



# Newsletter

July 2015

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

Past Patron: Dr I G Dicker

## From the Director

I came across an interesting article recently entitled “*What is killing Classical Music?*” It had a few quotations:

*“The voices incessantly rock to and fro, intoxicating rather than soothing the ear, while the singers themselves try to convey the emotion of the music by their gestures.”*

*“Such composers, in my opinion, have nothing but smoke in their heads if they are so impressed with themselves as to think they can corrupt, abolish, and ruin at will the good old rules handed down from days of old by so many theorists and excellent musicians, who are the very ones from whom these modern musicians have learned awkwardly to put a few notes together.”*

Where did these quotes come from? The second was Giovanni Maria Artusi in 1600 and the first was Pope XXII In 1324! So fears about older music disappearing are not new. Incidentally, the article came from the UK radio station Classic FM.

However, there is a concern with many people that younger generations do not attend classical music concerts. Much has been written about generational change and the fact Gen X want different things from Gen Y; Baby Boomers have different expectations from Gen Z. In my opinion, I think there is a lot in this. However, there will always exceptions and there are some from all generations who will attend classical music concerts. Personally I think there is a similar trend in “traditional” church music. Rock groups in churches are popular whereas unaccompanied polyphony does not seem popular with the majority of the population.

The main complaint about life in 2015 seems to be that everyone is time-poor and too busy. Therefore, for many, things have to be instantly accessible and have instant gratification - fast food, fast Internet, fast response to everything. Consequently, anything, including music, that requires a little more thought is not instantly liked and can get dismissed. Well known and popular classical music still remains popular and is used in the media. Pieces like Pachelbel’s *Canon* and Handel’s *Zadok the Priest* occur fairly regularly on the television in various guises. Recently, MacDonalds has been using *Zadok the Priest* with an advertising campaign, but how many people in the general population have heard Byrd’s *Four part Mass*?

Many orchestras have adapted to circumstances and include light and laser shows, film themes and fireworks in an attempt to capture the imagination and connect with a wider audience. I am not advocating adding fireworks to the church services though!

Best wishes

**Jim Abraham**  
**DIRECTOR**

## From the Chair

Greetings everyone

The year is flying by and we are starting to think of Christmas activities!

In the meantime, we have other things on the agenda and are preparing for another recording session to build on the work we did in 2015, which for various reasons could not be completed.

We are also hoping to be able to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Year after the

Evensong at St John's Gordon on 12<sup>th</sup> October. More details of this will be announced closer to the date. In the meantime, we are hoping to hold our annual "Country Weekend" in Goulburn in September, when the weather has warmed up a little!



Recently we sang Evensong at St John's Dee Why (see photo) with their Musical Director Tom Edwards at the organ. Tom will be returning to the UK in the near future and we wish him well in his future endeavours. We also congratulate him on having been awarded a PhD since he has been in Australia.



We have had our own celebration recently and gave Pauline Thomas a fun "drinkies" night after choir in honour of her significant birthday. I think she had a few celebrations that week!

We are thrilled to welcome two new sopranos to our midst – Anita Chan and Sally Rigden. They are both experienced singers and we hope they enjoy their time with TCS. Anita has two very talented daughters, so her time is precious! Sally has been overseas for some years and has returned to Gordon to live. We are happy to welcome them both!



On Sunday 12 July, TCS will be singing Evensong at St John's Gordon and featuring the music of James Nares, who is featured elsewhere in this Newsletter. Although it was written 200 - 275 years ago, the music is very approachable, is fun music and we are really enjoying learning it. We hope to see many of you at this service and I was

hoping to have the Newsletter out in time to let people know about this service. If you miss this opportunity, it might pop up somewhere else soon!



Finally, on behalf of the Treasure, may I thank all those who gave so generously to TCS over the last financial year. We really appreciate your support in this way.

God bless

**Jan Kneeshaw**

**Secretary/ Chair**

**Check out our website and then tell your friends!**

**[www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au)**

*See details of the choir, news, coming events, music listings, contacts for bookings weddings and other events, information for interested choristers wanting to audition.*

**Would you like to consider joining us?**

Contact Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or the Director, Jim Abraham on 0405 817 27

# Continuing TCS Program for 2015

Come and join us for one of these events

Other activities will be announced as they arise.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>
<b>JULY</b>	Sunday	12	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
<b>AUGUST</b>	Sunday	2	10am	Mass	St John's Balmain
	Saturday	22	7pm	Vigil Mass and Concert	Holy Spirit North Ryde
	Saturday	29	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Sunday	13	10.30am	Mass	Christ Church St Laurence
	Sunday	13	4pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Saturday	19		Country Tour	Goulburn
	Sunday	20			Goulburn
	Sunday	27	9.0am	Divine Service	Scots' Kirk Mosman
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Sunday	11	4.0pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Sunday	1	9.30am	Mass	St John's Balmain
	Monday	2	7.30pm	Faure Requiem - TBC	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	22	10.0am	Mass	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	22	2pm	Sesquicentenary of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney.	St Mary's North Sydney
	Sunday	29	7.0pm	Advent Carol Service	St Alban's Leura
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Sunday	13	6.0pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Balmain
	Friday	18	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	St Peter's Cremorne
	Sunday	20	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Gordon
	Thursday	24	11.0pm	Midnight Mass	St John's Gordon

## TCS Committee

**Secretary/Public Officer:** Jan Kneeshaw

**Treasurer:** David Lewis

**Minutes Secretary:** Janet Long

**Membership Secretary:** Emma Ericson

**Social Secretary:** Nicola Leaney

**Ordinary Member:** Madeleine Rowles

**Librarian:** Lynn Bock.



Supported by Ku-ring-gai Council

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## James Nares 1715- 1783



2015 sees the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of James Nares. He is mainly remembered for a chant which is often used for psalm 67. However, he was quite well-known in his time.

Nares was born in Stanwell, a suburb close to the southern boundary of Heathrow Airport. Other past residents include Thomas Knyvet, who uncovered the gunpowder plot in 1603.

His musical career started as Deputy Organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and in 1735 he was appointed as Organist at York Minster, following his predecessor's dismissal for 'absences without leave' and 'insolent behaviour' towards the chapter! The following year he was also appointed Master of the Choristers. He stayed there until 1756 before moving to the Chapel Royal in London where he was organist and composer to George III. Incidentally, when Nares left York, he was replaced by the first of four Organist of the Camidge family.

He resigned in 1781 through poor health and died in 1783. He is buried at St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

His Evening Service in F is still performed in Cathedrals today as are some of the anthems that he wrote. Nares is thought to have been the first person to systematically publish lessons for the keyboard, and paid attention to strengthening weaker fingers. He was also prolific in writing other keyboard works. He was one of the first composers to give performers advice on performance. In "The souls of the righteous", he gives the instruction 'a trifle faster'.

TCS will celebrate this anniversary in a Choral Evensong at St John's Gordon on July 12<sup>th</sup> where will sing *Search me. O God* and the *Evening Service in F* – as well as his famous chant for the psalm!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Nares#/media/File:James\\_Nares\\_by\\_Thomas\\_Hardy.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Nares#/media/File:James_Nares_by_Thomas_Hardy.jpg)

[http://www.nares.net/james\\_nares\\_1715.htm](http://www.nares.net/james_nares_1715.htm)

[http://www2.cpdل.org/wiki/index.php/James\\_Nares](http://www2.cpdل.org/wiki/index.php/James_Nares)

**Support The Cathedral Singers**

**BUY A PEN!!!**

**Good quality pens available for a donation to TCS. Ask a committee member!**





On Sunday 22 November 2015 the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney will gather as a community with their family and friends at St Mary's North Sydney to celebrate the Sesquicentenary (150 years anniversary) of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney. **TCS will be involved in this very special occasion.**

This will be an auspicious and historical event as the family and friends of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney, come together to honour and pay their respects through prayer, to the foundress Mother Elizabeth Ignatius McQuoin and the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney past and present to celebrate their Sesquicentenary - 150 Years Anniversary.

In 1865, Mother Elizabeth Ignatius McQuoin arrived in Sydney and began to plant the seeds of Mercy that would later transform the lives of so many - through healthcare, education, welfare and social justice. November's Eucharist celebration commemorates the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney being actively engaged in healthcare, education, welfare and social justice throughout Sydney since 1865.

Throughout 2015, specific celebrations have been held to commemorate this occasion:

For further details on the history of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney go to:

<http://www.nsmercy.org.au/about-us/north-sydney>

.....  
**The Continuing Story of a Choral Scholar.....**

I started performing with The Cathedral Singers in 2011, when I was half way through my Bachelor of Music degree at the Australian Institute of Music.



Brett McKern brought me in to audition and I was awarded a youth scholarship position



with the choir, which I held until 2013. In a little over two years I was given the opportunity to sing some of the world's most beautiful liturgical music across Sydney, and to join the choir on their 2012 tour of the UK where we performed in historic cathedrals and sites across England. In between concerts and leading worship in cathedral services, I was able to explore a dozen beautiful countries that I wouldn't have been able to see otherwise.

Since leaving the choir in 2013 I've completed my undergraduate studies in music, and a Master of Publishing, while pursuing a career in classical performance. This July I launched my own opera company, Operantics, with Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, which enjoyed a successful debut at The Independent Theatre in North Sydney.



We're now planning to take the show on the road around Sydney, regional areas of New South Wales, and even interstate. Next year is already looking up, with an exciting opera program of classic opera favourites and modern opera, including an Australian premiere of Jonathan

Dove's *Mansfield Park*, based on the classic novel by Jane Austen.

**Katie Miller-Crispe**

Ex-TCS Choral Scholar – now Producer!



## VALE – PHILIP HANLON

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the death of long-time member of the TCS Philip Hanlon. He died on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at the age of 86 after a short illness.

Philip was one of those people who excel in fields other than their chosen profession. He was an architect who, because of his church involvement, was commissioned to design many churches in NSW and interstate. But he had, also, a talent bordering on the prodigious for church choral singing and his knowledgeable leadership of choirs drew out the best in them.

I first knew him long before either of us were members of the TCS. His family resided in Drummoyne at the time my Father was Rector of St. Bede's, Drummoyne, during the 1950's. Philip was a choir member and involved also in other musical activities in the Parish.

After his marriage to Helen, Philip moved to Beacon Hill and, amongst being involved with other activities within the Parish, became Choirmaster and Organist at the then newly-formed Parish of Holy Trinity. He worked assiduously in developing the music at Holy Trinity and formed adult and children's choirs which, under his expert leadership, attained high standards of musicianship.

I was privileged to be invited by him to participate in a special choir, which he named "The Trinity Singers" and which he assembled each year to sing at the Advent Sunday service at Holy Trinity. He drew very competent choristers from his long list of choral friends and acquaintances and the music at this annual event reached exceedingly high standards of singing. We became known as "The Trinity Singers of Sydney" and recorded for the ABC and sang at other venues when invited.

At these services it was quite inspiring to see the effort he put into reproducing in sound what the composer had intended in the written form. His attention to the correct dynamics, the right balance between the choir sections, blending and enunciation was most educational for the choir members involved.

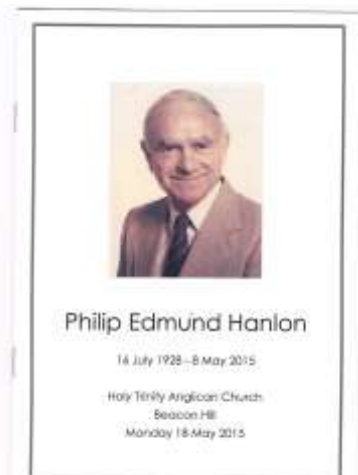
He was involved with The Cathedral Singers from its very early days when Shirley Mills was the Director. His knowledge and abilities contributed greatly in setting the Singers' high performance standards to which we always aspire. He continued for many years with the Singers and slowed down only in the past couple of years as advancing age caught up with him. I have always been grateful that it was he who suggested that I audition for the Singers.

As with many people of his kind, the dedicated contributor to worthwhile endeavours, he will be sadly missed. He was a true gentleman.

**LYNN BOCK**  
**Decani Soprano**



Philip also designed the beautiful TCS Rose Window logo which we still use.



## Legacy Project for Our Generation



Organ music is a key part of the fabric of worship and tradition at St John's and so by association The Cathedral Singers are very much part of that fabric.

Over the years, while TCS has evolved, the current Rendall organ has aged, been weather-affected, water damaged and become largely unplayable as a result of this damage. As well, natural wear and tear has accumulated over time.

In order to maintain the incredibly high standard of church musicianship and singing at St John's, the organ must be replaced. TCS deserve this. St John's parishioners deserve this.

Now, previous generations of worshippers at St John's have successfully carried out major projects such as - the extension of the Nave and the War Memorial Hall - each of these a major undertaking. So, the exciting project for our generation is the purchase and installation of a premium organ in order to restore gloriously rich music to our worship. What a wonderful and lasting legacy this would be for future generations and it would have our stamp on it!

It is intended to acquire and install a refurbished Hill, Norman and Beard organ to fill the musical 'gaps' in the Rendall's performance range, and increase that range to one suitable for the current size of the Church. In addition, the Rendall will be refurbished and relocated to the west end.

It is a wonderful project and with the two integrated instruments producing wonderful sound - it will be the very best organ on the North Shore of Sydney. It will be one to be immensely proud of.

As the anticipated total cost of the entire project is \$1,250,000, funds to support this outlay will need to be raised. Grants will be unlikely. Tax-deductible sponsorship is sought to cover the cost:

- single donor at \$1,250,000
- five donors at \$250,000 each
- ten donors at \$125,000 each
- or such smaller pledges as may be made available to complete the fund raising targets
- with loans considered to make up any shortfall in donations.

So, it is up to us, this current generation, to take on the task and let this be our legacy project for St John's: We shall have left our mark!

But, as an individual, what would it mean to you if you were a significant contributor to this \$1.25 million landmark project? Can you imagine singing proudly, enraptured not only by Bach or Handel, but by the rich, glorious and powerful sound, knowing that you made this happen. Others around you may know you made it happen. Then, they may not know that at all. But, you, yourself will know what you have done for God, for TCS, for the people of St John's, people of Kur-Ring-Gai and people of the North Shore. That is what's important.

And, do not forget, this project can carry your name!

Anyway, if you should like to have a confidential chat about the project, give me a call and I shall shout you a cup of coffee while we talk. Or if it takes more than a coffee, I shall do that too!

**Bill Killinger AM - Churchwarden, St John's Gordon - 0407551600**

## HOW OUR FAME SPREADS!

At the end of last year, Jim received an enquiry via our website from a couple living in London who were coming out here to be married on April 10th 2015 at St Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Rose Bay .

The bride is Australian and the groom coming to live here. Over some months Jim liaised with the groom and arranged an order of service with TCS as the choir. We were rather intrigued, especially as the couple did not arrive until about a week before the wedding.

On the day, we had a good choir ready at the appointed time, rehearsed and waiting in the church. Not a soul appeared apart from the priest.

We waited..... suddenly the groom and party arrived, closely followed by a complete congregation - in about five minutes. Soon the bridal party appeared and the service began. It was a lovely service with a happy bridal couple and very appreciative congregation.

Afterwards the mode of transport was spotted outside. Do you think the whole congregation accompanied them from London?????

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### Remember:



At St Mary Magdalene Rose Bay

### TCS - "Rent a choir"!!!

Would you like us to help you or your family on your special day?

We have an extensive repertoire of anthems, hymns and songs we could provide to assist you.

Contact the Secretary on 9144 4915 for more details.

**Your family Chemist – Matthew Burton supports TCS**





## COPELAND CROSSWORD COMPETITION



This cryptic crossword puzzle has a church music flavour and was composed by Brian Copeland, a basso in the Singers.

Last edition we published the clues with the promise that “The first correct entry will win a Shampoo, Cut and Blow Dry from Cheveux Haircutters, which is conveniently located in the Hunter Arcade connection which links Wynyard Station to Hunter Street”.

We are indebted to Brian and his son for this wonderful idea!

.....and the winner is.....

**Janet Long, one of the TCS esteemed tenorettes!**

**Congratulations Janet!!!**

**Here is the solution:**



*Ed. - Thanks again to Brian Copeland for his brilliance in designing this.*

## CD Order/Donation Form



**The Cathedral Singers**



**TCS Sings Evensong**



**Lo! The Star**

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque/money order for: (✓ Tick appropriate box/s)

- CD 3 “Lo! The Star” @ \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CD 2 “The Cathedral Singers” @ \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CD 4 “The Cathedral Singers Sing Evensong” @ 15 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Any 2 CDs - \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Any 3 CDs - \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- + Postage and handling @ \$5 per CD \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Donation for our ongoing ministry \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Total: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Cheques should be made payable to “The Cathedral Singers Donation Fund”***

***Banking details for direct transfers (please notify us by email):***

**Bank account details: BSB 814 282 A/c 504 371 53**

**Note: this is a new account.**

Postal address: The Cathedral Singers PO Box 569 Gordon NSW 2072

Please email us for further details: [tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au](mailto:tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au)

or ring Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or 0411 785 117

More details on our website: [www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://www.cathedralsingers.org.au)

**All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible**

**ABN: 51 354 744 290**