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APRIL, 2019

Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

Dear Friends,

I trust that our members have had a happy and holy Eastertide, and will continue to do so until the fifty days finish in June. One of my fondest experiences leading up to Easter was playing for the people's performance of *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer in St John's Anglican Church, Fremantle on Palm Sunday. The work is so well written, both for voices and for the organ, and it was given a good outing under the direction of Hugh Lydon. About half of the participants had rehearsed two Saturdays previously; others (including interstate participants in the ANCA ChoralFest) rehearsed for one-and-a-half hours immediately prior to the performance.

Because it is so well written, *The Crucifixion* will take this minimal level of preparation. In the case of *Messiah*, there are so many people out there who have sung it a number of times, that they can gather together and quickly create a worthwhile performance. But I don't think that anyone involved in such a performance will expect it to reach the musical heights of one which a choir (and the conductor) has prepared over a sustained rehearsal period. It certainly helps (as was the case with the Fremantle performance) to have a conductor with excellent musical intentions and thoroughly clear gestures. My first involvement in a performance of *The Crucifixion* was in 1983 and I accompanied a number of performances on Good Friday during my 14 years at Wesley Church, Perth, so I was able to reacquaint myself with an old friend, and I appreciated some lovely feedback at how well the organ accompanied the choir and the choice of sound colour that I made. (Having a fine instrument to play was a vital part of the latter.)

The 'traditional' style of church music that many of us follow requires a lot of learning and rehearsal by choral singers. Accomplished musicians with well-developed sight reading skills can make a good go of something after perhaps a single read through, but to find the depths of any piece of music requires more. If I am asked to accompany an instrumentalist, I have come to insist always on having at least two rehearsals, because I need to allow the music to 'percolate' into my musical consciousness. For the second rehearsal I have a much better integrated sense of the meaning of the music, and can also adapt my playing to the particular interpretation of the soloist (who usually has been rehearsing the piece at length).

For many people, music is something that happens at the flick of a switch or the press of a button. Our schools regularly proclaim that the journey is just as important as the arrival, and this also applies to creating a musical performance. We are now looking towards this year's Choir Camp in Geraldton, when young people will have the opportunity to experience this journey under the expert direction of Eva-Marie Middleton. They will learn that great performance is the result of a lot of hard work, and they will also learn how satisfying is the result of that hard work.

Coming up before that is a workshop designed primarily for people working in Roman Catholic parishes, another opportunity to enjoy the experience of singing Gospel music, and our chance to enjoy some thoroughly well-rehearsed performances at the fundraising concert for the Choir Camp.

Once we are past Trinity Sunday (16 June), we move into what is sometimes called Ordinary Time. But our Branch will continue to bring you extraordinary opportunities to develop interest and expertise in church music.

John Beavertock

CHAIRMAN.

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for Year 2019**

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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 wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au

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

ST. JAMES PRESS www.sjmp.com Login wa.treasurer@rscmaustralia.org.au

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FRIDAY, 21st June, 2019



The 'Easter' Season continues until Trinity Sunday, and we will be singing hymns associated with the Risen Christ for several weeks. Sopranos have no trouble singing the Alleluias, which always seem rather high for the alto section of our choirs. However, choirs and congregations alike enjoy these traditional hymns.

The Revd. John Bell, preacher, hymnwriter, composer, lecturer and broadcaster, began his extensive visit to Australia and New Zealand, by preaching at St. John's, Fremantle, on 5th May, and giving workshops on 6th and 7th at St. Cuthbert's, Darlington. Several members attended his workshops, and it is hoped that a report will be included in the next WestNews.

Moya

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

PARISH MUSICIANS MEET UP.

St. Mary's Cathedral. Saturday, 25th May. 2.30pm. Jacinta Jakovcevic will present an afternoon for those involved in music in parishes, whether as choristers, cantors, organists or other instrumentalists. A great opportunity to meet those who enhance the liturgy in their various churches. Tea, coffee and biscuits after the workshop. Further information is on the web-site.

GOSPEL SINGING WORKSHOP

St. Barnabas' Anglican Church, Leederville Sunday, 26th May, 2.00pm –3.30pm

RSCM WA and St. Barnabas invite you to an afternoon of gospel music—and potentially stepping out of your choral comfort zones.

Led by Louise Bell, Celia Mayers and Sarah Mills-Menogue, we'll be treated to a range of gospel standards and local compositions, to be learned and performed together.

Afternoon tea will follow the workshop.

NB *Change of date.*

Ken Taylor.



FUND-RAISING CONCERT FOR CHOIR CAMP, 2019

St. Michael's Anglican Church, Gunbower Street, Mt. Pleasant. Sunday, 9th June, 2.00pm—3.30pm

Your committee is pleased to present a Variety Concert, to assist with the running of this year's Choir Camp.

Items included are instrumental, vocal and choral, presented by members, young, and not so young. Although perhaps no 'big bass drum' as in The Floral Dance, we have clarinet, flute, oboe, cello, violin, and of course, the king of instruments, the organ. The vocal items will be accompanied by the piano.

Afternoon tea in the hall will follow the concert.

Admission: \$15 at the door.



2019 CHOIR CAMP—GERALDTON 9th—14th July

Preparations are well advanced for this year's Choir Camp, and although the 'early bird' registration date has passed, we are hopeful that more students will register through Trybooking www.trybooking.com/BAVJ1 Full details can be found on the landing page. Residential and non-residential places are available.

We will be staying at Geraldton Residential College, and performing at Francis Xavier Cathedral and Holy Cross Cathedral. Louise Bell, once a camp chorister, is the Camp Administrator, and staff members consist of teachers, retired teachers, parents, musicians and previous camp participants.

The conductor for the camp is Eva-Marie Middleton. Eva-Marie studied music at the University of W.A., is a singing tutor and has performed numerous operatic works and oratorios.

The organist is Dominic Perissinotto. Dominic is the Organist and Director of Music at The Basilica of St. Patrick, Fremantle, and is the Organist and Artistic Director of Pipe Organ Plus. He has been associated with the Choir Camp for almost 20 years, and has conducted several previous camps.

As is usual when camp is held at a country centre a bus is provided to and from Perth. Those living in other towns can meet the bus in Perth, or travel directly to the camp. Some parents drive to Geraldton on the weekend and collect their children on Sunday afternoon.

Singing at Camp. We form a 4-part choir and learn some beautiful music. Singing 4-part harmony is often a new and exciting experience for some, and for those already in a 4-part choir, the camp offers the opportunity to meet like-minded children.

Voice for Life training is a musicianship course that supports the development of musical understanding and vocal skills. Medallions are presented at completion of each stage. There is no singing or musical knowledge required to come to camp as tuition is provided, and support for those who have just started to sing, as well as extension for those who have advanced skills.

Other fun activities are offered, such as a choice between drama, sport and art, where participants hone their teamwork skills and solidify friendships.

If you know of anyone, aged 8-18 who would like to take part in a singing camp, please ask them to look up the Trybooking page for further information. A happy time for all is assured.



FREMANTLE EISTEDDFOD, 2019

This year due to the City of Fremantle building programme, all the Choir items will be held at the Main Hall at Methodist Ladies' College, Friday 17th May, all other instrumental and vocal items will be held in the Fremantle Town Hall, Monday 20th May—Tuesday 28th May. The Eisteddfod is a great showcase for our young musicians, giving them the opportunity to perform on a large stage.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER at ST. JOHN'S, FREMANTLE

Holy Week and Easter is a particularly busy time for all Christian churches, and a great deal of preparation makes the services very meaningful for those attending. This year saw the Choralfest Freo 2019, organised by A.N.C.A., and many choirs took part in various venues in Fremantle, including St. John's and St. Patrick's Basilica, as promoted by their committee.

Palm Sunday The first day of Holy Week began at St. John's with a procession in Kings Square, where palm crosses and branches were blessed. (A small shower of rain did not deter parishioners, clergy and choristers.) This was an Ecumenical service and the combined choirs of St. John's and the Basilica sang together, conducted by Daniel Masmanian with Dominic Perissinotto at the organ.

Following the Liturgy of the Palms and Sung Mass, the choir and congregation processed to the Basilica, led by a donkey, for the Liturgy of the Passion.

Later in the day another A.N.C.A. concert was held in St. John's.

At 3.00pm a final rehearsal was held for the choir presenting The People's Crucifixion by John Stainer, conducted by Hugh Lydon and accompanied by our Chairman, John Beaverstock. RSCM members were among the members of this combined choir. It was a pleasant experience to be listening to the performance, rather than being in the choir stalls.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week we had Holy Week Addresses from the Venerable Nick Mercer, former Vicar General to the London College of Bishops and Arch-deacon of London. These were followed by supper and Compline.

Maundy Thursday a smaller congregation met to commemorate how Christ instituted the Holy Communion at his Last Supper. Also, the washing of feet, and how our Lord then went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and await his betrayal. The service ended abruptly with the stripping of the altars, and people left in silence, while others kept a silent watch until midnight.

Good Friday The Community Choir and Community Orchestra performed excerpts from Bach's St. Matthew's Passion, interspersed with silence, poetry and readings between 12 – 2pm. At 2.00pm the solemn Liturgy of the Passion, with veneration of the cross by the faithful, and Holy Communion was distributed from the pre-sanctified gifts.

Holy Saturday Telling the Story of our Salvation.

Easter Day 6am Lighting of the Paschal Fire, Procession and First Mass of Easter.

The lighting of a new fire, from which the Paschal Candle was lit, and brought into the empty church. The hymn of praise, The Exultet was sung and the Easter Acclamation proclaimed. The waters of the Font were blessed and baptismal vows renewed. Breakfast followed in the Square.

9am Sung Mass for Easter with Baptisms. The choirs and the Community Orchestra led us in our celebration, by a rather unusual introtit, Zadok the Priest, with its many Amen, Amen, Alleluias, and Gloria! by Vivaldi as the postlude, with well known hymns during the liturgy. Of course, following the service we finished off with the sharing of Easter Eggs.

Moya Sherlock

CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA **HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!**

ST. GEORGE’S CATHEDRAL

The 2019 **Concerts at One** on Wednesdays commenced on 1st May, and will continue until September. The concerts provide an opportunity for talented students to perform in a unique environment to an appreciative audience.

- Wednesday 15th May - Christ Church Grammar School
- 22nd May - Yoon Sen Lee Music School
- 5th June - Piano Students from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts
- 19th June - Presbyterian Ladies’ college
- 3rd July - Yoon Sen Lee Music School.

You are welcome to enjoy your packed lunch during the concert. 1.00pm—1.45pm
No prior booking is required.

Entry is free, with a retiring collection taken.

ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL

2019 **Community Singing** recommences on Sunday 16th June, at 2.00pm. Segments include: Popular Classics, Contemporary corner, Magical Mozart, You can sing chant! Fun and educational vocal exercises, and Guest co-presenters.

For information and tickets email Jacinta music.cathedral@perthcatholic.org.au

WASO Chorus Sings:

Northern Lights 19th May 2.00pm. St. Mary’s Cathedral

Scandinavia has always had a rich heritage and tradition of great choral composers. In this concert the WASO Chorus, conducted by Christopher van Tuinen, will perform music by some of the finest composers from Estonia, Norway and Latvia.

Tickets \$30, and Under 30 \$25. through the WASO Box Office.

UNITING CHURCH IN THE CITY

‘**Wesley at One**’ recitals have resumed on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month., and on 9th May- flautist Chelsea Davis, alongside pianist Martina Liegat will begin the series at Ross Memorial Church.



A special worship event *Amazing Grace* will be held at Trinity Uniting Church, 72 St. George’s Terrace, at noon on Sunday, 26th May.

Lux et Veritas, conducted by Jangoo Chapkhana, explore this astonishing theme.

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