



Newsletter

June 2013

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

Past Patron: Dr IG Dicker

From The Director

I am writing this while flying over the Philippines – well not actually flying the plane but as a passenger on the way to my brother's wedding! Thanks to Jim Coyle, who is deputising for a couple of weeks while I am away. Weddings seem to be an area where TCS is developing. With fewer churches having choirs, it is the responsibility of choirs such as TCS to offer a style of music that would otherwise be unavailable.



We have had a busy few weeks with major services at St John's, Gordon with the anniversary of the Coronation Service (details elsewhere) and also at St John's, Balmain for a service which combined the Patronal Festival and the dedication of a refurbished window. We were very pleased to sing a premiere of a work by Dr Graeme Rawson as well as a mass setting by Colin Brumby, who celebrated his 80th birthday a few days afterwards.

It has also been very busy behind the scenes. Firstly, we are delighted that Sir Trevor Garland has agreed to be our Patron (details elsewhere). Members of the committee have been working hard in many ways. David Lewis has had a mammoth job of updating accounts and trying to set up a new bank account. It shouldn't be a mammoth job but if anyone has tried to set up an account for an organisation recently, you will know some of what is involved. Mary Carter has been busy as we

Check out our website and then tell your friends!

www.cathedralsingers.org.au

See details of the choir, news, coming events, music listings, contacts for booking weddings and other events, information for interested choristers wanting to audition.

have had several new members join recently (soprano, alto and bass); plus the usual organisation of getting deputies for services when regular members are unavailable. Jan Kneeshaw and Janet Long have submitted applications for a grant from Ku-ring-gai Council – again a very time-consuming process. Madeleine Rowles has been organising venues for our trip to Canberra in October which promises to be a very exciting weekend. Also, the new website has been set up, which has taken up quite a lot of time. Finally thanks to Lynn Bock, who does a tremendous job in the Library, organising and collecting music each week.

Just after I finished the previous paragraphs, I watched a TV excerpt of *The Choir: Military Wives*. This was a programme about a choir trainer who went to an army barracks to start a choir with the servicemen's wives. They ended up with the UK Christmas number 1 in the UK Singles charts. A common statement from the programme was how the choir felt a community and almost like a family. It reminded me that any musical group can have this communal feeling but because voices are so personal, it is more likely to happen in a choir. Certainly, TCS has this feeling of collegiality. I hope that we will be able to see many of our supporters in the next few services and concerts.

Jim Abraham
DIRECTOR

From the Chair

Dear Supporters,

We are very pleased to have two major announcements in this Newsletter. The first is that we are thrilled to have a new Patron, Sir Trevor Garland, who has been following the ups and downs of TCS for many years and has already helped in many ways, not the least of which was to encourage our previous Patron, Dr Ian Dicker to support us substantially in the past.

There is a more detailed article about Sir Trevor in the Newsletter. We are very happy that he wants to be more directly involved in the work we are doing.

We are also very pleased to announce that our Website has been updated and enlarged to give more ready access to news of what we are doing, information of our regular events as well as special ones, sound bites, a section specifically for the choir and information to assist us to encourage new members and enquiries about weddings and other events.

We will be having a quieter few weeks while Jim goes to the UK to help his brother get married, then we are back with a vengeance, our first major event being at Epping Uniting Church, assisting the congregation celebrate their centenary with a concert on 21 July at 3pm. After that we have 3 Evensongs – at Dee Why, St Clement's Mosman and Gordon. Details as usual are listed elsewhere.

Hope we see you soon – maybe on the website!

God Bless

Jan Kneeshaw – Editor/Chair

Sir Trevor Garland - TCS Patron

We are very proud to announce that Sir Trevor Garland KBE AM CSI has agreed to be our new Patron. He is Consul General to the Solomon Islands, as well as being an organist and church music lover in his own right. He has been supporting us for many years, hosted us to sing carols at the Consulate every year, attended many of our functions and encouraged others to support us financially and in other ways.



Sir Trevor Garland



TCS at the Solomon Islands Consulate – December 2012

Extract from TCS Newsletter - December 2010

Arise, Sir Trevor

On 19 November 2010, friend of The Cathedral Singers, Sir Trevor Garland KBE AM CSI was formally knighted by Prince Charles at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace. One of just two Knights in a large ceremony, Sir Trevor's award was gazetted by the Palace some years ago, so the title has been in use, but this occasion marked the final part in that journey - the dubbing. Nominated by the Solomon



Islands for all his services to the diplomatic corps as well as his amazing medical mission which treats very ill patients from the Islands in Sydney, Sir Trevor has been recognised by the Australian Government in the Order of Australia as well as with the prestigious Cross of the Solomon Islands.

Sir Trevor is also an organist, and has in fact accompanied The Cathedral Singers. TCS congratulates him, and thanks him for his continued great support.

Brett McKern

Editor's Note:

We have already sung at 2 weddings as arranged by Sir Trevor this year and he played for one of them – in a heatwave!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - JUNE 2013



Membership this year has been a little like being on a roller coaster, but with larger downs than ups!!

However, we seem to be on an “up” at the moment, with our numbers gradually swelling.

After experiencing a shortage of sopranos last year, we are now back to six strong with Lynn & Elizabeth in firsts being augmented by Nicola, and Mary in seconds, being joined by Joanna and Angela. A few other people have tried out, but TCS has not been for them.

The alto section are also quite strong in sound with Madeleine, Lois and Janet leading the way in firsts, and Jan, Pauline, Rosemary and new arrival Emma, adding the depth in seconds.

Sadly, we are relying on our valuable deputies in the tenor line for the moment as both Ron and David are unable to sing for the moment for personal reasons. We look forward to their return. Meanwhile we are extremely grateful to Don, Philip, Peter and Darrall for helping us out whenever they can.

After the retirement of Kent at the end of last year as well as some of our basses moving on to other things, our bass line was looking quite

depleted. However, Michael has rejoined us after some extensive travelling and given long time member David some much needed support, along with Brian who joined our ranks last year. New member John, who has recently joined us, is helping to bring back that richness of sound for which TCS has become known. David and his wife Nan will be enjoying a few months away from TCS on an overseas holiday and while we hope they have a marvellous time, we will be happy to have them back again!

Some of our previous members have been busy adding to their families! Penny (soprano) has recently given birth to twin girls, Rosina and Lilian, sisters to Naomi, and Hilary (alto) and Padraig (bass) added to their family with the arrival of Liam, brother to Sean. In the years to come, maybe all these new young people may be the future singers of TCS!

It is great to welcome new members into TCS and we thank them for “giving us a go”. We are happy to audition potential members at any time, and if you are interested please contact us to arrange an audition time.

Meanwhile, we will carry on singing!!!

Mary Carter

Cantoris Soprano

Membership Secretary TCS

Contact us:

Membership Secretary – Mary Carter 0408 424 319

Director - Jim Abraham 0405 817 276

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

By email: **tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au**

By phone: (Secretary) 9144 4915 Mobile: 0411 785 117

www.cathedralsingers.org.au

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

The A to Z of Joanna Copeland

A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrived on St Ignatius Day - Sunday July 31, 1966 in Darlinghurst
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big sister – to David & Andrew – and according to them a bossy older sister.
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catering Manager [1992 – 1994] - at St Ignatius College – where I had responsibility for 8000 meals a week – and 30 staff.
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daughter to Brian & Enid Copeland.
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enigmatic – according to a very good friend
F	<p>Favourite things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movies: “Arsenic & Old Lace” and “North by Northwest” – both starring Cary Grant. • Composers: Henry Purcell , Benjamin Britten & Eric Whitaker • Colour: anything autumnal in tone • Place: Near the water – a river or the ocean • Foods: Cheese, chocolate & champagne • Activity: Walking alone– by the river or the ocean – at sunset or sunrise – while listening to music & thinking
G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grapes – the only way I will consume them – is fermented and poured from a bottle. Preference for white dry sparkling – although do enjoy an old red – and a fortified from North Eastern Victoria.
H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home – for the last 17 years in Ermington • Husband – since April Fool’s Day 1989 – Andrew de Jersey
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas person – see “P”
J	<p>Jumper - started knitting one in winter 1995 – have yet to finish it – not really my thing. Would rather cook, walk or read...</p>
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate – my best friend since 1988 – when we met in the last year of uni. We are godmother to each other’s first born children – who were born on the same day – 6 January – exactly 2 years apart.
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning – one of my favourite things – a day without learning is a day wasted.
M	<p>Mother to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William – born 6 January 1995 – currently in first year uni enrolled in Software engineering • Eleanor – born 17 May 1998 – a netballer - in 4 teams & occasional Year 10 student
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next degree? Masters in Ethics & Law –or a PhD. • Now an employee at NBN Co – as Training Business Partner for Health Safety & Environment – with my next job – starting July 29 – with Lend Lease – as Regional Training Manager – Environment Health and Safety
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised by need and not by nature. – Although my non-fiction books are in Dewey number order & my fiction in alphabetical order.
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile - I am an ENTP in the Myers Briggs Profile - According to this – as an Extrovert iNtuitive Thinking Perceiving person – my primary interest is understanding the world I live in. See “I”, “L”, “Y” & “V”.
Q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioning – I am always asking questions – see “L”, “P”, ‘V” & ‘Y”
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading – usually 5 or 6 books at time – on a variety of different topics. One of my favourites “A fly for the Prosecution” - and one I am currently reading “Mindset” by Carol Dweck.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management – the subject of my Masters
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singer all through school [SCEGGS Darlinghurst] and with Christ Church St Laurence choir from 1984 – 1989. Completed by 8th grade singing exam while 8 months pregnant in 1994. Stopped from 1996 until 2012 – joined TCS
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher & Trainer since 1996 - -with many topics – and my favourites are: safety, risk management & leadership. Have taught over 5000 people.
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding – why? See “P”
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visionary - that highly values knowledge – which I am constantly seeking. See “I”, ”L” & “P” “U” & “Y”
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willoughby – where I grew up
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter that starts my children’s’ middle names: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ William Xavier ○ Eleanor Xanthe
Y	<p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Something I always ask – I need to know & understand things. See “P”
Z	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Z” - a letter in my middle name – Elizabeth • Zelenka – a Czech baroque composer - love his music -have a few recordings on vinyl – bought when I worked at Rowe St Records a long time ago.



www.cathedralsingers.org.au

**TCS urgently needs singers, especially tenors and basses.
Check out the new website for details of what we do.**



TCS is also available to sing at weddings.

Check out the website and contact us if you are interested.



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



At Santa Sabina - January 2013





Cathedral Singers - Evensong and Concert at the Anglican Church of St Simon and St Jude

Please make yourselves familiar with the St Simon and St Jude's web site at <www.bowralanglican.org.au> There you will find that the Bowral Anglican Parish is very active and looking forward to planning for God's children in the noughties and beyond. Of course with the busy

St Judes Music Association (see "St Judes Music Association Tenth Anniversary" under the "Events" tab at the web site) there are many opportunities to hear performances of quality.

As a member of The Cathedral Singers who has had to move on from active vocal involvement, for one reason or many others, it is a *joyous* experience to revisit the ministry of TCS at Bowral. There is absolutely no doubt the 1662 Book of Common Prayer service is a delight to remember all those who have worshipped before us, and what a wonderful choral tradition has sprung from this form of worship. TCS led us in a beautiful service.

Particularly satisfying for me in the congregation was how well the music was received. For the congregation it is always important to feel that the words and music we sing are musically readable and within our range. Thank you to those who chose the music. It was really good to sing! I am not privy to the machinations of how the music was chosen, but Jim Abraham and the team did a great job in leading the congregation. Needless to say that the choice is done with a great deal of thought, and diligence. I recall one parish that I know of that the Rector requires music six weeks in advance! (No names no pack drill!)

In the unfortunate absence of the Rector, Madeleine Rowles did a terrific and sensitive job as Cantor.

At these events it is really interesting to hear how many good singers are hiding their light under a bushel basket. It is time to come out, brethren! Your choirs need you! I have no idea how near or far you had to travel to Bowral, but the time is now to take our musical journey a step further!



The concert part of TCS's visit was a reasonably short affair. We would loved to have heard more but I fear the ice may have descended on the Bowral landscape. It was remarkably cool day! As always, Jim directed the group with aplomb, negotiating the difficult physical layout the Bowral church has, so the choir is not always visible to the organist. Uplifting to hear another Rutter classic to finish.

Bob Watson– the ever thinning cantoris bass on sabbatical in Wollongong

Robyn and Bob Watson at Fountain Abbey, UK 2011

Queen's Birthday Evening – celebrating 60 years

We were privileged to hear a wonderful afternoon of choral music with The Cathedral Singers under the direction of Jim Abraham and accompanied by Dr. Brett McKern, who had arranged the music. This was to celebrate both the official birthday of the Queen and the 60th Anniversary of Her accession. Much of the



music presented was also sung at the Queen's coronation in Westminster Abbey in 1953. Not only was the music beautifully performed by the choir, but it was so particularly appropriate to the occasion. Also, each piece of music has its own interesting history.

It began with the organ prelude of *Nimrod* from 'Enigma Variations' by Elgar. While Elgar's tone poem only lasts a few minutes it projects the idea of eternity and the frailty of human life. It was used by Lord Patten at the handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese in 1997 when he was Governor. It is also the anthem of the British Army and is played at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

Led by the choir, we all joined in the rousing hymn "Thy hand, O God has guided" by Edward Hayes Plumptree. He was a theologian who was educated at Kings College, London and University College, Oxford and later held the position of Prebendary at St Paul's, London, where TCS have sung. He is buried at Wells Cathedral which has also been visited by TCS.

We then all joined in God Save the Queen. While the composer of the music is unknown, it was composed in the 15th century and the melody has been used repeatedly by many composers. The Cathedral Singers then presented a moving rendition of the 24th Psalm to chant by Joseph Barnby.

The congregation joined in singing with gusto the old hundredth, "All people that on earth do dwell". The words were composed by William Kethe. He was a Scot who helped translate the Geneva Bible in 1560 and also a supporter of John Knox. The melody receives its name because of its association with the 100th Psalm. Geneva was the centre of Protestant activity during the Reformation and the Calvinist musicians wanted communal singing instead of the prevailing Catholic practice which was chanting in Latin by the clergy only. The arrangement was by Ralph Vaughan Williams

We were then treated to a memorable rendition of the Magnificat – Stanford in C which was sung beautifully by the choir with real sympathy. The text of the canticle is taken directly from St Luke's Gospel. In the story, Mary greets her cousin, Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptist. The Child moves in Mary's womb, Elizabeth praises Mary for her faith and Mary sings The Magnificat in response.

Then followed the traditional canticle, "Nunc Dimittis", which was so moving. The words are from the second chapter of Luke's Gospel and the first words in Latin mean – Now you dismiss. It is known as the Song of Simeon who had been promised that he would not die until he had seen Christ. When Jesus was taken to the Temple for consecration, Simeon was there and took Jesus in his arms and sang Nunc Dimittus.

No celebration of the coronation would be complete without “Zadok the Priest”. The Cathedral Singers gave us a really exhilarating presentation, worthy of a real coronation. Zadok was composed by Handel based on the anointing of King Solomon. It was composed for the coronation of George II in 1727 and has been used at every English and British coronation since. In fact the words themselves have been used in every English and British coronation since the crowning of King Edgar at Bath Abbey in 973. It was also used at the royal wedding of the Australian, Mary Donaldson to Frederik, Crown Prince of Denmark.

Next, the substantial congregation were able to join in singing the next hymn, “I vow to thee, my country”. The lyrics were composed by a British diplomat Sir Cecil Spring-Rice and the music was written by Gustav Holst. Spring-Rice was a diplomat in Stockholm and appointed Ambassador to USA in 1912. He influenced Woodrow Wilson, the President of USA, to join Britain in the war. He altered the original first verse to take account of the sacrifice and huge losses in the first world war. The last verse refers to heaven and the final line is based on Proverbs 3:17.

Having been so wonderfully entertained by The Cathedral Singers we completed the choral portion of Evensong with the singing of “Jerusalem” - how appropriate. Composed by William Blake, a somewhat controversial person. He was baptised in St James Church, Piccadilly, and was a dissenter who was greatly influenced by the French and American revolutions. In 1800 he moved to Felpham in West Sussex and began writing a poem – Milton. The preface to that poem begins - “And did those feet ...” It was sung at the wedding of Kate and Prince William in Westminster Abbey. In 2000 it became the official anthem of the English football team. The interpretation is that Jesus would create a heaven in England in contrast to the dark satanic mills of the industrial revolution. King George V said that he preferred “Jerusalem” to “God save the King”! It is always used at the “Last Night of the Proms”.

Brett completed our musical feast with the organ postlude, Elgar's Imperial March. Elgar only composed three such marches and this was composed in 1897 to celebrate the diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, how appropriate and “How Brett”! We all know that the organ needs major renovation, but to hear it on this occasion it showed how Brett can wring wonderful results out of the ailing machine!

Well that completed a memorable celebration for the Royal occasion with a truly spiritual and musical Evensong. The professionalism of The Cathedral Singers is always evident but never so much as when there is such an important day to celebrate such as this. How fortunate we are to have them associated with St. John's. The substantial congregation left the church completely fulfilled both spiritually and chorally to toast the Queen's health with our Rector, Rev. Keith Dalby in the upper room.

It was lovely to see our good friend John Landels at Evensong. He followed TCS activities and travels when Hazel was in the choir. He also wrote about some of the cathedrals where we sang on the 2011 Tour before we left, so I knew was well qualified to write about Evensong on Sunday. It is good to have such friends! Greetings and thank you, John! - Ed

The following are excerpts from the diary of 20 year old Sydney journalist Fay White written about the Coronation on June 2, 1953, where she was in The Mall.

"This is the date the world awaited for months beforehand. A date that attracted the largest crowds ever known in London. (Estimated at two million).

We got up at 2.30 am in time to catch a train for London at 3.27. It was hard to forecast the day to follow. But the morning was cold and wet. We took a cab from Waterloo to as near the parade route as possible. Trafalgar Square was already a solid mass of people, some huddled under waterproofs and rugs, the same as they had spent the night and the previous day. We couldn't break through there, so we slipped down a lane leading into Whitehall. Here too masses of people were waiting, but a column was kept continuously moving by the London Bobbies. We battled our way along and again came to Trafalgar Square! But this time to the Admiralty Arch side, near the Mall.



The dawn, dim and grey, was by this time casting a faint light over the amazing scene of hundreds or thousands of people stirring, standing, milling and talking. Some were singing. We eventually got to our allotted seats in the Mall in time for the 5 am deadline!

At 7.30 am the first corps of guards came marching along. Their scarlet jackets were hidden by grey capes, and their bearskins gleamed with dew or rain. To cries of "forward", "easy" "Shun!" they lined the route, eventually taking off their capes to make a vivid splash of colour along either side of the road. Very soon the processions began -- cars carrying diplomats and members of the Royal Family, then Commonwealth Prime Ministers' carriages, each attended by a mounted escort.



Then came, accompanied by the Household Cavalry, three carriages bearing princes and princesses of the Royal Blood, including the Kents, Gloucesters, Princess Alice of Athlone the Princess Royal.

Princess Margaret and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother followed in the Irish State Coach.

The crowd cheered wildly, and in response were given a charming smile and wave. Margaret seemed a little tremulous and serious. She looked almost ethereal in her slenderness and transparent complexion.

Then in sudden silence of expectancy, the crowd awaited the Queen's arrival. Punctually we heard the jingling spurs. Household Cavalry, Kings Own Artillery, Royal Physicians and Surgeons, Chaplains, Field Marshalls and Equerries all passed in a riot of colour... but all eyes were fixed on the approaching glory of the golden Coronation coach... and in it, looking so slender and youthful, the Queen, with her husband, Philip. The crowd was wildly excited, and the Queen smiling and waving, was gone in what seemed an instant!

We were then left to hear the BBC broadcast of proceedings. It was most solemn and moving. The Queen's words were clear, and so too were her husband's when he paid her homage.

"I, Philip, do become your liege man of life and limb." The words came clearly through the amplifiers set in the dripping trees on that grey, wet day in The Mall.

At last the ceremony was over, and the return procession came along towards Buckingham Palace... two miles of cars and coaches and marching men and women from all the colonial and

Commonwealth countries, including the Australian contingent. Finally the Golden Coach again, with the crowned Queen, smiling and waving to the enthusiastic crowds.

Then, in one solid mass, the crowd moved to the palace to see the Queen, her Maids of Honour and all the Royal Family come out to the balcony to watch the Royal fly past. After waving for some time, the entourage went back



inside the Palace... but the crowd continued to chant "We want the Queen"... and in response she and the Duke reappeared.

That ended our memorable day in London.



The Cathedral Singers

Major events and venues for 2013

<i>Month</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>
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	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 (Fauré) (TBC)	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

The Cathedral Singers



with Director Jim Abraham



Will present a

Centenary Concert

With Organist Peter Jewkes

on

Sunday 21 July 2013

at

Epping Uniting Church

Cnr Oxford & Chester Street, Epping

at 3.00pm



This concert of Organ and Choir will celebrate the Centenary of the Church

Come along to this special event. Afternoon Tea is included.

Tickets are available for \$15 at the church office 9869 2737

Email: communication@eppingunitingchurch.org.au

Bookings are recommended as seating is limited.



Epping Uniting Church Congregation

The Cathedral Singers Inc

PO Box 569 Gordon NSW 2072

email: tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au

For further information phone Jan Kneeshaw on: (02) 9144 4915

www.cathedralsingers.org.au

Beware the wrath of the church organist – musical revenge is sweet.



They are the stalwart pillars of the community whose week-in, week-out dedication has kept the country's choral traditions alive for generations. A survey of churchgoers found that at least half have noticed their organist straying from the path of musical orthodoxy. But, if new research is to be believed, behind the quiet exterior the humble church organist is not someone to be crossed. While charged with providing spiritually uplifting music to worshippers, it seems many also seize the opportunity to extract subtle revenge on clerics who have displeased them or simply play pranks on congregations.

A survey of churchgoers found that at least half have noticed their organist straying from the path of musical orthodoxy at some point – slipping snippets of heavy metal classics, advertising jingles and even nursery rhymes into hymns and anthems. In some cases it can be a means of waging musical war with clerics while in others it is simply an effort by bored organists to make the choir laugh. Christian Research, a polling and research group asked its 2,000 strong “Resonate” panel of churchgoers for their views on church music and organists. Of those who responded, half said they had noticed an organist slipping unexpected tunes into services.

Among examples cited was that of the organist in Scotland who had fallen out with some of the elders in the Kirk but got his own back by inserting a thinly disguised rendition of “Send in the Clowns” as they processed in for a Sunday service. Elsewhere, a vicar sacked an organist after he played “Roll out the Barrel” at the funeral of a man known to have been fond of a drink. In one decidedly high church congregation, an organist punctured the mood of reverence as an elaborately dressed clergyman processed back after the gospel reading – by playing the theme tune to *The Simpsons*. Another congregation found themselves passing around the collection plate to the strains of “Money, Money, Money” by Abba. The survey uncovered examples of Eucharist celebrations livened up with renditions of Bon Jovi’s “Livin’ on a Prayer”; the theme tunes from the *Magic Roundabout*, *Blackadder* and *Harry Potter* and even “I’ve Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts”.

Sung Evensong – widely regarded as the jewel in the crown of English choral music – has been spiced up such unexpected offerings as “I’m a Barbie Girl” and “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles”. One organist who responded confessed to playing hits by Oasis, Billy Bragg and even Kylie Minogue in services but added: “Nobody notices – I do it all the time.” But when an organist played a slowed-down version of Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious from *Mary Poppins*, even the most tone deaf members of the congregation eventually recognised, sending them into gales of laughter. An older bridegroom took it in good humour when the organist played “No one loves a fairy when she’s 40” at his wedding” while candidates at a confirmation service were left perplexed to hear the strains of “I’m a Little Teapot” from the organ loft.

Stephen Goddard, of Christian Research, said: “It’s an oft-repeated adage in church circles – ‘What’s the difference between an organist and a terrorist? -you can negotiate with a terrorist’.

“Hidden from view, your local church organist may appear unassuming and self-deprecating, but like any true artist, he or she can be eccentric, mischievous and very opinionated.

“Mess with him at your peril – he will pull out all the stops to get his own back.”

The poll was conducted ahead of the Christian Resources Exhibition, a trade fair for all things ecclesiastical in London later this month, which will be showpiecing new organs among other things.

By **John Bingham**, Religious Affairs Editor 03 May 2013

Ed. - I discovered that this has been doing the rounds of Facebook – apologies to those who have seen it, but I thought less enlightened individuals might appreciate it too!. From the Telegraph – 3 May 2013.

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)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD 3 “Lo! The Star” @ \$20 each _____ | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD 2 “The Cathedral Singers” @ \$20 each _____ | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD 4 “The Cathedral Singers Sing Evensong” @ 20each _____ | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD 2 + CD 4 @ \$30 _____ | \$ _____ |
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