

RSCM

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WestNews

JUNE, 2019

Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

Dear Friends,

It was good to see a number of our members at the Fundraising Concert for Choir Camp. Once again we were made welcome at St Michael's, Mount Pleasant, and a varied program made for a delightful afternoon of music, followed by a chance to meet up over a cuppa and a great selection of afternoon tea. Members including Moya Sherlock, Sheila Byfield, the Taylor family, and Jacinta Jakovcevic with boys from the St Mary's Cathedral Choir showed the range of musical talent we have in our Branch. It was a particular delight for me to join with Jacinta in presenting a duet on the organ.

Over \$800 was raised for Choir Camp, and it is Camp which now occupies our attention. It is about to be held at Geraldton Residential College and will culminate in the 9.30am Mass at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Eva-Marie Middleton and Dominic Perissinotto will lead the music, while Administrator Louise Bell and her team of Camp Tutors are once again giving so generously of their time and talents to support the children as they experience music-making at a high level.

Following that will be your opportunity to experience the music from Camp, including movements from Schubert's Mass in G, which will be sung at our Branch Choral Festival at Willetton Uniting Church. Rehearsal details are in this WestNews, and I hope a good number of you are able to be with us for the Festival.

Some of our members are heading to Sydney for SydneyInSpires, which should be a great occasion, and I look forward to hearing about that. At the last moment Stephen Cleobury has been unable to be there, and his place has been taken by John Rutter. It is wonderful that people of this calibre are able to visit Australia for RSCM.

As we head into the latter part of the year, 2020 is not far away, which means that my term as Chairman is coming to its end. It is time for the Branch to ask our members to consider taking on the responsibility of joining the Branch Committee. So much work goes into planning our activities, and it is always good to welcome new people and their new ideas to help us provide support and teaching for church musicians, as well as having good times together. Please do start to think about this.

*John Beaverstock*  
CHAIRMAN.

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**CHOIR CAMP**

**9 -16TH JULY, 2019**

**GERALDTON**

**RSCM WA State Branch Officers  
for Year 2019**

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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](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 [wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au](mailto:wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au)

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

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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FRIDAY, 21st August, 2019**



It is pleasing to note that as at the time of writing there are 28 students, and 13 tutors attending the choir camp at Geraldton. The 'put together day', when folders with timetables, music, name badges etc. are prepared for students and tutors, was held at St. Michael's, Mt. Pleasant. Now the count down begins until 9th July, when the bus will take participants to Geraldton. A great deal of effort has gone into the preparation for camp to ensure all will enjoy their time away, musically and socially. A number of 'newbies' are attending, and we trust that after this camp, they will spread the word for 2020, when it is proposed that Albany will be the destination.

*Moya*

**COMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

**CHORAL FESTIVAL**

The Choral Festival is to be held at **Willetton Uniting Church**, on 4th August, 7.20pm, when we will be singing music from choir camp. Rehearsal dates: Willetton Uniting Church, 21st. July, 2.00pm; St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Leederville, 28th July, 2.00pm; Willetton Uniting Church, 4th August, 2.30pm

**PROPOSED DINNER WITH SPEAKER.**

**7th September.** Details of this event will be confirmed following the choir camp.

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**EASY CHORAL MUSIC WORKSHOP**

Although not widely advertised, the RSCM ran a workshop in May to help music teachers and conductors choose easy but beautiful repertoire for choirs. Hugh Lydon, (Aquinas College), Louise Bell (Mazenod College) and Eva-Marie Middleton (Mandurah Choral Society) all showcased various pieces and gave numerous tips. Suggestions included the use of rounds, where choirs can be split into even groups, no matter who turns up (everyone knows that feeling when you have a rehearsal or performance with just one tenor!). Also pieces where the parts are doubled in the accompaniment are useful if one voice part is missing.

We listened to some beautiful music of Ola Gjeilo and finished the evening by singing a gospel piece arranged by a local musician. The conductors continued to share their ideas and experiences over a hot drink in the staff room.

We are very grateful to Aquinas College, which gave us the use of their recently renovated Chapel, and Dominic Perissinotto ably accompanied on the pipe organ.

*Lucy Commander.*

.Louise Bell at Aquinas College.



Hugh Lydon and the organ in Aquinas College chapel.



Photographs by Lucy Commander.

### **FUNDRAISING CONCERT at St. MICHAEL'S, Mt. PLEASANT.**

On Sunday 9th June about 65 people attended the Concert to raise funds to assist with the Choir Camp at Geraldton. We were welcomed by the Parish Priest, Pamela Turner, and then the MC, Ian Fairnie introduced the first item, our Chairman, John Beaverstock, playing the Thomas Arne, *Allegro for Organ*. Yen Thu McGrath sang *Lascia ch'io pianga* from Handel's opera Rinaldo, and Deb Fairbairn played the beautiful Camille Saint-Saens *The Swan*.

James and Lexie Taylor, were joined by their mother, Sue. The trio played James' arrangement of '*Spear of Justice*' by Toby Fox. Sue ably filled in for Olivia Harris, who was ill and unable to attend. St. Mary's Cathedral Choristers, accompanied and conducted by Jacinta Jakovcevic sang John Rutter's *All things bright and beautiful*, and Howard Goodall's *The Lord's my shepherd*. Jeremiah Locke, pianist, played *Slippin' around*, and Joseph Milner, violinist, performed the first movement of Joseph Haydn's *Concerto in G. Major*.

Sheila Byfield, oboe, played the *Waltz*, from *A Life for the Tsar* by Mikhail Glinka. Derek Sloan Bass Baritone, sang *By the Bend of the River*, Clare Edwards, and *I heard a Forest Praying*, Sam Leeds. Jacinta and John played the 1st Movement of Gustav Merkel's *Sonata in D minor for Organ, for Four hands*. It is no mean feat for 2 people to sit on the organ stool, hands and feet moving in different directions. (Unfortunately we could only see nodding heads and moving shoulders on this occasion..)

Accompanists for soloists were Moya Sherlock, Sheila Byfield, and Jacinta Jakovcevic.

Following this pleasant and varied programme, we adjourned to the parish hall, where Ruth Styles and her helpers provided us with a delicious afternoon tea.

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the afternoon. Approximately \$800 was raised for the choir camp.

## NOTES FROM ST MARY'S

What have we been up to recently at St Mary's?

Well, we've had some amazing music to celebrate the feast days at the close of the Easter cycle - amongst them we included Messiaen's 'O Sacrum Convivium', Victoria's 8 part 'Regina Coeli'...and I even got to squeeze in Messiaen's 'La Banquet Celeste' at the Solemn Sung Mass on Corpus Christi !! I love this piece - so mystical and ethereal - I learnt it under Simon Lawford (everyone remembers Simon I'm sure?) and I've never played it at Mass - but this music fits certain parts of Mass so well... I suppose it's a good reminder of how a lot of these pieces originated as ideas from these composer's improvisations...

And talking about the pipe organ, our Organ Scholar Morgan May is visiting Austria and Italy as part of a music tour and will be playing two instruments (one in Milan the other in Vienna) - exciting times !!

*Jacinta.*

## PARISH MUSICIANS MEETUP at St. MARY'S CATHEDRAL Saturday 25th May.

Seven RSCM members from various parishes met with Jacinta Jakovcevic at the inspiring, beautiful and peaceful St. Mary's Cathedral, for what proved to be a time of stimulation and encouragement. We proceeded to introduce ourselves and state the roles we played in music at the Parish level. We were a mixture of choir members, clergy, leaders, organists and/or took part in a music group providing support to the congregation during worship.

Discussion followed, revolving around Church music and the lot of the organist and choir leaders. The subject of the ideal time frame for informing organists and choir/worship leaders of hymn numbers by the clergy provoked a good deal of discussion, concluding that the earlier the better for all concerned. Truly, a long standing issue for those who do not choose the hymns!

RSCM resources such as 'Sunday by Sunday' and the RSCM 'Voice for Life' programme were focused on as valuable aids which enhance our expression of our faith and enrich worship through music.

Jacinta kindly played through, and we all sang, a new vocal composition written in four parts with a flute obligato entitled 'Once Upon a Christmas Morn', composed by Jennifer Clee.

It was such a privilege to listen to Jacinta playing the organ, be inspired by her vast experience in church music, to be seated on those clear plastic chairs in the choir area and to share with other church musicians. The afternoon opened and concluded fittingly with us singing John Rutter's 'A Gaelic Blessing', then all sharing afternoon tea and going forth greatly inspired.

*Jennifer Clee*

## A NOTE ABOUT JAKE BIGWOOD

Lots of choir camp attendees from maybe a decade ago will remember Jake Bigwood, and will be pleased to hear that he has been accepted for a vocal scholarship to ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC, London, to gain a Masters degree over two years. Because his expenses will be very high, his grandmother, Deirdre Russell, is organising a fund-raising concert at her church, Willetton Uniting, cnr. Caprice/Herald Ave. in Willetton on Sunday afternoon, 28th July at 1.00pm. (Early, because there is a 'Messy Church' service afterwards). His accompanist will be Alessandro Pittorino, who, as a member of WA RSCM, has been accompanist at Choir Camp. There will be an admission of \$15 pp. Enquiries, ph Deirdre on 9312 0560,

**MUSIC AT ST. JOHN’S, FREMANTLE.**

St. John the Evangelist in Fremantle is seeking enthusiastic musicians and singers to augment the orchestra and chorus in the coming performances of Sullivan’s *Prodigal Son* in September, and highlights of the *Messiah* in November. Particularly useful for RSCM graduates, the church is also seeking an exceptional tenor to join the Scola Aquilae programme for the weekly services and as a soloist for the Sullivan, Handel and Bach cantatas through this year and next.

*Dr. Daniel Masmanian, Director of Music*

Contact: Parish Office 9335.2213 email: [admin@fremantle.perth.anglican.org](mailto:admin@fremantle.perth.anglican.org)

**NOTE OF INTEREST**

In the June edition of CMQ congratulations were extended to twins, Lynne Winnel and Jenny Prince, and their daughters, Sarah Winnel and Dianne Prince, all therefore from the same family, who have been presented with the RSCM Gold Award. They are from St. Matthew’s Anglican Church, Albury, and they attended the Summer School in Perth in 2012, and several of us met them at intervening Summer Schools. They completed the preparation for examination, and travelled to England where they completed the course.

Very few Australian choristers have completed the Gold Award, one of whom is St. Mary’s cantor, Joshua Adams.

**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	31st July	Yoon Sen Lee Music School
	7th August	John XX111 College
	21st August	Prendiville Catholic College.

*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.*

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**UNITING CHURCH IN THE CITY**



‘**Wesley at One**’ recitals have resumed on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month., and on the 5th July, Soprano Lucinda Nicholls will perform with Stephanie Nicholls on piano. They will present a ‘Midwinter Serenade.’

Thursday 11th July at 12.30 Ross Memorial’s organist, Tomasz Nowak will present a varied programme on the newly refurbished organ—a great chance to see this king of instruments put through its paces by someone who knows the instrument well.

At all of the recitals you will receive a warm welcome, fabulous music and a chance to catch up afterwards with some light refreshments and great conversation.

## AN AUSTRALASIAN FESTIVAL OF CHURCH MUSIC

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### Musical Directors

Dr David Hill MBE

Stephen Cleobury CBE

Dr Noël Tredinnick

Dr Barry Rose OBE

Anne Marsden Thomas MBE

Thomas Ospital

and featuring

National Youth Choir of  
Australia

and the "City Alight" band



Royal School of Church Music  
**AUSTRALIA**  
New South Wales Branch



Ken and Sue Taylor, will be attending this 'extra-special' RSCM event, together with Jacinta, who has a role on the national committee regarding Youth Music Ministry. We look forward to receiving photographs, and articles for the August edition of WestNews.

