the other side of this country. John also rebuilt and maintained the two organs at which I have later presided – Wesley Uniting Church, Perth and St Patrick's, Mount Lawley – and this state owes him considerably for his work, not only as a builder of organs, but also as a restorer and maintainer of this important heritage.

A care for the heritage of music of our churches is what motivates people to contribute to RSCM. Although we value all church music of quality, our members particularly have a love for the choral music of past times. This style of music is not always in sync with popular taste, and it can also be a problem on the resource front, since it takes considerable rehearsal and effort to produce choral music; it's much easier to have a group of instrumentalists and one or two singers using microphones. Those of us who grew up with traditional church choirs can forget that, as well as singing their anthems and service settings, these choirs led the church community in singing hymns. Some of the hymns might have been maudlin Victoriana, and some of them might have had texts which we recognise do not match today's social and theological requirements, but they were singable and in many cases overflowed denominational boundaries. There is a considerably body of opinion that questions the 'singability' of much contemporary church music. However, we need to remember that there are many hymns texts and tunes from the old books that have deservedly fallen out of use.

Our Branch continues to look for ways of helping church communities to see the relevance of the best of musical heritage of past ages, whilst discerning what is worthwhile in the flood of new music that regularly appears. The Branches of RSCM Australia all operate as volunteer organisations in a society where people more and more see themselves as time poor. The 2018 program for our Branch will seek to help people develop their musical skills to serve their church communities.

As we head towards our AGM please do consider putting yourself forward for membership of Committee.

(Continued on page 3)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 11.30am, Saturday, 3rd February, 2018

See page 8 for particulars.

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for Year 2017-2018**

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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 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



EDITORIAL

You will notice that although details of our AGM are on the back page, the official invitation, minutes of the last AGM and nomination forms will have to be sent out separately.

For next year, there have been suggestions of workshops for Reluctant Organists, Cantors and Gospel singers, a Palm Sunday/Easter choral event, a Choral Festival and a Hymn Festival celebrating the hymns of Timothy Dudley Smith. If you have any other suggestions, please let any of the committee know of your ideas.

Some members have enquired about Carol Crass, one of our previous WestNews editors. The answer is that Carol is currently in the rehabilitation ward of Fiona Stanley Hospital, where, apart from a brief stay at Shenton Park, she has been for a year. She is certainly making progress, albeit slowly, taking small steps with a walking frame, and regaining some use of her fingers. She is always keen to hear news of the RSCM and its members.

Moya and Sheila wish members a happy and holy Christmas Season.

There is notice in this WestNews of a proposal to amend our Constitution, so that those holding executive office (i.e. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer) may do so for a maximum of three two-year terms. If that amendment passes (as I hope it will), this will be the final consecutive time that I can offer myself for Chairman. One happy outcome is that no one will feel under any pressure to carry on in these roles, particularly if there seems no obvious person to take their place. It will require the Branch to renew its leadership regularly, and I believe that will be for the better.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM.

John Beaverstock
Branch Chairman.

Hymnfest - 1st October 2017

We came together at St Michael and All Angels in North Beach, (not to be confused with St Michael's without the angels at Mt Pleasant), on a warm and sunny Sunday afternoon, at the beginning of October, to share our love of hymns of various styles and ages. Our ever-reliable chairman, John Beaverstock, played the organ, though the location of the console was not ideal for him to hear us singing.

Sheila had organised for most of the words to be projected onto a screen, so only those of us who wanted to sing the lower parts needed copies of the music. That worked admirably as most of the tunes were well known. We learned interesting points about the origins of some of the hymns or the tunes with nearly every hymn introduced by a different person, and Deirdre introduced us to something different for Christmas, though we wondered what she was up to at first.

It was an enjoyable day, but for me, there were two disappointing elements: the gentlemen were far outnumbered by the ladies, with only four basses and one tenor; and the lack of younger members of RSCM. It would be really good to have some younger participation in events such as this, as not all junior singers, and even young adults, are averse to singing some of the traditional forms of music from our churches.

Steven Secker

SINGING the SPIRIT, 12th November. 2017

Twenty seven members met at St. Peters, Anglican Church, Palmyra, to enjoy an hour of singing, Bible readings, and prayers, on the theme of The Holy Spirit. Gill Burbidge (who was presenter on the day), and Ruth Styles, had compiled the booklet, which was printed by John Beaverstock. John was our organist, and he also played several organ interludes during the afternoon.

The nature of the theme meant that the hymns were basically for the season of Pentecost, but included more modern music and words, such as those of John L.Bell, Vernon Hoyle, Keith Getty, and Margaret V.Old. Responsorial Psalm 65 by Anthony Gregory Murray was included, as well as a Taizé chant with music by Simon Lo.

Fr. Patrick King, Rector of St. John's, Fremantle/St Peter's, Palmyra, attended, and commented on the choice of the newer music.

Sincere thanks to Fred and Gaynor Grosvenor of St. Peter's for their assistance, and to Ruth and all who helped with the afternoon tea.

Moya Sherlock.

S.O.S. Has anybody seen our Attendance Book? Last seen at the Choral Festival at St. Patrick's Basilica in August. Ed.

As we draw closer to Advent and Christmas, we would like to advise members of some of the Advent and Christmas Carol services that are to be held during December.

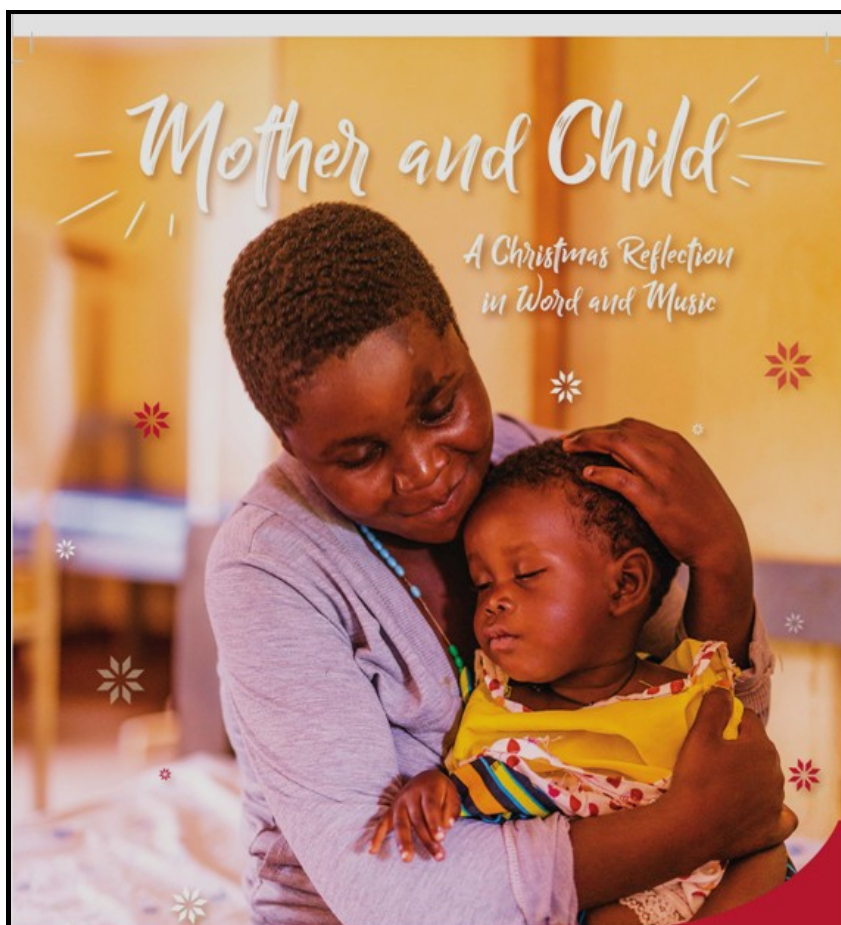
ADVENT SUNDAY 3rd December 7pm LONGING FOR LIGHT.

St. John's Singers, together with the Choir St. Patrick's Basilica, will present a Service of Advent Anthems, Congregational Hymns and Readings, at

St. John's Anglican Church, King's Square Fremantle.

Dominic Perissinotto, Organist Daniel Masmanian, Conductor

Supper to follow



Reflections by Emeritus Bishop Justin Bianchini

When Thursday 14th December, 7pm

Where The Basilica of St. Patrick, Fremantle

The Basilica Choir

Eva-Marie Middleton (soprano)

Paul Wright (violin)

Dominic Perissinotto (organ)

A captivating and beautiful evening of sacred music, readings and congregational carols to highlight the meaning of the Christmas gospel in our world today.

Prices: Adults \$30 Concessions \$20
12 and under free

Tickets: www.trybooking.com/SWMO
or at the door.

In support of Catholic Mission's work improving maternal and child health in Uganda.

WILLETTON DISTRICT ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE

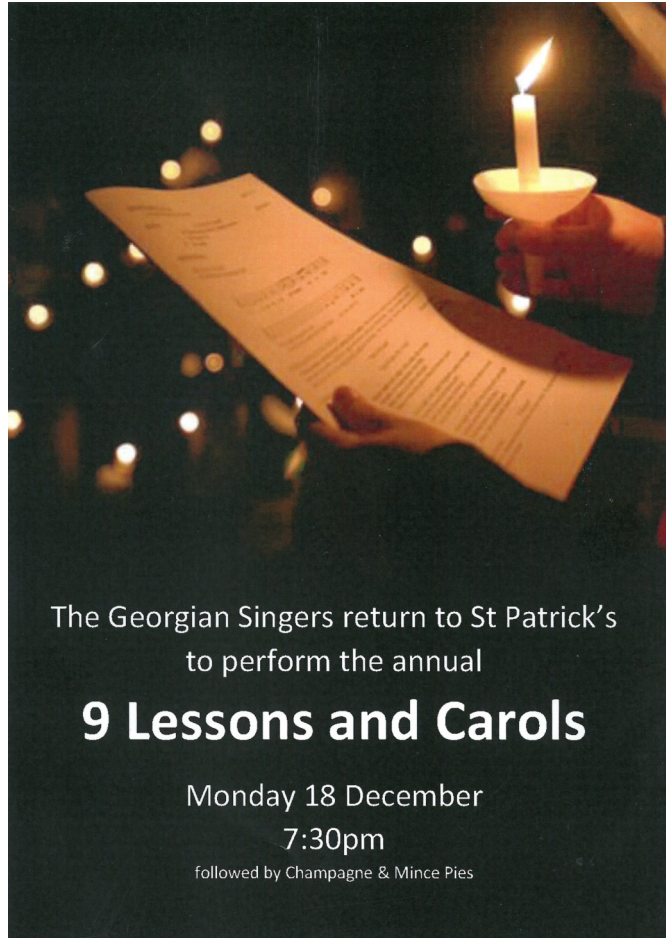
Thursday, 14th December, 7.30pm.

with voices from Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in Riverton, Willetton Uniting Church and St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Shelley.

St. Andrew's Anglican Church is this year's host church for the Annual Carol Service and is in Bernier Tce., Shelley (near Corinthian Park Tennis Club, but entry from Sixth Avenue, Shelley). Along with the well-loved carols, each church selects an unusual Christmas anthem to add to the programme.

There will be supper in the hall afterwards.

CAROLS at St. PATRICK'S. Mt. LAWLEY



9 LESSONS and CAROLS 2017

St. Michael & All Angels,
George St, North Beach

Friday, December 22 at 5 pm

Supper following



CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES.

St. Michael's Anglican Church, 25 Gunbower Road, Mt. Pleasant.

Christmas Eve: 11.30pm Midnight Mass. 8.00am Sung Eucharist; 10.00am Family Service.

St. Edmund's Anglican Church, Pangbourne Street, Wembley.

Children's Service, 24th December, 5.00pm. Family Service Christmas day 9.00am.

UNITING CHURCH in the CITY



Free Recitals at Wesley Church cnr William and Hay Streets, Perth. 1.00pm

Friday 1st December Caroline Badnall (piano), Kyla-Rae Ashworth (flute)

Friday 15th December A Christmas Celebration in music and poetry.
Angela Currie (organ), Lynn Coates (narration)

Christmas at Wesley

Christmas Eve Sunday, 24th December.

10.00am A Celebration of Nine Lessons and Carols with music directed by Angela Currie with Wesley Choir.

11.15pm Christmas Eve Service with Wesley Brass and Organ. Beautiful Christmas music from 10.50pm

Christmas Day 10.00am Christmas Celebration with music from Wesley Choir, organ and brass.

Music at Trinity

72 St. George's Terrace, Perth

Sunday 17th December

12 noon Festival of Lessons and Carols presented by Lux et Veritas. Directed by Jango Chapkhana

Recitals at Ross Memorial Church

cnr Hay & Colin Streets, West Perth

Thursday 14th December

12.30pm Tommaso Pollio (piano) & Melinda Forsythe (cello)



St. MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Christmas Community Singing Sunday 10th Dec. 2.00pm. Admission \$15/12 concession

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

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December.

6.00pm Children's Mass Carols led by the Christmas Angel and accompanied by the Chancel Organ

10.30pm Lessons and Carols Features scriptural readings to usher us into this most special and holy of nights.

The Cathedral Choir leads the singing of carols and excerpts from Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols.'

Midnight Mass (12 Midnight) The Cathedral Choir accompanied by chamber orchestra and organ leads us into the Christmas season with a Mozart Mass setting, and the Hallelujah Chorus.

Christmas Day 11.00am The Cathedral Choir takes us further into the joy of Christmas with carols and a reprise of the Hallelujah Chorus.

St. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Advent Carol Service Sunday 3rd December 7.30pm

A traditional service of lessons and carols, with the Cathedral lit by candles. Music is sung by the Cathedral Consort and includes Archer's *The Angel Gabriel*, Gibbons' *This is the Record of John*, Parsons' *Ave Maria*, and more.

Children's Christmas Service Saturday 16th December 3.00pm

Children are invited to get dressed up for the service. As the story of Jesus' birth unfolds, the chaotic crib scene is created, the children sing familiar carols and some simple prayers are said.

Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday 17th. Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th December, 7.30pm.

Traditional Carols and Readings, and a world premiere Carol composed for St. George's Cathedral Choir by Elena Kats-Chernin.

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass: First Eucharist of Christmas

Full choir and congregational carols. The Cathedral Consort sings Mozart's *Orgelmesse* and Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*.

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Eucharist with congregational Carols.

10.00am Choral Eucharist with full choir, and congregational carols. Music: *Little Organ Mass* (Haydn)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 3rd February, 2018 11.30am

to be held in

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Centre.

Organ Recital at 11.00am

Minutes of 2017 AGM, Official Letter of Invitation to meeting
and Nomination/Proxy form will be forwarded in due course,
together with Notice of Amendment to Constitution.

Please consider nominating for the committee. New members would be very welcome

It is proposed that we adjourn to Miss Maud's Restaurant for luncheon
following the meeting. RSVP will be required, to ascertain numbers.

RSCM AUSTRALASIA

SUMMER SCHOOL January 9—16 AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Andrew Lumsden, Winchester Cathedral - Director

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST with your name and contact details to:

barriec@extra.co.nz

2018 Fremantle Eisteddfod

Wednesday 16th May—Wednesday 23rd May

Venues: Fremantle Town Hall

St. John the Evangelist Church, Fremantle

All enquiries: email: info@fremantleeisteddfod.org.au

