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AUGUST, 2019

Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

Dear Friends,

We are now through the busiest time of our year, with Choir Camp in Geraldton, followed by our Choral Festival. For both we were delighted to enjoy the musical leadership of Eva-Marie Perissinotto supported by Dominic Perissinotto at the organ, and they concluded with wonderful musical offerings at services.

We are grateful for substantial donations including those from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth and the Anglican Diocese of Perth. A number of anonymous donations from our members, the money raised from sale of goods, and that raised at the Concert at St. Michael's, Mt. Pleasant in June, have meant that financially Camp broke even, despite children being charged under \$500– to attend.

Thank you also to the Camp Sub-committee under the leadership of Louise Bell. This group of people worked hard over twelve months to deliver a successful Camp. In particular, Kate Sinfield, our Branch Treasurer, moved heaven and earth to overcome logistical obstacles that appeared, including asking the Geraldton Branch of CWA to cater for the week.

For the remainder of this year. I am conducting a workshop on hymn accompaniment in October, and we have a Festival of Great Hymns in November –both of these at St. Patrick's Anglican Church, Mt. Lawley. Please do come if you are free on those days. The HymnFest is always a great occasion.

Next year's Annual Meeting is particularly important, as my term as Chairman comes to its end. Our Committee has created a framework for events in 2020, and we look forward to sharing that with you.

*John Beaverstock*  
Chairman.

**DIARY DATES**

**HOW TO PLAY HYMNS**

John Beaverstock will present a workshop on hymn playing at **2.00pm** on

**Saturday, 26th October, at St. Patrick's Anglican Church, Beaufort Street, Mt. Lawley**

**FESTIVAL OF GREAT HYMNS**

**Sunday, 17th November, 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Anglican Church, Mt. Lawley**

This year our Hymn Fest will be based on music arranged by Sir David Valentine Willcocks, a British choral conductor, organist, composer and music administrator, who died at the age of 96 on 15th September, 2015.

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

<b>Chairman</b>	Mr. John Beaverstock	jbeaverstock8@gmail.com	0423922472
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Ken Taylor	ken@taylor.org.au	wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs. Kate Sinfield	wa.treasurer@rscmaustralia.org.au	0438998300
<b>WestNews Editors</b>	Mrs. Moya Sherlock ( Mrs. Sheila Byfield)	megdean@aapt.net.au swbyfield@bigpond.com	9337 2939 9447 0824
<b>Choir Camp Administrator</b>	Ms. Louise Bell	ellemebell@hotmail.com	
<b>Committee Members</b>	Mrs. Gill Burbidge, Ms. Jacinta Jakovcevic, Mr. Steven Secker, Mrs. Ruth Styles		

### WestNews Information

**Please send material for publication direct to the Editors:**

Email            megdean@aapt.net.au      swbyfield@bigpond.com

**POST OFFICE BOX** 1313, West Leederville, W.A. 6901

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Occasionally there might be deliberate errors in the text desired by those submitting.

**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, 25th October, 2019**



As the next edition of WestNews will not be coming out until early November, it would be most helpful if news of any special musical events in Parishes could be sent to Moya either by email, snail mail, or telephone for inclusion.

Your Committee has already begun preparing events for 2020, the first of which will be the Annual General meeting, which is to be held on **8th February**. Venue t.b.c.

*Moya*

## **CHOIR CAMP, Geraldton, 9—16th July, 2019**

On Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of July I hopped on a bus with 27 kids + Miranda for a long bus drive to Geraldton to attend what was a week packed full of fun (if you like singing) and friendship. This camp was run by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and has been going for 45 years. In fact I attended my first camp in 1984 in Bunbury at the age of 7 years old up until the age of 19 where I attended for the first time as a Junior leader which just so happened to be once again in Bunbury. I then had a break for a few years only to return on staff as the First Aid/Health person after Graduating from TAFE as an Enrolled Nurse in 2011. I have continued to be on staff as the First Aid/Health person since and hope to continue for many years to come.

The RSCM Choir Camp runs over the first week of the July school holidays for children aged 8 to 18 years and is jam packed full of singing, singing and more singing from Tuesday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. During the five days we (both kids and adults) rehearse in a four part Choir various pieces old and modern, ready to perform at three different Church services. The first is a Dedication service on Wednesday night, where there isn't usually a congregation or audience, usually at the local Uniting Church where we dedicate the service to God. The other two services are at the Catholic Mass on Saturday night and at the Anglican Service Sunday Morning. However this year we did a Concert Saturday night in the Anglican Cathedral and finished the week in the Catholic Cathedral Sunday morning.

As well as rehearsing we also run a four level training program called Voice for Life where the kids earn coloured ribbons. It is during this training session where we teach the kids correct posture for singing, breathing techniques, how to read music and general music theory. We also have a time in the afternoon where they can enjoy options in sport, art and drama. Then just as you think our days sound full on already, our evenings are filled with fun activities such as games, a concert, a pajama party and a movie.

I have always enjoyed this camp and never grow tired. We have so much fun, learn so much, and make life-long friends. I enjoy every aspect of what is RSCM Choir Camp. I think what it is that keeps me going year after year is that we are all there for the same common reason, and that is we all love to sing. It is due to this that we form such strong friendships. The other reason for me as a staff member, is the fact that even though we are a Christian organization, some of the kids are from non-Christian backgrounds and probably haven't even stepped one foot in a Church, and seeing them, Christian and non-Christian alike come back year after year more excited than the previous year, some to the point where they also return as staff.

*Caroline Eadie.*



## CHORAL FESTIVAL

On 11<sup>th</sup> August the Annual Choral Festival was held in the Willetton Uniting Church, and following a Welcome by Deirdre Russell, the service was conducted by the Revd. Keith Elvish, Rector of the Anglican Church, Forrestfield.

The choir formed to sing at the Festival numbered 30, 12 of these being young students from the recent Geraldton Choir Camp. Eva-Marie Perissinotto conducted and Dominic Perissinotto accompanied the music which had been sung at services in Geraldton, and included the Kyrie, from Mass in G. by Franz Schubert (1797-1828), portions of Psalm 66, music by Carson P. Cooman, Agnes Dei from the Mass in G, and *O sacrum in quo Christus sumitur* (O sacred banquet in which Christ is received) words, Thomas Aquinas, music by Richard Shephard. ( b.1949) and various hymns. Moira Barker and James Taylor sang solo parts in the Kyrie and Agnes Dei.

Revd. Elvish gave an interesting talk about his own experiences as a young chorister. His son, had this year attended his first RSCM camp and gained his Light Blue ribbon for Voice for Life. Also receiving Light Blue Ribbons were Domine Foss, and Abbie Fingleton. Jeremiah Well gained his Dark Blue ribbon.

The afternoon concluded with an organ postlude: Toccata in B minor from *10 Pieces pour Orgue*, Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)



NSW Branch's new experiment in shifting the Summer School format to Winter with a significant push in marketing and expense ran from July 6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> based at St Paul's College within the grounds of the University of Sydney.

The intent was clearly to "reboot" the Summer School format with an all-star cast and a set of significant headline events. To this end, it was a great success, with no less than four major events for the assembled choristers

- - A **Christmas in July Lessons and Carols** service in St Andrews Cathedral led by John Rutter (after Sir Stephen Cleobury was forced to cancel for health reasons),
- - **Bach's St Matthew Passion** in the Sydney Town Hall led by Dr David Hill with an orchestra of period instruments and brilliant soloists,
- - **Prom Praise**, also in the Town Hall led by Dr Noël Tredinnick with a full orchestra and the Town Hall organ,
- - A "**Royal Evensong**" in St Andrews Cathedral led by Dr Barry Rose using various pieces from previous royal events.

Due to a happy coincidence, the National Youth Choir of Australia were also in Sydney for their national event, and became part of the Winter School as well, providing brilliant support for the Bach in particular - providing the smaller solo parts - as well as hosting their own sublime concert in St Mary's Cathedral led by Dr David Hill.

Thomas Ospital, Titular Organist at St Eustache in Paris, also put on a special concert accompanying a showing of the original motion picture of *The Phantom of the Opera* live on the organ at St Andrews - this was a particular highlight for me.

While clearly intended to be a showpiece of the music available, and the amazing talent in the community of RSCM, there was less time for the "school" aspects, and I felt that this part of the event suffered a little. It was also clear that there was probably one big event too many, as a number of choristers, myself included, had largely run out of voice well before then end of proceedings. Having said that, it was a great success, and NSW's organising committee are to be congratulated for undertaking such a spectacular event.

It now is left to Queensland and then us here in Perth to follow up with subsequent Winter Schools. While neither branch has the wherewithal to put on such a huge and risky venture that NSW could, we will certainly benefit from the momentum generated by Sydney Inspires, and for that alone, it deserves its place in the sun.

*Ken Taylor*



John Rutter, Sue Taylor, Angela Currie, Ken Taylor

## SydneyinSpires

SydneyinSpires was an absolute whirlwind week of church music full of fantastic opportunities. As a member of the National Youth Choir of Australia (NYCA) we sang a huge amount of repertoire over the week as the choir in residence, with services and concerts every day we were in Sydney. This left us more than a little exhausted by the end of it all, but there were a number of highlights that will stick with me for life.

Working with John Rutter to prepare and then perform a substantial Lessons and Carols service was an absolute pleasure - he was lovely to collaborate with, and there were many beautiful and moving moments accordingly in the service. This was recorded and will be broadcast on Christmas Day on ABC Classic FM, so listen out for it! Working to put Bach's St Matthew Passion together in a few days was a momentous task - I was even lucky enough to have one short solo line as 'Priest I', which was more than a little daunting! As with John, working with David Hill and a stellar Baroque orchestra was exceptionally rewarding and something I'll never forget. The thing I look forward to most with NYCA is seeing my friends from around the country who are as equally passionate about singing as I am - making music with them is always one of the highlights of the year and this was no exception at SydneyinSpires. One moment that really touched me at the end of an exhausting week was singing the Te Deum from Herbert Howells' Collegium Regale in the final Sunday morning service at St Andrew's Cathedral, which concludes with the words 'O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded'. It was a very emotional moment and seemed to be just the right sentiment to end what had been an overwhelming but one-of-a-kind experience.

*Joshua Adams*



*Joshua with John Rutter*

## **NOTES FROM St. MARY'S**

Been busy here—I was also away for parts of July. During my time away I attended the RSCM National Council meeting following the Sydney in Spires Winter School. Sounds like it was absolutely amazing!

And so our travelling musicians have returned home—our Josh attended Winter School, actually as part of the annual National Youth Choir of Australia (NYCA) event (*see his report on previous page*). Our Organ Scholar, Morgan May has also returned from her school tour (Penrhos College), during which she had the opportunity to perform on two pipe organs as part of the school's concerts: at San Antonio Abate Church in Milan (where Mozart composed 'Exultate Jubilate'), and the pipe organ at the Church of St. Margareta, Fels am Wagram in Vienna. As part of the tour, Morgan (who is also a talented baritone saxophonist) also competed in the Summa Cum Laude Youth Music Festival, a global youth music festival held in Vienna for choirs, bands and orchestras. The tour group also performed in Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Italy.

A couple of weeks ago I came down with that awful cold which seems to be trolling its way through Perth .... But the show needs to keep going on! We had our concert on Sunday, 18th, 'Voices of Angels'. It was all about our trebles—the performance of Britten's 'Missa Brevis' was a particular highlight of the afternoon.

We are preparing now to celebrate Our Lady's birthday with our 'Ave Maria' recital on Sunday 8th September.

*Jacinta Jakovcevic*

*Ed. Note.* Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances WestNews will be out following the Ave Maria recital, and the Community Hymn Singing.



*Morgan May at the organ.*

*Photographs from Jacinta J.*



**MUSIC at St. JOHN'S, FREMANTLE.**

On **Saturday, 28th September, 2019**, the Soloists, Academy and the Chorus of St. John the Evangelist, perform Arthur Sullivan's early masterpiece, *The Prodigal Son*.

Commissioned for the 1869 Three Choirs Festival, and premièred at Worcester Cathedral a year before meeting W.S. Gilbert, the 27-year-old Sullivan filled his first oratorio with graceful arias, thrilling choruses and spectacular counterpoint, to show off his muttonchops as the presumptive heir to Mendelssohn.

Join us from 7.30pm with complimentary wine on arrival, and enjoy the performance from 8—9pm, with refreshments served in the interval.

**Tickets: [prodigalsonfreo.eventbrite.com.au](http://prodigalsonfreo.eventbrite.com.au)**

**\$20 (\$10 concession) free for children under 12.**

*For more information call 9335.2213, or email [admin@fremantle.perth.anglican.org](mailto:admin@fremantle.perth.anglican.org)*

*Dr. Daniel K.L. Masmanian,  
Director of Music, Church of St. John the Evangelist,  
Fremantle.*

