



Newsletter

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

December 2022

From the Director

So, Christmas is getting nearer- the first 'normal' one since 2019. It seems to me that one of the constants of Christmas is the mixture of tradition and change. The "golden oldies" of carols are still popular but the move to more secularised society brings new challenges. One of our members is involved in a concert in the city where a directive was issued that no music should be played/sung that referred to a cold winter - as Sydney is in summer at that time. This rules out quite a lot of material! Plus, there is the politically correct brigade who probably do not want anything religious in case it upsets non-Christians. It might well become a silent night... 😊



Whilst we have to be aware of the secularisation of society, I was a little bemused to hear that the Church of England was suggesting that churches should arrange their carol services on the 4th Sunday of Advent so that they did not interfere with the World Cup Final. With so many ways of recording and watching in 2022, I would have thought that people might be able to manage what is often the choral pinnacle of the year and see a replay.

TCS have their usual services at St John's, Balmain and St John's, Gordon and we will be performing again at Forestville RSL as well as Oakhurst. I hope you will be able to join us at one of these events.

Jim Abraham – Director

Check out our website and then tell your friends!

www.cathedralsingers.org.au

Would you like to consider joining us?

Contact Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or the Director,

Jim Abraham on 0405 817 276

Email: jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au

From the Editor

At this time I am unashamedly emphasising our need for donations. As I said in the email sent to you, we are still suffering financially from the aftereffects of the COVID years as well as several dates being cancelled recently for various reasons.

On a much happier note, we are thrilled to be able to introduce John Noller to our Bass line. He is very experienced and a real asset to our ranks. I also hear that he is enjoying himself!!

Another plug – anyone else like to join us??????

We are also pleased to have been invited back to Forestville RSL where we sang Carols last year. We had a ball and apparently they liked having us! This is a more relaxed way of having those in the community enjoy the music of the Christmas Season. We also love singing the more formal services of Lessons and Carols, as below.



Jim and I are in the process of contacting churches that we visit regularly to plan our program for 2022 and would LOVE to hear of any churches of any denomination who would like a visit from us in the New Year.

If you know of any organisations who are in need of a small choir at any time, we are amazingly adaptable! We also do weddings (and funerals/memorials)!!

Final Program for 2022.

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
December	Saturday	10	6.45pm	Christmas Party	Sir Trevor Garland's home – The Oaks
	Sunday	11	6.00pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Birchgrove/Balmain
	Sunday	18	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Gordon
	Tuesday	20	6.30pm	Carol singing	Forestville RSL
	Friday	24	9.30pm	Midnight Mass	Holy Spirit North Ryde

In the meantime, on behalf of TCS, may I wish you all a joyful Advent as we anticipate Jesus' birth and a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Jan Kneeshaw
SECRETARY/CHAIR

How to support TCS

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

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

Please email us for further details: tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au

or ring Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or 0411 785 117

More details on our website: www.cathedralsingers.org.au

All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible

Activities since June Getting back to Normal!

Although we have basically been back to normal this year, we have had to cancel a couple of events in September as our Conductor, Jim Abraham went back to the UK to see his family and for various reasons had to stay longer than expected. He is back now, thank goodness, but still catching up!



However, before that, the choir sang at St Luke's Mosman in July, then at St Mary's Cathedral for Vespers and Mass. We are grateful for the support we have had from their Director of Music, Thomas Wilson, who is about to leave to further his career elsewhere. We sang there again recently – singing Vespers and Mass on Saturday evenings – always enjoyed by us.

On 14th August, we returned to St John's Balmain, another church we really enjoy visiting. This time we sang Choral Evensong, a service that is a little different for them. We have since been there again to sing Eucharist. We look forward to singing our Annual Service of Lessons and Carols on 11th December. Maybe we will see you there?



On 21 August we assisted on the occasion of the Feast of Title of the Communities of our Lady, singing a Mozart Mass. The choir enjoyed a great lunch afterwards!

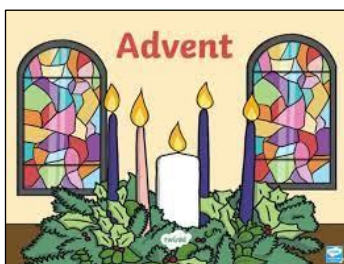


We then returned to St John's Gordon for Evensong on September 11.

This year is a very special one for St John's who celebrated their 150th Anniversary with a Choral Mass on September 18th. We were proud to be involved in leading the singing for this special service.

We then had a few weeks break until returning to Balmain and Gordon recently.

For a change of pace, we were invited to sing at the Jacaranda Concert organised by Gordon/Pymble Uniting Church with details below.



Now for Advent and then
Christmas Carols!!



Jacaranda Concert Success

Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church was excited to present its Jacaranda Concert on 20 November. Prior to Covid times, this concert had been an annual musical event where various artists have performed classical music. In reviving it this year, we focussed more on a family-friendly musical concert, showcasing many of our hall hirers and GPUC friends as part of our cast of entertainers.



We give our sincere thanks to all our wonderful performers: The Cathedral Singers (including our own David Lewis), Ukrainian pianist Anastasia, SCUC vocalist Young Ju, dance students from Northern Ballet Studios, organist Philip Reichardt, and students from The Academy of Flute for their musical contributions.

A feature of this year's concert was the Jacaranda Photography competition, which was won by Keith Wilson, with a wonderful photo of Grafton's main street.

The concert finale was a tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II, followed by a sing-along in the style of the Last Night at the Proms, which was enthusiastically led by The Cathedral Singers.

With grateful thanks to The Cathedral Singers from all at Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church.

Sue Conde AM
Gordon/Pymble Uniting Church

