Newsletter

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

June 2024

From the Director

I have over the past couple of years been extolling the virtues of Choral Evensong, The RSCM has published a book *Come and Sing Evensong*. Also, recently they published *Come and sing Stanford Evensong*. This includes Stanford in C and some Preces and Responses based on Stanford musical extracts. That is what TCS sang last week at St John's Gordon! Where TCS leads, others follow…

Charles Villiers Stanford

As from an article published in our February Newsletter

This will be a short newsletter but please read Jan's note about donations. Like most musical groups, there is not the funding that sports teams/events seem to get and we rely on donations to maintain our vision of promoting "Cathedral Style Music"

Jim Abraham – Director

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

Notes from the Editor

Greetings to our friends and supporters.
Once again it is tax time and we are thinking about donations. There are 12 days until the end of the financial year. I just counted! As Jim says, we really rely on the support of you all.
Many thanks to those who have donated already – we really appreciate your help in this way.

This time we are pleased to announce that we have a new alto, who has sung in St John's Cathedral Hong Kong for many years, Welcome, Sandy Ng. We are both convinced that once again God's hand is evident here as she has found a choir singing the music she loves now she is back in Sydney. She is also happy to be worshipping at St John's Gordon, our home church, who are so good to us.

It seems a long time since Easter when we sang Stainer's " Crucifixion " at St John's Gordon. Recently we also sang Evensong to celebrate the King's Birthday, again at St John's. This was appreciated by many who attended.

We were very thrilled to be asked to sing again at St Andrew's Cathedral after Easter when the choir was on holidays. We sang Evensong twice in one week! It was lovely to be back and we received a great welcome.

We have been out and about since the last Newsletter – to Balmain, North Ryde, Bowral as well as St John's. See more details further on.
We will be going back to St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 29th June to sing Vespers and Mass.
We will also be returning to St Ives Uniting church on 18th August.

As usual, may I say that our choir, though small, is a wonderful group who have fellowship, fun and fulfilment singing the music we love for others to enjoy. Why don't you join us?
Blessings

Jan Kneeshaw – Editor

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

As found by one of our choristers on Facebook

:

A chorister I examined for an RSCM exam once said completely innocently that one purpose of the choir was to express the prayers of the congregation that they couldn't express for themselves.
Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings…..

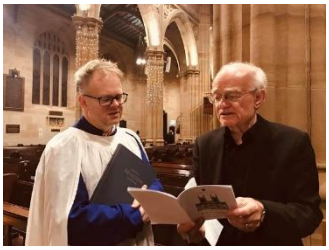
Check out our website and then tell your friends!
www.cathedralsingers.org.au
Would you like to consider joining us?
Contact Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or the Director,
Jim Abraham on 0405 817 276
Email: jan.kneeshaw@optusnet.com.au

Continuing Program for 2024.

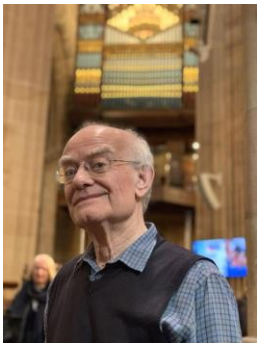
Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
June	Saturday	29	5.30pm/ 6.00pm	Vespers Mass	**St Mary's Cathedral**
July	Sunday	14	6.00pm	Evensong	**St John's Birchgrove/Balmain**
August	Thursday	8	10.00am & 1pm	Feast Day Mass	**Mary MacKillop Chapel**
	Sunday	18	9.30am	Morning Service	**St Ives Uniting Church**
	Saturday	24	TBC	Vigil Mass and Concert	**Holy Spirit North Ryde**
September	Sunday	8	9.30am	Eucharist	**St John's Birchgrove/Balmain**
	Sunday	15	3.00pm	Evensong	**Holy Spirit Terrigal**
	Saturday	28	5.30pm/ 6.00pm	Vespers Mass	**St Mary's Cathedral**
November	Sunday	10	4.00pm	Remembrance Day Evensong	**St John's Gordon**
December	Saturday	7	6.45pm	Carols	**Oakhurst**
	Sunday	15	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	**St John's Birchgrove/Balmain**
	Tuesday	19	7.00pm	Carol Singing	**Forestville RSL**
	Sunday	22	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	**St John's Gordon**
	Sunday	24	9.30pm	Christmas Eve Mass	**Holy Spirit North Ryde.**

Congratulations, Sir John Rutter!

Many congratulations to the newly-knighted Sir John Rutter. One of the most generous, supportive and talented composers of church music in the world today. An honour hugely deserved, and an especially thank you, Sir John, for your kindness in coming to RSCM SydneyInSpires in 2019.



A message from Ross Cobb on Facebook



EDWARD BAIRSTOW – Organist and Composer

In the second article about anniversaries of 2024 we look at Edward Bairstow who was born 150 years ago. He was a prominent English organist and composer, renowned for his significant contributions to Anglican church music. Born in Huddersfield, Bairstow displayed musical talent from an early age, receiving his early education at the local grammar school. He later studied at the Royal College of Music in London, where he honed his skills as an organist and composer under the guidance of Charles Villiers Stanford (who we also celebrate this year) and Walter Parratt.

Bairstow's career as a church musician began in 1899 when he was appointed organist at Wigan Parish Church. He went on to hold organist positions at various prestigious institutions, including Leeds Parish Church and York Minster. It was during his tenure at York Minster, where he served as organist and master of the choristers from 1913 until his death in 1946, that Bairstow made his most significant contributions to the world of Anglican church music. He was held in high esteem by his pupils including Francis Jackson who succeeded him at the Minster who said that "he had the ability to do supremely well at whatever he put his hand to … I never heard him play a wrong note!" He was quite blunt by all accounts and when asked if he would possibly follow his predecessor Thomas Noble to America he replied "I would rather go to the devil"

As a composer, Bairstow is best known for his choral works, which include anthems, canticles, and hymn settings. His compositions are characterized by their lyrical melodies, rich harmonies, and sensitive treatment of the text. Bairstow had a deep understanding of the Anglican liturgy, and his choral music reflects his reverence for the traditions of the Church of England.

One of Bairstow's most famous compositions is his setting of the evening canticles, known as the "York Service." This work, composed for York Minster, is a masterpiece of Anglican choral music, revered for its grandeur, beauty, and expressive power. Bairstow's ability to create music that enhances the meaning and spirit of the text is evident throughout the "York Service," making it a beloved staple of the Anglican choral repertoire.

In addition to his choral compositions, Bairstow was also an accomplished organist and conductor. He was known for his virtuosic organ playing and his skilful direction of choirs. Bairstow's contributions to the English choral tradition have left a lasting legacy, influencing generations of musicians and enriching the worship experience of countless congregations. Today, his music continues to be performed and cherished by choirs and churchgoers around the world, a testament to his enduring talent and creativity as a composer and church musician.
We will be singing his anthem "Save us O Lord" at St John's, Balmain (Birchgrove) on Sunday July 14th 6.00pm with Stanford's Evening Service in C.

Scenes from our Recent Travels as seen on Facebook

Stations of the Cross – Holy Spirit North Ryde

Easter

Stainer's "Crucifixion – St John's Gordon

Return to St Andrew's Cathedral

St John's Birchgrove, Balmain

St Jude's Bowral

St John's Gordon – King's Birthday Evensong