



Newsletter

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

June 2023

From the Director

Last month was the Coronation of Charles III and I am sure many of our readers watched it. Whether royalist or republican, you cannot deny that the music was a huge part of it and the standard was outstanding. Whilst the event itself had been planned for many months, not many people knew that Andrew Nethsingha only started at Westminster Abbey in January this year.

Personally, I thought that the mixture of changes and tradition worked well. The world (including England and Australia) has many faiths and I think it was wise to include more than the Church of England whilst still keeping the C of E central to it. Similarly, anthems by William Byrd and newly commissioned pieces showed a good variety. There was also plainsong sung in different languages. The Ascension Choir was formed by combining singers from several choirs and for the first time at a Coronation included female singers. Of course, 70 years ago at the previous Coronation this would have been unheard of.

King Charles is supportive of music and apparently discussed with Andrew Lloyd Webber the concern that there are not a huge number of younger people taking up the organ. We will be singing one of the most famous pieces, "Zadok The Priest" at St John's Gordon for the King's birthday weekend Choral Evensong. One unusual sideline that came out of the coronation was Karl Jenkins, who wrote "The Armed Man" which we sang about a year ago, had a harp and orchestra piece performed. It was commissioned about 20 years ago by the then Prince of Wales. He is well-known in musical circles but may be less famous than others and some wit sent about a rumour that it was Meghan Markle in disguise!

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

Greetings to all our supporters

I recently went back over the 16 years of emails since I have been involved with The Cathedral Singers, as I was looking for some interesting background to send to a possible new tenor.

I realised to my horror that I have not sent out a Newsletter this year! I owe all our supporters my humblest apologies, especially to the gentleman at Balmain who mentioned to me recently that he had not seen a list of the churches where we are singing this year. Not even that remark made me realise my omission! *One of my favourite TCS photos – outside Leicester Cathedral - 2011*



We are now back to our normal schedule and sang our annual concert and Evensong at Bowral last week. We have two new choristers, although John Noller has been with us for some months now and is well and truly part of the choir. Apparently he is very happy sitting in the back row next to Dave Lewis and trying to keep up with what is going on! (That is a joke – they actually support each other as John is still learning the ropes (or music) and Dave has had a problem hearing Jim’s directions and seeing the music. He now has new glasses! I hear that Michael Hissey congratulated him on his solo part at Bowral and made positive comments on how well the choir sounded. He and Narelle should know!) Although the choir is small, we are still singing happily, supporting each other personally and musically, with good results.

You may remember that TCS was formed in 1989 to sing at St Andrew’s Cathedral when the main choir was on leave, so the choir is 34 years old. As I have been going through photos of events in my time in the choir, I have been interested to see how the composition of the choir has changed, as noted in formal photos of the choir and of social events.

We have been saddened to learn of the death of two of our very dear friends from years ago and send our condolences to their families and friends.

Pat Irving died late last year and Judy Russell died of a brain tumour recently with her memorial service being at Springwood last weekend.

I personally have very fond memories of them both in the years when I was first in the choir and when we were travelling to the UK.



Judy Russell is with me, enjoying a ride in the historic Nene Valley Railway near Peterborough on the 2011 tour.

As the choir is changing, a new generation is being educated. It is wonderful that Pdraig and Hilary are now bringing their two young boys to sing with us. They are both very talented and busy musicians and seem to enjoy singing with our mad group. That is very reassuring as it is extremely difficult to find new choristers who have experience in singing church music, or who even know what it is about.

Come and hear us all this Sunday at St John’s Gordon as we sing a special King’s Birthday Evensong, including Handel’s Zadok the Priest – sung at every recent Coronation!

Jan Kneeshaw – Editor



Program for 2023.

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
June	Sunday	11	4.00pm	Evensong King's Birthday	St John's Gordon
July	Sunday	9	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St John's Birchgrove/Balmain
	Saturday	29	5.30pm 6.00pm	Vespers Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
August	Sunday	13	3.00pm	Evensong	St Luke's Mosman
	Sunday	27	9.30am	Morning Service	St Ives Uniting Church
September	Sunday	10	4.00pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Saturday	23	4.00pm	Vigil Mass	Holy Spirit North Ryde
October	Sunday	15	3.00pm	Choral Evensong	Holy Trinity Anglican/ Terrigal
	Saturday	21	5.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Mary of the Presentation/ Mudgee
	Sunday	22	9.00am	Sung Eucharist	St John's Mudgee
	Saturday	28	5.30pm 6.00pm	Vespers Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
November	Sunday	12	4.00pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
December	Saturday	9	6.45pm	Carols at Oakhurst	Sir Trevor Garland's home – The Oaks
	Sunday	10	6.00pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Birchgrove/Balmain
	Sunday	17	6.00pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Gordon
	Tuesday	19	6.30pm	Carol singing	Forestville RSL
	Sunday	24	11.30pm	Sung Eucharist	St John's Birchgrove/Balmain

In the meantime, on behalf of TCS, may I encourage you to maintain your support and join us in some places where we sing. Be aware that this list is not exhaustive and there may be some additions later in the year.

**Jan Kneeshaw OAM
SECRETARY/CHAIR**

**Pat with various TCS
choristers at Westminster
Abbey where we sang in
2008**



Vale Judy Russell and Pat Irving.

Judith Rosemary Russell

All members of TCS were saddened to hear of the death on May 14th of Judy Russell at the relatively young age of 74.

Judy was a member of our choir for 16 years, and her glorious soprano voice was much admired. She served the choir in various administrative roles and her skills were particularly appreciated when she helped organise the TCS tour of England in 2011.

These skills were also evident during her many years working at N.S.W Parliament House with Rev. Fred Nile and the Christian Democratic Party where she was a driving force behind many events there.

Her other passion was for the people and land of Israel, and she had led a number of tours to that country.

In recent years she also joined the Mater Chorale and toured with this choir to England in 2019. Once again her beautiful voice was much appreciated, and recordings of her solos were played at her Memorial Service.

After her move to Faulconbridge she became an active member of the Springwood Presbyterian Church, and there she organised the Christmas service of Lessons and Carols. It was in this church that her Memorial Service was held on June 3rd and the packed church was a fitting tribute to her.

Photo: Looking across to Westminster Abbey – Judy Russell and Meg Shaw – TCS Tour 2008



Nan Lewis - TCS Groupie

Patricia Irving

I met Pat when I first joined The Cathedral Singers in 2000. However, as she was an Alto and I am a Soprano, we didn't talk a lot. Each part of a choir tends to mix with their own singing part.

She toured in England with TCS in 2008, but did not come on the tour in 2011. Touring is the time when one gets to know other people within the group, and I got to know Pat as the "fun" person she was.

Pat was a New Zealander, although I believe she lived most of her adult life in Australia. Being from N.Z. brought an instant bonding with me, as I have three New Zealand granddaughters, and Ken and I go to NZ fairly frequently.



We got together more often after she left The Singers, mainly through our mutual friendship with Pauline Thomas (also an alto). When Pauline was ill and in and out of hospitals, I would pick up Pat from Chatswood (she had gotten rid of her car by then), and we would visit Pauline – taking her out for lunch, and even taking lunch to her on one occasion.

I went to Pat's funeral, held in November last year at St. Matthew's Manly, where she attended. That was when I found out quite a bit about Pat's life. She never married, but did a lot of house-sitting, and dog-minding. That is where she became a family friend to these families and these families became her own. A lot of them were at the funeral, which shows how close these families were to her. One of the families composed a song set to the tune of "My Favourite Things" (from Sound of Music) and sang it at the funeral. She was a very caring person.

Photo: Pat's birthday on the last rehearsal at St Paul's Burwood

LYNN BOCK – TCS Soprano

2023 services – via Facebook.

We all know our Director, Jim Abraham, is wonderful. Now only does he plan all our music, conduct us and keep us in order, but he always takes the obligatory photo and puts it up on Facebook soon after the event. Have you found us there?

I have copied these verbatim from the web!!

Sunday 5th February

TCS had our first engagement of 2023 this morning with our Dedication service at St John's, Gordon. We have a few members out of Sydney but still managed to sing Schubert Mass in G. Also included in the picture are Gareth Beard and Nicola Chau who accompanied us.



Sunday 5th March

TCS sang at St Ives Uniting Church last Sunday as in the photo. Next Sunday we will be at St John's Gordon for Choral Evensong. (4.00pm)

Sunday 12th March

TCS sang Choral Evensong at St John's, Gordon this afternoon. As we are in Lent, the music was a little thoughtful and restrained. Responses were plainsong and the canticles were sung to the Morley setting with fauxbourdons. The anthem was Morley : Nolo mortem peccatoris. This is quite unusual in that it has some of the text in Latin and some in English.



Sunday 19th March

TCS sang at St John's, Balmain this morning. The setting was Merbecke which many will remember from years ago and the anthem was Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood).

Friday 24th March

Yesterday evening TCS sang at Holy Spirit, North Ryde for the Stations of the Cross service. It is always a thoughtful and moving service for the season of Lent.





Good Friday 7th April

This afternoon, TCS sang Stainer's Crucifixion at St John's, Gordon. Thanks to the soloists, Spencer Darby (tenor) and Leon Vittogiannis (baritone) and of course Gareth Beard (organ).

Sunday 30th April

Yesterday TCS combined with St John's Gordon choir for the Ku-ring-gai council's ANZAC service.



Sunday 21st May

TCS sang Choral Evensong at St John's, Balmain today. The setting was Stanford in Bb, with Ayleward responses. The anthem was Come Holy Ghost (Attwood)

Sunday 28th May

Yesterday, TCS had their annual trip to the Southern Highlands to sing Choral Evensong at St Jude's, Bowral. The service was preceded with a short concert of anthems across the church year. We were very grateful that Brett McKern was our accompanist for both. And also for his hospitality afterwards!



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

STOP PRESS

From the Editor:

I realised I am probably old, when I recognized my grandmother's phone on Facebook recently.

Does anyone else remember back this far?

How ironic!!

This is from America, but could have been from here. These are tales from another world!

The Black Telephone

Those of us old enough to remember when the phone was wired to the wall, usually in the kitchen, can relate to this story. I loved this read.

When I was a young boy, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember the polished, old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box.. I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother talked to it. Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person. Her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. Information Please could supply anyone's number and the correct time.

My personal experience with the genie-in-a-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer, the pain was terrible, but there seemed no point in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy. I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway.

The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlor and held it to my ear. "Information, please," I said into the mouthpiece just above my head.

A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear. "Information."

"I hurt my finger..." I wailed into the phone, the tears came readily enough now that I had an audience..

"Isn't your mother home?" came the question

"Nobody's home but me," I blubbered.

"Are you bleeding?" the voice asked

"No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts."

"Can you open the icebox?" she asked.

I said I could.

"Then chip off a little bit of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography, and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math.

She told me my pet chipmunk that I had caught in the park just the day before, would eat fruit and nuts.

Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary, died. I called, "Information Please," and told her the sad story. She listened, and then said things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was not consoled. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"



She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, " Wayne , always remember that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone, "Information Please."

"Information," said in the now familiar voice.

"How do I spell fix?" I asked

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest . When I was nine years old, we moved across the country to Boston . I missed my friend very much.

"Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home and I somehow never thought of trying the shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall. As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle . I had about a half-hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said,

"Information Please."

Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well.

"Information."

I hadn't planned this, but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?"

There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now."

I laughed, "So it's really you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time?"

"I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me. I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls."

I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister.

"Please do," she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle .

A different voice answered, "Information."

I asked for Sally.

"Are you a friend?" she said.

"Yes, a very old friend," I answered.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," She said. "Sally had been working part time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago."

Before I could hang up, she said, "Wait a minute, did you say your name was Wayne ?" "

"Yes." I answered.

Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you.

The note said, "Tell him there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean."

I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.

Never underestimate the impression you may make on others. Whose life have you touched today?

