



Newsletter

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

June 2020

From the Director

It would be an understatement to say “we live in interesting times” and Covid-19 has, of course, affected every person on the planet. TCS has been severely impacted. You may have read that there is considerable research concerning singing and most scientists are saying that singing involves inhaling air deeper into the lungs and expels more aerosols than normal speaking so is a high-risk activity. There are some often-quoted examples of choirs in the run-up to lockdowns. However, as in most things, there are also some scientists who counter this claim and say that the spreading of the virus in these cases may have been by just the socialisation over a cup of tea/coffee/chat.

Nevertheless, we have taken a cautious approach and like many choirs meet on Zoom conferences.



Choir practice on Wednesday. Some were unable to participate this week.

Due to variable internet speeds, we cannot have a normal rehearsal. There are a few examples on YouTube showing the hilarious results of trying to sing together! So, we have met and done some vocal warm-ups following various YouTube videos followed by singing along to backing tracks with repertoire that we would normally be working on.

We have also made use of the council grant to have some individual lessons. So hopefully as soon as we are able, we will still have our voices ready. Like many choirs we are experimenting with combining individual recordings to produce a choir recording. We will not be producing a high-tech video of this though as it requires fairly substantial computer software and expertise.

We are looking forward to getting back to rehearsing and singing in the various churches as soon as safe and practical.

Jim Abraham DIRECTOR

From the Editor

Greetings from our little corner of the world (which is doing much better than many other corners).

We thought we would like to keep in touch with all our supporters at this time when we cannot see each other in person.

Today I watched the service from St John's Gordon on Facebook. Two of the choristers from there do not have IT benefits. We now join in the service together. They listen to the service on our 2 phones while I watch on TV –

chromecast. They get Orders of Service sent to them and I watch on my tablet. We chat along the way! – Great! It you want to pinch by invention, feel free!!!!

Other parishes are keeping in touch by Zoom and can take part in the services and keep in touch that way.

TCS have been meeting regularly for rehearsal – by Zoom.. It is a wonderful way to keep together and we have fun at the same time. I think such new technologies might become commonplace after our compulsory lockdown is over. We have also realised that we will not be going back to actual singing for a long time yet – maybe until there is a vaccine.

So – as we cannot meet, we thought you might like some other entertainment in these strange times!

Keeping smiling!!!

Jan Kneeshaw

Editor



I can't believe it is not Rutter!

A contribution from Belinda Bongers.

Check out this link: [I can't believe its not Rutter](#)

The words are over the page. Ed



This is very good. Hope you all enjoy it. The lyrics should be read first as it is sometimes hard to hear them in the video clip.

Cheers, Belinda.



John Rutter's reaction!!



The Edinburgh Choir - 201

Can you believe it?
This is not Rutter.
It sounds a bit like his style of writing songs.
I can believe it.
This is not Rutter.
It sounds a bit similar, but something's gone
all wrong.

Here's the chorus; it's often melodic.
This is the style but less harmonic.
Shame we can't give you a better lyric, but
there you go.

That was a key change, made to suit our range,
or we sound strange, though no-one knows
why.
There was another (another key),
but it's no bother:
we can sing every note and even way up high.

Here's the chorus;
the tune's in soprano.
Sometimes it's sung without the piano.
No staccato no rubato, vibrato,
so there you go (go).

Oooh, sing out your ooohs now.
Sing out your ahs now.
Ooh, sing out your ahs and ooh and ah and
ooh.
There must be another bit where we are so
articulate,
and we utter it, not mutter it,
or splutter or Rutter it.

Here's the last chorus; the final climax.
Now quite familiar but has some drawbacks.
If sung too loudly this is where your voice
cracks,
just at the end.
Amen.

**This one was from Madeleine Rowles.
Have you heard this one before???** Ed

An old farmer went to the city one weekend and attended a large church.
He came home and his wife asked him how it was. "Well," said the farmer,
"It was good. They did something different, however. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."
"Praise choruses," said his wife, "What are those?"
"Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like hymns, only different," said the farmer.
"Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife.

The farmer said, "Well it's like this – If I were to say to you: 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' well
that would be a hymn.

If, on the other hand, I were to say to you: 'Martha Martha,
Martha, Oh, Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA, the cows, the big
cows, the brown cows, the black cows, the white cows, the black
and white cows, the COWS, COWS, COWS are in the corn, are in
the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, the CORN, CORN,
CORN.'

Then, if I were to repeat the whole thing two or three times, well
that would be a praise chorus."



Coincidentally, the same week, a young businessman from the city who normally attended a church with contemporary-style worship, was in the old farmer's town on business and visited the farmer's small town church.

He came home and his wife asked him how it was. "Well," said the young man, "It was good. They did something different, however. They sang hymns instead of regular songs."

"Hymns," said his wife, "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like regular songs, only different," said the young man. "Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife.

The young man said, "Well it's like this – If I were to say to you, 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' well that would be a regular song.

If, on the other hand, I were to say to you:

*Oh Martha, dear Martha, hear thou my cry.
Inclinest thine ear to the words of my mouth.
Turn thou thy whole wondrous ear by and by
to the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth.*

*For the way of the animals who can explain,
There in their heads is no shadow of sense.
Hearkenest they in God's sun or his rain
Unless from the mild, tempting corn they are fenced.*

*Yea those cows in glad bovine, rebellious delight,
Have broke free their shackles, their warm pens eschewed.
Then goaded by minions of darkness and night,
They all my mild Chilliwack sweet corn have chewed.*

*So look to that bright shining day by and by,
Where all foul corruptions of earth are reborn.
Where no vicious animal makes my soul cry.
And I no longer see those foul cows in the corn.*

Then, if I were to do only verses one, three and four and do a key change on the last verse, well that would be a hymn."



And now for something completely different:

John Stanbridge sent this link after seeing this choir Dustyesky on Australian Story on Monday night. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wcx9iRsscwo>

PS The Dustyesky Choir is based in a beautiful little town called Mullumbimby (aka Mullumbimbygrad) about 800 km north of Sydney. Population: 3,172. Dustyesky sounds Russian, but Australians will recognise the name as a compound noun joining together two Australian English words related to drinking alcohol. 'Dusty' means to be hungover - ie., the crap way you feel after drinking too much the night before. When an Australian says, 'You look a bit dusty,' it actually means, 'You look like shit.'

An 'Esky' is a portable cooler or ice box used for carrying perishable food and alcohol--mainly alcohol. Because Australia is dry and hot, no one goes camping or on a long drive without an Esky. Australians love their Eskies so much they have been known to fit them with motors and wheels and drive them. So, in Australian English the literal translation of Dustyesky = a hungover container for carrying alcohol :) Which describes a lot of Australians, we are famous for drinking too much and saying things like, Моё судно навоздушной подушке полно угрей From Australia with love to the people of Russia :)



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-25/australian-fake-russian-choir-dustyesky-goes-viral-mullumbimby/12270670> and I think the Australian Story is at the bottom.

Here is a long article about them and I think the Australian Story episode is at the bottom.



Just a subtle reminder that we really appreciate any donations to assist our cause, especially at present!

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