



# Newsletter

**Patron: Sir Trevor Garland**  
**Past Patron: Dr I G Dicker**

**February 2018**

## From the Director

This newsletter is quite reflective, which is appropriate for the season of Lent.

Pauline Thomas, a longstanding member of the choir passed away at the start of February and there are many tributes to her within the newsletter.

Also, Colin Brumby died at the start of the year. He was a prolific composer of liturgical music and very generous in sending compositions to TCS. We will be singing some of his liturgical works later in the year.

Lent is a good time to consider life and also people who have influenced us. Lent is also a time when TCS sing a fair amount of plainsong, as do many church choirs. When we were in Bathurst last year we were given a setting by Graham Whale based in plainsong tones and will be singing this on Palm Sunday at Killara.



TCS at St John's Gordon for their re-dedication – 11 February 2018

I hope that you will be able to join us at one of our services in the build up to Easter.

**Jim Abraham**  
Director

## From the Chair

Greetings all

We are well into a new year and are now preparing for services over the Easter period.

For your convenience, I have summarized them, although the program of events for the whole year is listed further on.

- Evensong at St John's Gordon - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00pm
- Evensong at Christ Church St Laurence - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm
- Evensong at St Martin's Killara - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00pm
- Stainer's "Crucifixion" – St John's Gordon - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm.

You will see that much of this edition of the Newsletter is taken up with memories of Pauline Thomas, who died on 2 February after being ill for some time. She had been in the choir for almost its complete existence and was known to many in the church music world.

She had an amazing career at the ABC at a significant time in its history and tales of this makes fascinating reading. She was a very strong character and passionate about church music and about TCS in particular, which she actually did not join until she had retired. The fact that she had 27 choristers at her funeral says much about her. It is actually a shame that some of our newer choristers were not aware of her background and what she achieved in the past. There are too many tributes being paid to her for all be included here, so links are available if anyone would like to read more. I can forward documents if contacted on 9144 4915 or at [jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au).

It was lovely to catch up with some past choristers at the funeral and I have compiled a document with pictures from the archives for those interested. Here are some of them! I had fun finding some of these memories. We do not go quite so far away these days, but still have fun. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us!

Have a good year

**JAN KNEESHAW** - Editor



Judy, Meg, Sally, Mary and Pauline at St Andrew's Cathedral



Fraternising with the locals outside Leicester Cathedral - 2011



Christmas Party in 2007



Rehearsing at Westminster Abbey in 2008

**TCS Program for 2018**  
Come and join us for some of our events in 2018

<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
March	Sunday	11	4.00pm	Evensong	<b>St John's Gordon</b>
	Sunday	18	6.30pm	Evensong	<b>Christ Church St Laurence</b>
	Sunday	21	3.30pm	Evensong	<b>St Martin's Killara</b>
	Friday	30	2.30pm	Crucifixion - Stainer	<b>St John's Gordon</b>
April	Sunday	29	11.30am	Anzac Service	<b>St John's Gordon</b>
May	Sunday	13	6.00pm	Evensong	<b>St John's, Dee Why</b>
	Sunday	20	2.30pm	Evensong	<b>St Jude's Bowral</b>
			3.15pm	Concert	"
June	Sunday	10	4.00pm	Evensong	<b>St John's Gordon</b>
	Sunday	24	9.30am	Mass	<b>St John's Balmain</b>
July	Sunday	1	9.30am	Holy Communion	<b>Pymble Uniting Church</b>
	Saturday	14	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	<b>St Mary's Cathedral</b>
August	Saturday	11	7.00pm	Mass	<b>Holy Spirit North Ryde</b>
	Saturday	16		TBC	<b>Choir Tour</b>
	Sunday	17			
September	Sunday	9	9.00am	Divine Service	<b>Scots Kirk Mosman</b>
	Sunday	16	6.30pm	Evensong	<b>Christ Church St Laurence</b>
	Saturday	22	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	<b>St Mary's Cathedral</b>
October	Sunday	21	9.30am	Mass	<b>St John's Balmain</b>
		28	3.00pm	Evensong	<b>Holy Trinity Terrigal</b>
November	Friday	2	TBC	Faure Requiem	<b>St John's Dee Why</b>
	Sunday	25	10.00am	Mass	<b>St John's Dee Why</b>
December	Sunday	2	7.00pm	Advent Carols	<b>St Alban's Leura</b>
	Saturday	15	10 – 1pm	Carol Singing	<b>West Pymble Shops</b>
	Sunday	16	6.00pm	Lessons and Carols	<b>St John's Balmain</b>
	Friday	21	7.30pm	Lesson and Carols	<b>St Peter's Cremorne</b>
	Sunday	23	7.30pm	Lessons and Carols	<b>St John's Gordon</b>
	Monday	24	9.30pm	Choral Mass	<b>Holy Spirit North Ryde</b>

Check out our website and then tell your friends!

[www.cathedralsingers.org.au](http://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](mailto:jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au)



# **Stainer's *Crucifixion***

**✠ Good Friday**

**30 March 2018**

**2.30pm**

**St John's Church**

**Corner Pacific Hwy/St Johns Ave**

**Gordon**

**Daine Ellicott, Tenor**

**Craig Everingham, Baritone**

**The Cathedral Singers**

**Jim Abraham, Choir Director**

**Brett McKern, Organist**

**Free Entry**

*Donations to The Cathedral Singers encouraged*



## Soprano Anita Chan



My name is Anita Chan and I am originally from Hong Kong. I've been married to my husband Andrew for 18 years. My profession was a Mechanical Engineer but since Andrew and I had 2 daughters Rachael (17 yrs old) and Melanie (15 yrs old), I have worked from home as a wedding cake maker.

I first came across TCS when I first attended the Stainers Crucifixion at St John's Church Gordon. I thought this choir sang very well and on the way out I bought a TCS CD but I left the CD sitting in the drawer for several year.

For the last 17 years I had been singing at my church's choir at Milson's Point. Two and a half years ago we moved to a local church with no choir at East Lindfield. I was desperately looking for a church choir to join. After hours of internet searching and still not being able to find a suitable choir, I prayed to God to guide me to a choir. One day I was looking for a CD to listen to and TCS CD appeared in front on my eyes, ultimately prompting me to join the choir. It's been a big learning curve singing with TCS and the song choices draw me closer to God.

*Ephesians 5:18-19 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation: but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*

IC  
ANITA CHAN  
TCS Soprano

### Note from the Editor:

If Anita is not able to sing for a TCS gig, it is probably because she is being a proud mum, driving her 2 girls to rehearsals, performances or lessons all over Sydney. She and Andrew have two very talented daughters, both of whom are on music scholarships at different schools. Rachael is a violinist and Melanie is a cellist. Here they are on holiday in Japan last Christmas. What a great family!



\*\*\*\*\*



TCS started their Services for Lent recently with a Stations of the Cross service at Holy Spirit, North Ryde.



## Valé Pauline Thomas

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the death of Pauline Thomas, well known to lovers of choral church music around Sydney. Pauline joined TCS just after it started in 1989 and was very involved in establishing the choir with the founding Director, Mrs Shirley Mills. At that time, the choir sang often at St Andrew's Cathedral, replacing the main choir when they were on holidays.



We were pleased to be able to join with the choir of St Paul's Burwood at her funeral recently. The large choir sang very appropriate pieces:

Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts– Purcell  
Nunc Dimittis - Morley Faux Bourdon  
When to the Temple Mary went - Eccard

*The photo shows the choir who honoured her memory. She would have loved to be there!!*

Jan Kneeshaw - Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

## Farewell Pauline Thomas.

It's not as if Pauline and I were ever going to be bosom buddies, even though we were on the same side. I was at one end of the first row of the *Cantoris* section of the choir and she was at the other, soprano and alto rarely meeting. So our conversations were sporadic and usually accidental. We would sometimes chat in the dark as we were getting into our cars after another rigorous choir practice at St Paul's, Burwood, or later at St John's, Gordon. Over time, social gatherings, waiting to 'go on stage' either at Evensongs or at concerts, and two choir trips to England in 2008 and 2011 gave us some opportunities to become more closely acquainted.



*Photo - Ron & Marg Wright (back left) and Pauline (centre to the right) on the way to Peterborough Cathedral with Glenn McKenzie (behind her), who was singing in UK Cathedral choirs at that time.*

The first things I became aware of about Pauline early on in my TCS experience, were her reliability - she was always at rehearsals - her willingness to greet newcomers and to make them feel welcome, and her enthusiastic commitment to TCS. As we talked, I was allowed glimpses into a life which was unconventional, rich in experiences, and fully lived. Her initial revelations left me awestruck and possibly sceptical of the experiences she described and the range of interesting and often famous people she knew and frequently still maintained contact with. However, over the years I saw many of those people, even some overseas, greet her as a close friend, and had confirmation of her wide-ranging activities.

I soon realised that this was a woman who created her own pathway and was fully cognisant of her own values and goals. In fascinating revelations she talked about her many years with the ABC often in groundbreaking work in production, or in journalistic roles. This was attested to by the long message sent to her funeral from London, from Geoffrey Robertson QC, whose *Hypothetical* program on ABCTV on which Pauline worked as part of the Production Team.

She mentioned a long-term partnership she had with a man whose name she never volunteered, and I never asked. He obviously had a profound effect on Pauline and her grief at the end of this relationship, years ago, was still clearly painful. Despite that, her default manner was one of optimism and positivity.

But my greatest revelation came when for a few brief years I managed the TCS archive, in which I found a treasure-trove of Pauline's influence and work in the establishment of TCS under Shirley Mills' leadership. Others had the enormous task of forming and organising the brand-new Cathedral Singers, but Pauline's energy in the early years helped ensure its foundations and set up its longevity. Her passion for, and devotion to, TCS was palpable and unwavering for the rest of her life.

In other ways, although something of an unrepentant eccentric, Pauline had quieter qualities. She was, I found, kind, remembering birthdays, sending cards with cheery messages when people were unwell, and often giving small gifts as a quiet 'Thank You' for something she believed had been done for her. To me, in the archive business, she was unfailingly generous in locating information, remembering people and details of TCS events, and writing accounts of some of TCS' past activities. She always delivered on the promises made to me, from her memories and mementoes.

Pauline was 'one-of-a-kind' and there are precious few left!

I will never forget her.

**MARGARET WRIGHT. – ex- TCS Soprano**

.....

## Another tribute

I have known Pauline since 1989, when I joined The Cathedral Singers, who were at that time based in St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney. At that time Pauline was managing the choir practically single-handed and she contributed a tremendous amount of her time and talents to the group. Her organisational skills were legendary, as shown also by her many years working as a producer for the ABC. She was also an accomplished organist, singer and raconteur and could converse with people from many walks of life.



Pauline will be sadly missed by many and was certainly one of a kind. I will certainly miss her friendship and “never say die” attitude. She will be certainly now resting in our Lord's loving arms.

*Margretta bottom left – during recording session for CD “Lo! The Star”*

**MARGRETTA HAAGE -Ex – TCS Alto**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ed: There are many other articles and tributes giving more details of Pauline's amazing career. These can be accessed by the links below:**

For John Lander's eulogy given at the funeral, click the link below

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1G0mAj7IZfxWdAPgA3qORTj\\_nCIB07knK](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1G0mAj7IZfxWdAPgA3qORTj_nCIB07knK)

For a message from Geoffrey Robertson, read at the funeral:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Yit9R6JFfsFrFsiwQfV6SjW7K0Xn6UrG>

Photos of TCS with Pauline over many years.

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TSq\\_IsefniRaMsdNCff-wLRYeR62AS5R](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TSq_IsefniRaMsdNCff-wLRYeR62AS5R)

Conversation with ABC staffer Bob Sitsky on July 4, 2005

Internet Link to this conversation:

[http://www.abctvgorehill.com.au/assets/contributions/pauline\\_thomas\\_2E.htm](http://www.abctvgorehill.com.au/assets/contributions/pauline_thomas_2E.htm)





## Womens' Weekly Article – 1972

A readable version of this article is printed in the TCS Newsletter - October 2016. Copies available on request to Jan Kneeshaw.

*Copies of any of these links can be provided by contacting Jan Kneeshaw  
- 9144 4915 or 0411 785 117*

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Word from the Treasurer

A few people have expressed an interest in donating some money to us in memory of Pauline. This is a lovely idea and after some hard thinking we have decided that any donations given in Pauline's memory will be used to buy replacement copies of some of our well loved, but increasingly ragged music. We will put a small bookplate on the front of the music, noting it was bought in memory of Pauline. If you would like to do this please accompany cheques with a note "For Pauline" or email me for direct debits. (<mailto:angophora59@icloud.com>)

We run a very economical ship at TCS. Most of the weekly work is done by our choristers such as photocopying, liaising with churches, following up enquiries, producing and mailing out this Newsletter, and managing our considerable library of church choral music. We reserve our precious donated funds for the Director's stipend (worth every cent!) and for occasional purchases of new music scores. Through the Kuring-gai Community Grant scheme we have, in previous years, had some extra funds to put on choral workshops with guest directors and to employ a professional sound recordist.

General donations are, of course always welcome and all are tax deductible  
Details on how to donate are on page 10.



### DR JANET LONG

TCS Treasurer.

*See also TCS Newsletter October 2016 for CV*

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Tribute to the late Dr Colin Brumby

The prolific and much revered Australian composer of classical music, Colin Brumby, passed away suddenly on the morning of 3 January this year. Although 84 years of age, Colin was still working at the pace of a young musician. Colin and his wife Jenny Dawson had just returned from very happy travels in South-East Asia. Outside of their shared passion for the world of music, their love of travel was indeed noteworthy and frequently travel experiences became woven into Colin's exuberant thoughts and strategies as a composer.



*Dr John Graham, Jenny Dawson and Colin Brumby at Kirribilli in August 2017*



In recent decades not a day at home passed without Colin spending many hours at his keyboard, whilst fresh manuscript pages soon became new compositions, both large and small.

Born in 1933, Colin grew up in Melbourne where his father owned and operated a grocery shop. Colin exhibited a strong tendency to boyhood mischief which was much admired by his only sibling, a younger sister. It was of course quite a shock to the family that Colin took on the challenge of a lifelong career as a composer of music rather than taking the easier course of stepping into the shoes of a grocer. His early interest in music was nurtured by his boyhood involvement in church choirs, whilst in his teens teaching himself the intricacies of composing. When barely reaching his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, his work *Romance for oboe and strings* was premiered by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

After gaining his first academic credentials in Melbourne, Colin's studies in composition took him to Brisbane, Spain, England and Italy. On his return to Brisbane in 1964 he began an illustrious career in the Faculty of Music at the University of Queensland, only retiring as its Reader (Associate Professor) in 1998. During the 1960s Colin's music was heavily influenced by the works of Schoenberg, but in the 1970s he realized the importance of melody and harmony to the ears of most listeners and so he then began exclusively to compose music that gave uplift to performers and listeners alike.

As Colin's former colleague Professor Malcolm Gillies has said, "Colin's glorious outpouring of music included a fistful of concertos, chamber music for imaginative combinations, a vast array of tuneful choral works and a dozen operas or operettas, most premiered in Australia, and many on Australian themes". The oratorio *The Ballad of Sydney Hospital* is one such example, commissioned in 1988 to celebrate the 200 year history of Australia since European colonization as seen through the walls of Sydney Hospital, Australia's oldest institution. TCS has its own connection with Sydney Hospital, having sung carols to its patients in the lead-up to Christmas in years past. For several decades, Colin and Jenny's annual Christmas greeting to friends would include a fresh Brumby setting of a new or traditional carol.

Church choral works have not only been commissioned by individuals and choirs, but Colin had frequently written anthems and hymns for churches when he heard that they needed a new work for a special occasion, generously inviting the recipients to use each new composition in line with their needs. Many church choirs in Europe, the USA and Australasia have been the beneficiaries of Colin's musical philanthropy.

For the last nineteen years of his life, Colin shared his enormous talent and knowledge with the staff and audiences of 4MBS Classic FM in Queensland. His skills as an accomplished announcer and as a writer and presenter of weekly musical quiz programs will be sorely missed.

Some will no doubt remember Colin for his magical smile and his colourful taste in shirts and waistcoats, but everyone will remember his outstanding contribution to music as one of Australia's greatest classical composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries.

His funeral at the Centenary Memorial Gardens in Brisbane was attended by about three hundred musicians, friends, supporters and family, many of whom had travelled from interstate or overseas. Eulogies were given by his younger sister Janet, the former Dean of Music at the University of Queensland Malcolm Gillies, the CEO of 4MBS Classic FM Gary Thorpe, friend John Graham, and by his wife Jenny.

**DR JOHN GRAHAM**

*TCS Supporter and member of Pymble Uniting Church*

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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” @ \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CD 2 “The Cathedral Singers” @ \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CD 4 “The Cathedral Singers Sing Evensong” @ 10 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Any 2 CDs - \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Any 3 CDs - \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- + 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**

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**