



Newsletter

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

September 2023

From the Director

I write this on John Rutter's birthday! He must be one of the biggest influences on Christmas music of the past few decades. Whilst some of the top Christmas hits may have huge success, when you put together all of his arrangements and carols sung throughout the world, I think his carols may be the most performed and heard. He was quoted at a Choral Evensong to induct new members of the choir last week.

This quote sums up all that I need to say for this newsletter!

“Choral music is not one of life's freedoms. It's something which goes right to the very heart of humanity, our sense of community and of our souls. You express when you sing, your soul in song. And when you get together with a group of other singers, it becomes more than the sum of the parts. All of those people are pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony which is a kind of emblem for what we need in this world when so much of the world is at odds with itself. That just to express in symbolic terms what it's like when in harmony. That's a lesson for our times and all time. I profoundly believe that. This is true even if the choir is not a first rate choir – it is more obviously true when the choir is first rate but the very act of getting together even to attempt to sing in harmony let alone to succeed is what is really important.”



John Rutter

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 All!

The year seems to be flying past and as usual, TCS has been busy.

Since our last newsletter, we have sung at St John's Gordon for the King's Birthday Evensong, Eucharist at St John's Balmain, Vespers and Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Evensong at St Luke's Mosman and Morning Prayer at St Ives Uniting Church.



St Luke's Mosman



St Ives Uniting Church

Last Saturday evening we sang again at Holy Spirit North Ryde, which is Madeleine Rowle's home church. As usual this was well received by a very supportive congregation.

Soon we are travelling again!

Firstly to Holy Trinity **Terrigal** to sing Evensong on 15th October, before our annual Country Tour – this year to **Mudgee**, when we will sing at the Catholic and Anglican churches on the weekend of 21/22 October. We might even visit a winery while we are there! I will also catch up with my brother and his wife!

The next week we are back at **St Mary's Cathedral**, where we might meet the new Director of Music, who starts in October.

We then have a slight lull in November to recover, before hitting the Christmas Season where we sing carols in churches and even at Forestville RSL!

We hope that you might be able to meet us on our travels and we would also appreciate any support you can give this slightly mad choir. Some of us are not getting any younger, but we all still love singing God's praises in churches around Sydney and beyond.

If you know of anyone who would like to join us, please let them know we would love to see them. We have 3 relatively new choristers, who are fitting in well and keeping up with the constant change in repertoire for each different venue.

Congratulations, Jen, John and Bart!!



St Mary's Cathedral

We look appreciate your interest and support, as always.
God bless you all.

Jan Kneeshaw – Editor

Program for 2023.

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
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**



2023 sees a few significant anniversaries of leading church composers.

William Byrd



William Byrd had a long life for the period he lived in and died in 1623 at the ripe old age of 83, although the exact date of birth is somewhat uncertain. He is often considered the greatest English composer of the Renaissance period. He was prolific in sacred and secular music writing both instrumental and choral music. It is thought that he was either a boy chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, London or a pupil under Thomas Tallis at the Chapel Royal. His first known appointment was at Lincoln Cathedral where he was appointed Organist and Master of the Choristers before he became a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal. In 1575, he and Tallis were

granted a monopoly of the printing of music. His works are very varied (some in Latin and some in English) and this is partly due to the fact that he was Protestant before becoming involved with Catholicism. Many composers at the time had to tread a delicate path depending on the politics and monarchy of the time.

TCS sing a few anthems by Byrd including the beautiful setting of *Ave verum*. He also wrote music for services and we frequently sing his *Preces and Responses* which you will be able to hear at Terrigal on October 15 or St John's Gordon on November 12.

Thomas Weelkes



2023 also sees the 400th anniversary of the death of Thomas Weelkes - every schoolchild's favourite as he was reported to the Bishop for being "noted and famed for a common drunkard and notorious swearer and blasphemer".

Like many details from this period, the records are sometimes uncertain but it is thought that he was born in 1576, and his father was probably the rector in Elsted, West Sussex. In 1598 became organist at Winchester College. Whilst there, he obtained his BMus degree from new College, Oxford. A few years later, in 1602 he was appointed Organist and Master of Choristers (sometimes called Informer Choristarum) at Chichester Cathedral.

He composed at least ten settings of the services, although some are only evensong canticles. However, all are to some extent incomplete and have had to be reconstructed. He was also well known for

writing madrigals and some of his anthems, are treated in a more secular way - for example *When David Heard*.

In 1608, he published a 4th volume of madrigals where he described himself as "a gentleman of the Chapel Royal.

In 1616, he was dismissed from Chichester for "being drunk at the organ and using bad language in a divine service" but was later re-instated. It seems that he then spent much of his later life in London, where he died. He was buried at St Bride's Fleet Street. Chichester Cathedral choir released a CD of his music this year with accompaniment by viols. On September 10 we sang his Short Evening service at St John's, Gordon.

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.

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