

RSCM

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WestNews

JUNE 2018

Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

Dear friends

In contrast to my piece in the previous WestNews, it is a joy to start with some good news about a past Branch Chairman. We are delighted that Deirdre Russell received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. The award is 'for service to the community, particularly through music'. The citation commences with her work with and for RSCM, then proceeds to cite her work with the Western Australia Schools Music Society, Willetton Uniting Church and Applecross / Mount Pleasant Country Women's Association Branch Choir. Particular people have been doing much work over a couple of years to promote Deirdre's cause, and I found it frustrating that there was commentary after this year's Australia Day Honours that far too few women and far too few West Australians had been recognised, when there was a clearly deserving candidate fitting both categories. Deirdre has been a mainstay of our Branch for so many years, right from the time that she and Murray moved here from Adelaide in 1980, and all of our membership I know will be delighted that her service to RSCM and more widely has been so fittingly recognised.

There was a number of members of Deirdre's CWA Choir at the recent fund-raising concert for Singing Camp, held at St Michael's, Mount Pleasant on 9 June. The varied program was of high quality – and how good it was this year to have a number of young people performing – and a good number of people attending made for a healthy financial result as well. Our thanks go to Ruth Styles and the people of Mount Pleasant Parish for allowing us to use their facilities, and for such a lovely afternoon tea following.

We look forward to a successful Singing Camp under the direction of Sarah Mills-Menogue. There are two public services at which Camp participants will sing. On Saturday, 7 July at 5.00pm there will be a Choral Evensong at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Guildford. Perhaps you could combine attending this service either with an afternoon in the Swan Valley beforehand, or a visit afterwards to one of the many excellent restaurants in and around Guildford. On Sunday, 8 July at 9.30am, the Camp will sing at Mass at St Francis of Assisi's Church, 6 Lilian Road, Maida Vale (just off Hawtin Road).

The setting for Evensong is Stanford in B flat, and it is this music that will be sung at our Choral Festival in St George's Cathedral on Sunday, 29 July at 5pm. Details of the rehearsals are in this edition of WestNews, and it is my hope that we will enjoy singing some very traditional and well-loved repertoire; it's a while since we allowed ourselves a nostalgic festival.

Please do note the activities scheduled for later in the year as well.

Your Committee is already in the process of planning events for 2019. Last year I asked for input from our wider membership; I have to say I was not overwhelmed with suggestions, although a couple of people made the effort to contact me with ideas. It's important for us to keep a sense of where things are going. One matter that I will mention regularly over the next while is that I will step away from being Branch Chairman at the start of 2020, and we need to undertake what is known these days as 'succession planning'. Your prayers will be an important help in enabling this to happen, but it would also be good to see some active participation from our membership in the process. What has been suggested for next year already looks exciting, including collaboration with the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) in a festival that will take place in Fremantle around Palm Sunday (14 April) next year.

I hope to see many of you, if not at Singing Camp services, at our Choral Festival and its rehearsals.

John Beaverstock

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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



DLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FRIDAY, 10th AUGUST, 2018



We hope you are all surviving the cold and wet.

Although the Treasurer has received many membership subscriptions, there are still people/churches who need to become financial for this year. Please attend to this matter if you need to, and if you have lost your membership form, just email Jane for another.

While most of us are probably busy on Sunday mornings, don't forget that you can hear the choristers, who are attending our camp, at St.Matthew's Church, Guildford, when they sing Evensong at 5pm on Saturday 7th July. They would welcome your support, and it is an opportunity to enjoy the service of Evensong, which is not often held in parishes these days.

Moya and Sheila

DIARY DATES FOR COMING EVENTS

SINGING CAMP **July 3rd—8th Swan Valley Adventure Centre, Middle Swan**
Members, family and friends are invited to :
Evensong at St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Stirling Square, Meadow Street,
Guildford, at 5.00pm on Saturday, July 7th.
Sung Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Catholic Church, 6 Lilian Road, Maida Vale,
9.30am Sunday, 8th July.

CHORAL FESTIVAL 29th July 5.00pm St. George's Cathedral, Perth.

Two rehearsal dates have been organised:

2.00pm 15th July Uniting Church, Herald Avenue, Willetton, and
2.00pm 22nd July. St. Barnabas, Anglican Church, 104 Woolwich Street, Leederville,
Rehearsal will be held at the Cathedral, 2.00pm—4.00pm on day of Festival.

VISIT OF STEPHEN DARLINGTON, 6th October 10.00am—1.00pm St. Mary's Cathedral.

(See article on page 6)

HYMNFEST **27th October, 2.00pm—3.30pm St. John's Anglican Church, Fremantle.**

Please note change of date.

This year we will be singing hymns written by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith,
which are sung to well known tunes.

GOSPEL SINGING WORKSHOP, 6th MAY at St. BARNABAS

About 25 attended the workshop. Some RSCM regulars, some from St. Barnabas, and some from Celia's Mothersong choir.

We sang for about an hour and enjoyed a small afternoon tea supplied by St. Barnabas' members.

Celia had written a piece for the event— *Hold up your Lantern*— which will be used at the Singing Camp in July.

Thanks to all who contributed to make this an enjoyable occasion, an event we hope to include in our programme for 2019.

Ken Taylor

CANTOR WORKSHOP, ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, 19th MAY

The Cantor workshop was an opportunity for our parish musicians to meet, sing and hone their skills in this area. Although some more parishes were represented than last year, the attendance was still quite low (around 10 people).

Nevertheless, it was a very enjoyable session of singing with some of our cantors leading some items—and some lively discussion about this area of liturgical music.

To assist with the afternoon's proceedings, two of the Cathedral's Cantors, Joshua Adams (principal), and Dennis Nixon were present.

Dennis is newer to this art form and has only really begun focussing on this area a little over a year ago. It was wonderful to not only hear both of them sing, but also for them to join in the discussions and hear their impressions and thoughts about this area of music making in the Church.

Here are some thoughts from Dennis following the workshop:

“The cantor workshop was an amazing opportunity to be amongst like-minded cantors who all strove to sing in God’s name. It was a privilege to sing with them and discuss the highlights of cantoring and the challenges that it brings about. Being with experienced cantors was a learning curve for me in particular, as they all had valuable insights into singing and cantoring at Church.”

Jacinta Jakovcevic.



Photos: © Archdiocese of Perth/
The Record.

FESTIVAL OF HYMNS, ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL 20th MAY

Although the Hymnfest at St George's Cathedral was not originally an RSCM event, it had been advertised in Westnews as an occasion for us to get together and sing, so it was disappointing that apart from Chairman John, who played the organ both for the hymn singing and the Evensong that followed, there were only 6 of our members present. Fortunately, there were "others" from the Cathedral congregation who swelled the total, but even so, the attendance was not great.

We were led in our singing by the Precentor, Rev. Gareth Hughes, who had put together a programme of hymns through the ages, and who spoke to their relevance towards the building up of the collection of hymns, which we sing today.

Perhaps it was fortunate, in view of the numbers, that we were only given the tune to read, but it would have been nice if those of us who are not blessed with a high voice, could have sung our parts!

The hymns we sang:

Bring to the Lord a glad new song, (Psalm 149-150) sung to Jerusalem

Light of gladness, Lord of glory, to Quem Pastores

Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, to the original Gregorian mode

Our God stands like a fortress rock, to Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

O God our hope in ages past, to St Anne

O for a thousand tongues, to Lyngham

Praise to the Holiest in the height, to Gerontius

Lord of earth and all creation, to Westminster Abbey.

The Evensong, which followed, used various Wesley hymns, Wesley settings for the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and Wesley's "Lead me Lord" for the anthem.

Sheila Byfield.

SINGING CAMP, 3rd—8th JULY

SWAN VALLEY ADVENTURE CENTRE, MIDDLE SWAN

Arrangements are being finalised for this year's Singing Camp, and we look forward to another successful and enjoyable time of singing, Voice for Life ribbon training, and other activities. Some of the music chosen will be used at the Choral Festival on 29th July.

As the centre is not very far from Perth, you are invited to join the choristers and tutors at the Evensong in Guildford on Saturday 7th or the Mass on Sunday 8th July.

Please remember us in your prayers for the success of the camp.

Lucas Phillips, Camp Administrator

FUNDRAISING CONCERT, St. MICHAEL'S, Mt. PLEASANT, 9th JUNE

The Concert on Saturday, 9th June was attended by about 60 guests and performers.

The range of music performed was diverse and of the usual high standard, and the atmosphere was kept light and informal. The total amount collected by this event, \$770, will help reduce the costs of our Singing Camp.

Thank you to the musicians, and to the parishioners of St. Michael's, who helped to make this concert happen, and to the guests who attended.



Photograph by Sally Hemsley

STEPHEN DARLINGTON

The renowned choral director, Stephen Darlington, soon to retire as Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, will be visiting Perth during the first week of November as a guest of the Conservatorium of Music and the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Western Australia. Stephen will be presenting on several occasions that week, for information about which contact music@uwa.edu.au

On **Saturday October 6th** he will lead a workshop on singing Tudor church music at St. Mary's Cathedral in collaboration with the Cathedral's music department, the WA branch of the Australian National Choral Association, and the Royal School of Church Music. This is an opportunity to sing with one of the leading experts on this repertoire.

For details, contact (Jacinta on 9223 1377) or music.cathedral@perthcatholic.org.au



UNITING CHURCH IN THE CITY

Wesley Recitals at One

1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 1pm.

6th July Wesley Music Scholars 2018

20th July Lucinda Nicholls (soprano) and Stephanie Nicholls (piano)

3rd August Alexandra Allan (oboe) and Angela Currie (piano)

17th August Michael Howell (flute), Alix Hamilton (viola) and Bronwyn Wallis (harp)

Ross Lunchtime Recitals

9th August Aria Scarlett (soprano) and Christina Browning (piano)

For more information contact

Director of Music, Angela Currie at angelic@ucic.org.au

or the Church Office on 6103 4222

St. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

2018 Cathedral Concert Series: Concert 2

Sing with the sound of trumpets !!

Sunday 19th August 2.15pm Admission \$35 (\$28 concession)

The Cathedral Choir once again teams up with the brass ensemble of the Fire and Emergency Services Concert Band for a fun afternoon of toe-tapping spirituals, hymns, and music for brass ensemble and pipe organ—a true winter warmer of a programme.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

2018 Concert Series: Concert 3

Diva's Delight Again

Friday 3rd August at St. George's Cathedral 7.30pm

Sara Macliver—Soprano, Fiona Campbell—Mezzo, Dr. Joseph Nolan—Piano

Concerts at One. Entry is free, with a retiring collection taken.

Wednesday 4th July Michael Lukin, Assistant Organist, St. George's Cathedral

Wednesday 18th July Methodist Ladies College

Wednesday 1st August John XX111 College

Wednesday 15th August Vocal Students from the W.A. Academy of Performing Arts

Wednesday 29th August Presbyterian Ladies' College

