

# Noosa Chorale Tune in

The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

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## “A starry extravaganza”, says Adrian King

Once again it's time to celebrate “Wassail” at The J Theatre. Our history doesn't go back as far as the Middle Ages but the sentiment is no less sincere in wishing you “Good Health!”

This year's theme is “Stars” with traditional carols, arrangements by the auspicious John Rutter, and contemporary classical music all included in this starry Wassail extravaganza.

As is now customary, I have included in the second segment of the evening a work that is dear to my heart, this time “A Ceremony of Carols” by Benjamin Britten.

Benjamin Britten, was an English composer, conductor, pianist and a central figure of 20th-century British classical music, with a range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces.

His best-known works include the opera “Peter Grimes” (1945), the “War Requiem” (1962) and the orchestral

showpiece “The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra” (1945) reflecting his interest in writing music for children and amateur performers.

“Wassail” revellers have shown in previous years they love to sing along with the Chorale and I have also included Christmas favourites like “The First Nowell,” “Silent Night” and “O Come All Ye Faithful.”

Our programme is accompanied by our esteemed and talented accompanist Janet Brewer.

I am sure this this programme of Wassail music will captivate, enthrall and entertain, as all the past programmes have done since our first Wassail in 2007.

**Noosa Chorale Wassail at The J Theatre**  
Friday December 16 at 7.00pm and  
Saturday December 17 at 7.00pm.

**Be quick. Tickets are selling fast. Here's how to make sure of your seats at the festive tables.**

**Book online** at [www.thej.com.au](http://www.thej.com.au) , or in person at The J Box Office, 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Junction (no transaction fee).

**Book by phone** 07 5329 6560 (incurs a telephone transaction fee of \$3.50).

**Whole table reservations** for groups can be arranged, with separate payment by group members, either at the Box Office, or phone 07 5329 6560 (incurs a telephone transaction fee of \$1.50).

Merry Christmas  
to our sponsors,  
friends and  
singers!



Photo: Andrew Seymour

## Christmas Wassail a team effort

It's an old adage, that if you want a job done, ask a busy person.

So when the multifaceted task of coordinating Wassail 2016 was up for grabs, everyone breathed a huge sigh of relief when that stalwart of the altos Gai Ramsay stepped up.

The reason? We knew that it would be done with style, talent and lots of hard work...exactly like her singing!

Gai brings the ideal mix of creative talent and administrative competence to the job.

She has managed twin careers in secretarial administration and teaching piano for many years, so the ordering, coordinating, designing, and presentation - not only of our venue at The J but of the choir members - has offered many challenges which she is very well equipped to meet.

Not without a great deal of hard work though, and a large whiteboard that dominates Gai's office, displaying every detail of this complicated undertaking.

All members are invited to participate in the making of corsages, decorating the J inside and out, table-laying, preparation and serving of supper and making beautiful stars under the expert tutelage of Jenny Jackson.

Alto Antje Raymond has brought her invaluable catering expertise to the part so you can expect the traditional fare of mince pies, cheese platters and Christmas cake will be of the highest quality.

The J has been, as ever, really helpful and cooperative. Gai's roster is already doing the rounds and Chorale members are invited to offer assistance wherever possible.

The theme of stars has been a democratic decision thanks to the suggestion box Gai arranged earlier in the year.

It seems the consensus is for a traditional Christmas this year, and many requested stars to be our main feature.

It's a notion that Gai has embraced, "I want the spirit of Christmas to be reflected in the calm, peaceful atmosphere of a starry night."



Antje Raymond (left) and Gai Ramsay

Photo: Cal Webb

Some Christmas gift ideas for the music-lover in your life

## Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols'

A wartime sea voyage through U-boat infested waters in 1942 and a book of Middle English poetry seem unlikely beginnings for one of the best loved and oft performed Christmas song cycles in the English canon.

The long hours and days spent at sea by Benjamin Britten however, enabled him to compose what was to become an enduring part of the Christmas season.

*A Ceremony of Carols* is a compilation in which the poems of now nameless mediaeval poets, and the later poets Robert Southwell and William Cornish, were set to music by this most prolific English composer, conductor and pianist.

Britten was a central figure of 20th-century British classical music, with a huge range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces.

*A Ceremony of Carols* exploits Britten's musical virtuosity and gives us access to the most ancient Christian beliefs and traditions in ecclesiastical Latin and the English of Chaucer.

Originally conceived as a series of unrelated songs, it was later unified into one piece with the framing processional and recessional



Benjamin Britten 1913—1976

chant in unison based on the Gregorian antiphon "Hodie Christus natus est", heard at the beginning and the end.

Other motifs from "Wolcum Yole" also serve to unify the composition. In addition the movements "This

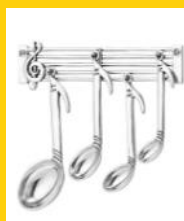
Little Babe" and "Deo Gracias" have the choir reflecting harp-like effects by employing a canon at the first in stretto.

The Noosa Chorale is able to continue this fine tradition under the sure hand of our director Adrian King, whose enthusiasm for the linguistic and musical challenges of the piece, and for the remarkable genius of Benjamin Britten, has infected us all.

So Wolcum Yule, or maybe that should be welcome y'all to Wassail 2016. Tickets are selling fast, so make sure you book.



**Classical Cooks—**  
A Gastrohistory of  
Western Music, by  
Ira Braus.  
Published by  
Xlibris, USA.



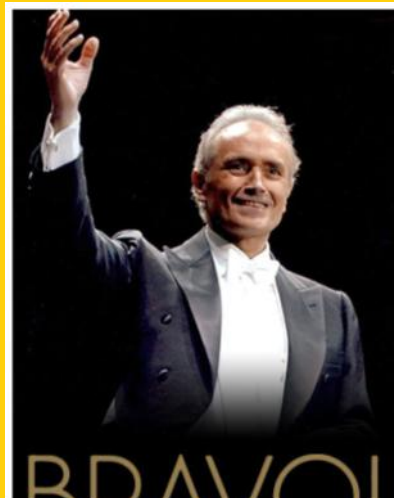
Music note kitchen  
measuring spoons



A new lunch box



Chocolate music



CRUISE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS 2017

Bravo! Cruise of the Performing Arts,  
October 2017

[http://www.cruiseexpress.com.au/  
bravo2017?no\\_redirect=true](http://www.cruiseexpress.com.au/bravo2017?no_redirect=true)



## Jenny's stars will light up The J

Art and music are abiding passions that often have to compete for soprano Jenny Jackson's time, but Wassail 2016 has brought them together perfectly, and Noosa Chorale are the beneficiaries.

Not only will her descant Nowell soar above the music, her beautiful stars will glitter above the audience.

Art and music are twin passions that have been woven into Jenny's life since childhood, and all through the years she and husband Andrew ran a property outside Goondiwindi.

It was there an enthusiastic and dedicated community formed choirs and performed a wide repertoire of choral works and musicals, 'Oklahoma', 'The Pyjama Game', 'The Mikado' and excerpts from more contemporary hits such as 'Chicago' and 'A Chorus Line'.



Starmaker Jenny Jackson

Photo: Cal Webb

Abstract intellectual work was pursued, as well as some avant-garde installations that raised eyebrows in some quarters.

For many years renowned artist Merv Moriarty, through his Flying Arts School, regularly sent accomplished practitioners—among them Betty Churcher's husband Roy—to work with regional Queensland artists.

Now a Noosa resident, Jenny's enthusiasm for music continues unabated, and her artistic talents have been put to good use for this year's Wassail,

with a constellation of stars tirelessly put together by Jenny and her band of helpers. You may wish to make stars a focal point of your home decorations. If so, here's how.

## How to make a 5 Point Christmas Star

### Materials

- A packet of bamboo garden stakes. (Choose the stake length suited to the size you want your finished star to be.) You only need 5 stakes per star.
- Electrical tape. Choose your preferred colour...red for 2016 Wassail. Use masking tape if you choose to paint your star
- Fishing line or zip ties
- Paint. if you choose to paint your star. Red...Wassail 16 colour to be advised.
- 1 set of LED lights- battery powered. Colour of your choice. ...red or white for 2016 Wassail.

### Method

- Arrange the bamboo to make a 5 point star...refer to the picture above.
- Tape each corner join...or use zip ties
- Tape internal points to stabilise the star...or use zip ties
- Paint your star ...if you want to.
- Secure the LED lights to the outer shape of the star with fishing line, tape, or zip ties. If using fishing line, just wind the fishing line around and around the bamboo stake and the LED light cable. Secure.
- The battery container can be secured to one of the bamboo sticks using electrical tape...arrange it so the narrowest part of the battery container will be facing the viewer of the star.
- Your star is now complete.

Fig 1

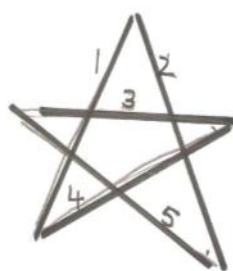


Fig 2

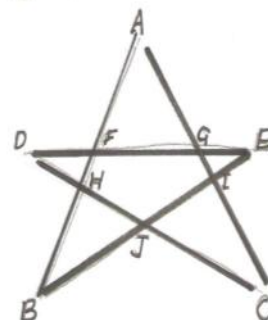
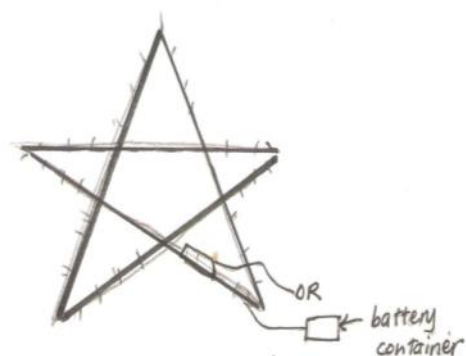


Fig 3



Enjoy your star!

## The alto who came in from the cold

Visiting Noosa Chorale alto Candace Witt lives in the Rocky Mountains' ski resort town, Sun Valley, in Idaho.

She and husband Ted are chasing the sun in Noosa for two months and she has found practising with Noosa Chorale for its Christmas Wassail at The J to be something of an "ice breaker" when it comes to meeting people.

"Singing with the Chorale has given me a wonderful way to come into the community. Most people usually visit places for a week but we're here for longer and it gives us the chance to get involved."

In the U.S. Candace sings with Caritas Chorale. Like Noosa's Chorale, it is a community choir, has two to three performances a year and sings classical and traditional works.

Why did she and Ted decide to spend time in Noosa?

"In Sun Valley right now, it doesn't know if it's hailing, snowing, raining or sleeting or what it's doing.

"Ted is a bridge player and he wanted to go somewhere warm where he could play. I sing all the time and I miss singing if I'm not in a choir.

"We went online, looking for somewhere that would suit both of us and, as we hadn't been to Noosa before, that's how we ended up here.

"When I saw your schedule for the Wassail concert and how it would fit in with when we were going to be here, I



Candace Witt (left) with fellow alto and Chorale Deputy Music Director, Pam Sage  
Photo: Cal Webb

was very excited. It's wonderful and I'm really looking forward to it."

## Oh what a week that was!

Whew! The lead up to Christmas is a busy time for community choirs like Noosa Chorale. And if you don't believe us, well, here's a brief look at life as a chorister as it happened last week.

Tuesday night was rehearsal as usual at The J. We're happy to report all our fantastic music for the Christmas Wassail on December 16 and 17 is now being finely tuned and we're ready to lead the carols and present Benjamin Britten's beautiful cantata, "A Ceremony of Carols."

The next morning it was back to The J again—this time for Noosa Council's Australian Citizenship Ceremony. This is an important moment for those newcomers pledging themselves to our country and the Chorale is always pleased to be asked to take part.

We performed a selection of Australian songs and, of course, the National Anthem.



Photos: Ian Jobling

On Friday night we gathered at Hastings Street for the lighting up of the tree and the transformation of the footpaths into an illuminated fairyland of colour and brilliance.

It has become a Christmas tradition for us

to sing carols outside Aromas Restaurant and the crowded courtyard of people were clearly pleased with our offering.

On Sunday afternoon we attended St Andrew's Anglican Church



at Sunshine Beach to practise for the church's Traditional Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday December 11.

This service is also something we've enjoyed doing in past years and we're delighted to be invited again.

Why not put the date in your diary? The Reverend Mark Calder and his congregation would love to welcome you.



Photo: Heather Williams

