



Newsletter

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

November 2020

From the Director

Well, what a year this has been for singing! Someone quipped a month or two ago that at a job interview 3 years ago, candidates were asked where they saw themselves in 3 years' time, nobody got it right!

Now that rules are a little more relaxed we have started rehearsing again. With a limit of only 5 at a time and spread throughout the church, it is not ideal but is better than Zoom rehearsals. We managed over 6 months of Zoom rehearsals – usually a video of warm-up from a well-respected choral director, followed by sing-a-long-a-youtube either with scrolling sheet music or using music from our library. We went through quite a few Mozart and Haydn masses plus several Evensong settings.

We have one confirmed service at St John's Birchgrove (20th December 6.00pm). This will be a Carol Service with a limited number of singers – unless rules get relaxed before then. We have to be adaptable and adjust according to the regulations. I hope that there may be some changes as this is just a few days before Christmas and numbers in NSW are very small at the moment. At present we are limited to a choir of 5 plus some soloists at the back of the church who cannot sing when the quintet is singing.

Thank you for your support of TCS in whatever way you are able to do so. Hopefully, we will be back to singing at the start of next year.

Jim Abraham
Director

A word from Dave:

I was told that while rehearsing I should wear a mask and gloves. They lied. Everyone else had clothes on.



From the Editor

It is hard to believe that Christmas is nearly upon us and we have not sung together at a service since our Dedication on 15th March. Although we bemoan the fact, we have to be grateful that our part of the world is basically Covid-free and that the Australian governments and people have done an amazing job of acting quickly to control the virus. We need to praise God for this, knowing that for most of us, life has not really changed too much.



Although we have been meeting together on Zoom for most of this year, it is not really possible to sing together and do much more than some exercises, sight reading and keeping in touch. We did try recording hymns individually but that was not terribly successful - or taken up with much enthusiasm!! Still, my IT skills have improved this year, as a result!

We have now sung together for 3 weeks – it was interesting how rusty we were the first week and there was a noticeable improvement the second week. I presume everyone is finding that!

Now we are looking forward and wondering if we are brave enough to plan for a “normal” 2021.



Of course, as we have not been singing, we have not been receiving any income, so things are as tight with us as with many other people. We are very grateful to have received another grant from Ku-ring-gai Council recently but are restricted in how we can use it. We are aware that every charity has been asking for extra funds this year, and we are no exception.

If you could feel free to remember us as we come into the Christmas season, HOPING we might be able to sing somewhere, we would be very grateful for your small donation.

As Christmas Day is amazingly in six weeks, and it is just being announced that the State borders are opening up and things are gradually get back to normal, we hope you enjoy the next few weeks of Advent and then Christmas.

God bless you all
Jan Kneeshaw – for TCS



Advice From Belinda:

*** I'M GOING TO STAY UP ON NEW YEAR'S EVE THIS YEAR. NOT TO SEE THE NEW YEAR IN, BUT TO MAKE SURE THIS ONE LEAVES.**

Government guidelines on school nativities released today;

Please note that in order to ensure children follow Covid safety procedures-



1. The Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem will NOT be mentioned.
2. 'No room at the inn' will be replaced with 'accommodation was limited because of strict adherence to social distancing regulations.'
3. A maximum of THREE shepherds will be abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night.
4. Whilst 'a multitude of the heavenly host' may be permitted in heaven, it would be advisable to state that only 'a quintet of the heavenly host' are permitted in the vicinity of Bethlehem.
5. The shepherds visiting the stable must wear masks, use hand sanitising gel on arrival, scan the obligatory Track & Trace QR CODE and must depart before the wise men appear.
6. In respect of the wise men, references to 'the East' are wholly unacceptable, as are allusions to camels.
7. It must be clearly stated that the wise men have observed a period of quarantine before visiting the infant Jesus.
8. The wise men should therefore arrive in a traditional manner, but strictly one at a time: specifically (i) one in a taxi (ii) one in a car (iii) one on a scooter, blowing his hooter.
9. They should also wear masks, and practise hand hygiene on arrival.
10. Gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh may NOT be brought into the stable. Instead it should be plainly said that the wise men will email a QR code to Joseph, so that their gifts can be collected from the nearest Amazon locker.



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A Hymn for the Church Choir

....any other choir!

Immoral impossible God only knows
 How tenors and bases, sopranos, altos
 At Mass on Sunday are rarely the same
 As those who on Wednesday to choir practice came.

Already unable to sight read the notes
 Nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats:
 The descant so piercing is soaring above
 A melody only a mother could love .

They have a director, but one wonders why?
 No one in the choir deigns turn him an eye
 It's clear by his flailing he wants them to look
 But each singer slouches with nose in the book.

Despite the offences, the music rings out
 The folk in the pews are enraptured, no doubt!
 Their faces so blissful, their thoughts appear deep
 But it is no wonder, for they are asleep!



The Cathedral Singers – early 2020

Please note: This would never in any way relate to our choir. We are all perfect, sing beautifully at all times, watch the conductor, know all the music and generally keep any congregation spellbound. -Ed

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