



Newsletter

March 2013

Past Patron: Dr IG Dicker

From The Director

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2013.

The start of the year has been very busy with TCS singing for a couple of weddings in our normal holiday/off duty period. We then went to our first service after one rehearsal. Things have quietened down before the busy period of Lent. 2013 looks to be as busy as 2012 and I hope that you will be able to hear us at some services this year. We have already sung at St John's, Gordon and St John's, Dee Why.

There are a couple of new venues this year, as well as more weddings. We are also tentatively planning a trip to Canberra in the October long weekend.

As mentioned elsewhere, we have had a few changes in personnel but all is looking very positive for the future, with a good blend between singers. However, we do need more tenors and basses – a common problem in choirs nowadays!

On a long haul flight in January, I watched a National Geographic documentary on Music and the Brain. Amongst other things, it featured the rock musician Sting who was wired up to show how different parts of his brain connected when given various musical

stimuli. It was very noticeable how much more activity there was when he was listening to music. It is also known scientifically that singing produces endorphins – the feel-good factor of humans. Increased intelligence, increased feel-good factor – where are all the tenors and basses that should be lining up to join...

We are working on redesigning the website and improving our social media presence. The Facebook account is now updated regularly and you can follow us on Twitter if you like all the digital social media. Alternatively, you can read our newsletters by email or post!

I look forward to meeting our supporters at the various services this year.

Best wishes,

Jim Abraham
DIRECTOR



Editor's Note: Check out the intriguing thought on page 7, sourced quite independently of Jim's discussion here.

From the Chair

Happy New Year to all!

It has been a fairly extreme start to the year weather-wise and we experienced the heat directly, singing at weddings on the two hottest days to hit Sydney in January. We survived!!



Now we are back into routine, having started the actual events for the year by singing at St John's Gordon for Holy Communion, which was also our Dedication Service for the year, conducted by our Chaplain, the Rector, Fr. Keith Dalby. Can I again say how appreciative we are to be able to count St John's as our "home" base, where we rehearse each week and where our considerable library is very conveniently stored. Thank you, Fr Keith, Wardens and parishioners!

We were very sad to farewell Hazel Gillett at the end of last year as she had to return to the UK. She was also a member of the St John's choir and we miss her. It is lovely that we can keep in touch by email. Ex-choral scholar Katie Miller-Crispe has also found that Uni lectures and her other activities have taken over her time and she cannot get to rehearsals. She has been with us for several years now. Thanks for your time with us, Katie, and good luck in your future endeavours.

We are very pleased to have welcomed several new choristers recently. Joanna Copeland has just completed her probationary period with the choir and we welcome her as a full member. She is a valuable addition to the soprano line. Rosemary Osborne wrote the report for the Newsletter of the concert we gave at St Ives Uniting Church last year. She was so taken with what we do that she has now joined the alto line! We have also had 3 other sopranos auditioning in quick succession and we are thrilled to have them with us. Welcome to all of you. We now need more men, so tenors and basses – where are you????!

You will find the Engagement list for the whole year printed in this edition, so I encourage you to check out the dates and add them to your diary! As usual it is a busy schedule, although we try not to overload the Director and choristers – all very busy people. We are lucky to have such a dedicated group. I am convinced that the ministry we do is part of God's plan so we need to be careful not to "burn out" such a talented group of people. As usual – we would love to hear of more people interested in auditioning for this unique choir. Contact details are in the Newsletter.

As ever, we hope to see you at some stage during the year and appreciate any financial support you might be able to give us to support the work we do. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

God Bless

Jan Kneeshaw – Editor/Chair

Apologies for the squirrels on page 7!!!

Contact us:

By Mail: **PO Box 569 GORDON NSW 2072**

By email: tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au

By phone: 02 9144 4915 Mobile: 0411 785 117

The Cathedral Singers

EASTER SERVICES



Passion Sunday – Sunday 24 March 2013

7.00pm

Festival of Lessons and Music for Passiontide

St John's Parish Choirs

The Jacobean Singers

The Cathedral

Singers

Stainer's Crucifixion

Good Friday

29 March 2013

2.30pm

St John's Church
Cnr Pacific Hwy/St John's Ave
Gordon

The Cathedral Singers

Pascal Herington – Tenor

David Cosentino – Bass

Brett McKern – Organist

Jim Abraham – Director

Free entry

Donations to The Cathedral Singers encouraged

Enquiries to Jan Kneeshaw:

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Brian Copeland – a story



Born in Mosman in 1933, Brian describes his childhood environment as “paradise”. Although his parents were not wealthy, the family home was only a few hundred yards from Balmoral Beach with a view over the Sydney Heads from Vaucluse to Manly.

The family attended the Congregational Church and it was there that he was introduced to choral singing at the age of eight. The church had a children’s and an adult choir. Brian sang in the first until his voice broke. The choirmaster said that at the age of fifteen, he sounded like Paul Robeson and he began singing in the adult choir, two services each Sunday. There was a good musical tradition and in addition to regular anthems, works such as Bach’s “Sleepers Wake”, and Stainer’s “Crucifixion” were performed to name but a few. After leaving North Sydney Boys’ High School in 1950, and following several eisteddfod successes, Brian began singing in many churches as a soloist.

Brian was also very active in the Congregational Youth Fellowship, attending national conferences as a delegate; in 1953, he was greatly influenced by a returning Rhodes Scholar, Bob Hawke. Around this time, Brian presented himself as a candidate for the ministry. Brian had also wanted to pursue a career as a singer, but was highly discouraged by his parents who saw this as a road to financial ruin. After 3 years studying Theology and Arts, and still singing at various churches (mainly non-conformist), Brian suffered a breakdown. This began several years of uncertainty but singing remained a constant.

He studied under Walter Kingsley and continued to be successful in eisteddfods and sang

recitals regularly on the ABC. Brian was offered a professional engagement with the then flourishing St. Stephen’s Presbyterian Church. He sang there as soloist and chorister during the ministry of The Rev. Gordon Powell, who kept the church full with his sound theology and pastoral psychology.

During that time Brian was invited to sing in the Oriana Singers under the late Norman Johnston and the newly formed Lydian Singers under Keith Asboe (and later Paul Edgar). In a moment of great enlightenment, in 1960, Brian had a deeply spiritual conversion experience and found his faith again in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. The Oriana and the Lydian Singers combined to present the first Australian authentic performance of Handel’s “Messiah” at the Cell Block theatre. Brian shared the bass solos with Barry Strong. Soon afterwards, Brian was invited by John Dudley to sing at St. Mark’s Darling Point at the wedding of Clyde Packer.

It was at St. Mark’s that Brian saw Enid across the crowded chancel. Enid and Brian then performed as principals in “Yeomen of the Guard” with the Proscenia Theatre in 1962 and married in 1963. Brian joined the Channel 7 Singers during 1962, singing (and dancing) in an unaccustomed genre. Shortly after marrying, Brian was invited to join the Australian Opera but had to decline as he was beginning to find out that his parents’ fears about financial instability were depressingly accurate!

Enid and Brian bought a house in Willoughby and had three children. Brian was singing to provide an irregular income, at State Opera concerts, weddings, operettas on the Club circuit and ABC television operas. Learning synagogue music at Temple Emmanuel Woollahra, Brian sang there mainly at the High Holy Days but also Sabbath services. In 1976, he was asked to join the Temple Emmanuel Chatswood following the death of their cantor. As he and Enid were singing in the Christ Church St. Laurence choir under Colin Sapsford, Brian was not eager to sing on Fridays and Saturdays but agreed to go for 3 months. Eventually he stayed for twelve years.

In 1975, Brian had joined the Probation and Parole Service, working with offenders in the community and for several years in prisons. He refers to it as “a secular priesthood”. From 1988 to

2004, Enid and Brian's only singing was the hymns at parish services, as they were heavily involved in the work of Anglican Marriage Encounter. Brian retired from full-time work in 1998 but has been contracted back to do specialised work writing court reports each subsequent year. He is still working in that role but is contemplating a conclusive retirement

probably later this year. Their three children are all married and Enid and Brian are enjoying their five grand-children, whose ages range from 18 years to 8 months. This year marks Brian's eightieth birthday and 50 years of marriage. He joined The Cathedral Singers at Easter in 2012; his daughter Joanna has also joined.



TCS is available to sing at weddings.

Contact us if you are interested.



TCS at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Randwick
June 2012



Santa Sabina - January 2013



Mary Immaculate Waverley - January 2013



DO YOU LIKE SINGING IN CHOIRS?



Do you like Cathedral Style Music?

Would you like to join or do you know anyone who would be interested in joining TCS?

**For further details contact Jan Kneeshaw on
9144 4915 Mobile 0411 785 117**

**Membership Secretary Mary Carter
on 0408 424 319**

**Or the Director, Mr Jim Abraham on
0405 817 276**

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The Cathedral Singers

Major events and venues for 2013

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
MARCH 2013	Sunday	24	7.00pm	Passion Service with The Order of St Lazarus+St Johns choirs and The Jacobean Singers	St John's Gordon
	Thursday	28	7.30pm	Mass of The Lord's Supper	Holy Spirit North Ryde
	Friday	29	2.30pm	<i>Stainer</i> Crucifixion (Concert)	St John's Gordon
APRIL	Sunday	14	4.00pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	21	10.30am 6.30pm	Mass Evensong	Christ Church St Laurence
	Sunday	28	10.00am	Mass	St John's Dee Why
MAY	Sunday	5	9.30pm	Choral Eucharist (St John's Day)	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	19	2.30pm 3.15pm	Concert Evensong	St Simon & St Jude's Bowral
JUNE	Sunday	9	4.00pm	Evensong (Queen's Birthday)	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	16	9.30am	Patronal Festival	St John's Balmain
JULY	Sunday	21	3.00pm	Concert	Epping Uniting Church
	Sunday	28	6.00pm	Evensong	St John's Dee Why
AUGUST	Saturday	3	6.00pm	Evensong	St Clement's Mosman
	Sunday	11	4.00pm	Evensong TBC	St John's Gordon
	Saturday	31	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
SEPTEMBER	Sunday	8	3.00pm	Concert	St Stephen's Willoughby
	Sunday	15	9.00am	Divine Service	Scot's Kirk Mosman
OCTOBER	Sunday	13	4.00pm	Evensong – Guild of Church Musicians	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	20	3.00pm	Evensong	Mowll Village Chapel
	Friday	25	7.00pm	Songs of Praise	St John's Gordon
NOVEMBER	Sunday	3	9.30am	Mass – All Saints	St John's Balmain
	Monday	4	7.30 pm	Orchestral Requiem (<i>Fauré</i>)	St John's Dee Why
	Sunday	24	10.00 am	Mass – Christ the King	St John's Dee Why
DECEMBER	Sunday	1	7.00 pm	Advent Carol Service	St Alban's Leura
	Sunday	8	6.00 pm	Lessons and Carols	St John's Balmain
	Friday	20	7.30 pm	Lessons and Carols	St Peter's Cremorne
	Sunday	22	7.30 pm	Lessons and Carols	St John's Gordon
	Tuesday	24	11.00 pm	Choral Eucharist	St John's Gordon

This list is current now, but is still subject to change

Ed: We are a choir from many churches and backgrounds and hope you find this as amusing as we do.

CHURCH SQUIRRELS

There were five houses of religion in a small town:

The Presbyterian Church,

The Baptist Church ,

The Methodist Church

The Catholic Church and

The Anglican Church

Each church was overrun with pesky squirrels.



One day, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In The BAPTIST CHURCH the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery.

The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery and drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week



The Methodist Church got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the squirrels and set them



free a few miles outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

But The Catholic (and Anglican!) Church came up with the best and most effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church.

Now they only see them on Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter.

An interesting thought:

“A team of researchers at the Montreal Neurological Institute, using the world’s most advanced brain mapping machines, have found that the same neural clusters that process the seductive pleasures of sex, chocolate and even hard drugs also fire up for music.

There is also persuasive evidence that the brain tends to prune these neural circuits for maximum pleasure the way a gardener cuts unproductive branches to make a rose bloom. Music it seems can make the brain bloom best because it literally electrifies, at lightning speed, a web of nerve paths in both hemispheres of our cerebral cortex that connect the neural clusters processing musical pitch, rhythm, harmony, melody, short term memory, long term memory and emotions.

During the moments of musical euphoria, their cranial blood streamed to the parts of the brain which previous, independent studies had isolated as places where sex, chocolate, champagne or cocaine can produce ecstasy. In effect, 10 different cortex clusters burst into neural fireworks, creating the familiar spine-tingling chills of pleasure. Equally intriguing, the blood flowed away from the brain cells associated with depression and fear.”

(Extracts from article in “The Ottawa Citizen”, Monday, November 18th 2002 by Paul McKay entitled “Music and the Brain”. See the full article on the “dovesong.com” website.

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The Cathedral Singers



TCS Sings Evensong



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<input type="checkbox"/> Donation for our ongoing ministry _____ |
\$ _____ |
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\$ _____ |

Cheques should be made payable to “The Cathedral Singers Inc”

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

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or ring Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or 0411 785 117

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All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible