

## Platinum Chorale!

JIM FAGAN

## Exclusive Gala Report

Music director Adrian King was a “real professional” and through his direction Noosa Chorale was “going from strength to strength,” a clearly impressed Noosa Mayor Noel Playford said after the choir’s 20<sup>th</sup> Gala Anniversary Concert at The J on Sunday, October 19.

The choir presented two concerts, the first the previous evening, and standing ovations by thrilled audiences were just what the choir deserved for its platinum presentation of the great choral choruses it has performed since it was founded in 1994.

I say “platinum” as the precious metal is traditionally associated with 20-year anniversaries and it seems an appropriate word to describe what the Mayor called a “fitting tribute to 20 years of providing enjoyment for many people.

“I was delighted to be there and I spent some time afterwards talking to a woman who had come all the way from Bundaberg especially for the performance. Anyone who missed the Chorale this time better get ready for the next one.”

This was echoed by international opera star, bass baritone Jeffrey Black, one of the superb concert soloists who featured in the

concerts. “People should come and see this choir, absolutely no question. For a regional choir, it presents itself beautifully.

“It was a demanding program for even a professional choir to have undertaken. The singers acquitted themselves magnificently and Adrian obviously rehearses them well. It was a really fine job.”

Soloist Liza Beamish (soprano), along with Jade Moffat (mezzo soprano) and Andrew Pryor (tenor), had all sung previously with the Chorale in their Verdi Requiem concert in 2013. Liza was delighted to be back singing with the choir again.

“The chorale and orchestra are such a dedicated and hard-working bunch it’s an honour to sing with you all and I, too, hope it will continue to be a highlight of my performing year, in the coming years.

“There aren’t many groups around that I know of who are doing this sort of repertoire, and it is a credit to you that the concert was such a success. My parents were in the audience and loved every minute.”

The Anniversary Gala Concerts were a celebration of 20 years of bringing the most exhilarating of musical masterpieces to Noosa audiences. Tune In decided to prepare a pictorial record of the spectacular Sunday concert and the happy party afterward. Our thanks to Ann Milland, John Woodlock and Andrew Seymour for volunteering their considerable photographic talents for the picture coverage on the following pages.



Noosa Chorale, with Noosa Sinfonia, conducted by Adrian King at the second performance of their 20-year celebration Gala Concert, 18 & 19 October 2014.  
Photograph: Andrew Seymour

Our thanks to Noosa Council’s support for the Gala Concert



# A musical kaleidoscope

ADRIAN KING Music Director and Conductor

There are so many superlatives that are appropriate to describe the performances by the Chorale on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>—excellent, outstanding, unique, incomparable—the list could go on!

I think we all agree—the programme chosen was demanding and difficult, challenging yet powerful, also time-consuming in rehearsals, but I do maintain very appropriate for this important event in the life of the Chorale.

We opened the concert with what is recognised to be one of Beethoven's greatest works, the Choral Symphony. It is said that Beethoven was not a great choral composer, and this is very evident in the way that he treats the vocal lines in the 9<sup>th</sup>. The tessitura is consistently high for all voices, and coupled with complex rhythms and the German language, this is a very difficult piece of music to sing.

But the choir had worked tremendously hard in the rehearsals to perfect the metres, rhythms, melodies, harmonies and the text and I was exceptionally pleased with the way the choral lines projected throughout sections, the soloists' parts and the orchestra. The soloists and orchestra had also worked very hard to complement the chorus, making the performances "one for the archives".

Excerpts from Mendelssohn's Elijah contrasted with music from Carmina Burana, Haydn's Creation, Mozart's Requiem and Brahms Requiem. The choir once again rose to the occasion and produced controlled yet passionate and emotive singing. The dynamics, articulation, ambience and interpretations of the varying pieces were superbly contrasting and exact.

The second half of the concert opened in a totally different genre, pace and style with the Beatles Medley, sung with great enjoyment by the choir and tremendously appreciated by the audience.

Huguette on piano and Noel on kit provided outstanding "orchestral" accompaniment. This was followed by Music from Operetta and Music from Grand Opera, wonderfully sung by Andrew (tenor soloist) and the choir, and accompanied by the orchestra.

We returned to music of a more "classical" style for the closing items with Puccini's Gloria, Verdi's Requiem and Handel's Messiah. The choir once again performed with a fervent ardour, yet a serene dignity for the powerful music of Puccini and Verdi. Emotion and stylistic contrast and musicality from the choir was so much in evidence in this music and with the magnificent singing of the soloists and strong support from the orchestra, these final items in the Gala programme were a pinnacle of perfection to me the conductor.

The final item was the Hallelujah Chorus, and for this the audience rose to their feet with a fervency and enthusiastic ardour of pure admiration. The weekend of performance was a truly remarkable experience in the life of the Chorale and something that will be remembered for a long time to come by all who performed and all who listened.

I thank John Davies and Talluah Harper in their presidential roles, Michael Andersen, concert manager, all the stage and front of house crew, the very hardworking committee for their support in promoting these concerts, Pam Sage and Debbie Boyles for taking sectional rehearsals so superbly and with outstanding commitment, Huguette for her excellent accompanying and professionalism displayed not only in the rehearsals, but also the concerts.

Lastly, I thank you most sincerely, members of the Chorale, for your brilliant singing. In every way, you deserved the resounding applause and praise of our audiences.

## Sunday 1.30pm

Singers start to arrive and prepare for the concert.  
Photos: Ann Milland



**Top row from left:** Hettie Van Wyk & Dorothy Hertelendy; Jutta Rathgeber, Debbie Boyles, & Linda Bishop; Debbie Boyles; Marilyn Abel & Robyn Charlesworth.

**Centre row from left:** Jonathan Anstock & John Davies; Carol Boulanger & Antje Raymond.

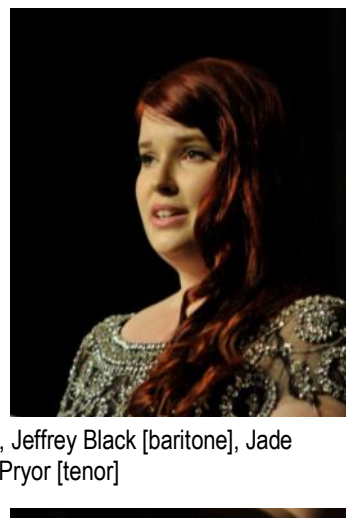
**Bottom row from left:** Diana Thomson; Robyn Charlesworth & Gloria Meyer; Gloria Meyer, Gai Ramsay & Carol Davey; Warren Baker & John Pennell.

# Sunday 2.30pm

Concert gets underway.  
Photos: Andrew Seymour



Maestro Adrian King



(left to right): Lisa Beamish [soprano], Jeffrey Black [baritone], Jade Moffat [mezzo-soprano], and Andrew Pryor [tenor]

Members of Noosa Sinfonia,  
led by Trish Corben



Sunday 2.30pm

Concert gets underway.  
Photos: Andrew Seymour



# Sunday 3.30pm

Audience at interval.  
Photos: John Woodlock

(l to r) Cr Joe Jurisevic, Diana Playford, Jim Fagan and Noosa Mayor, Cr Noel Playford



(l to r) John and Yvonne Woodlock and John Abel



(l to r) Noel Pattison, Jim Moffat, Kelsey Moffat, Norma Pattison, Nikki Moffat



(l to r) Joe Hogan, Warren Baker, Helen Baker and Sandie Hogan



(l to r) John Horn, Anne Merton, Shirley and Geoff Page



(l to r) Terry Gleeson, Karen and Peter Wright



(l to r) Rose Brown, Des Storer and Adrienne Millbank



(l to r) Carrie Mengel and Caroline Pulham



(l to r) Jenny and Chris Reeve



(l to r) Jo Fagan and Jean Bleyerveld

# Sunday 5.30pm

Party time.  
Photos: Ann Milland



**Top row (left to right):** Talluah Harper carrying the birthday cake she and her family made for Adrian; the Maestro blows out the candles

**Middle row (left to right):** Barry Craig & Ann Milland; Bronwyn Innes (r) with her sister; Alistair Innes

**Bottom row:** "When I'm 64!" Party-goers serenading birthday boy Adrian King.

## Au revoir, Huguette

JIM FAGAN

'Midst the jubilation at the Chorale's party to celebrate a weekend of sensational singing plus the joy of Adrian King's birthday, there was one deep note of regret. Huguette Brassine, our accompanist, has announced she is leaving us because of health reasons. Huguette, an accomplished pianist who graduated with distinction from the Conservatoire Royal in Brussels and has an established reputation as a performer and recording artist, joined the choir in 2004.

Like those who preceded her, Christine Brown, Janet Brewer, Fay Baker and Bonnie Yahnke, she brought to the task a high degree of patience and professionalism which accompanists of choirs like the Chorale must have.

The choir is the musical force it is today because of these musicians like Huguette, all skilled proponents of the talent and dedication which they have made available to us over the years.

Fortunately, Huguette is not completely lost to the choir as she has offered to be available if sections of the choir, bass, tenor, soprano and alto, require extra practices.



John Davies presents Huguette Brassine with a farewell card, beautifully made by Nan Felton and signed by the choir.

# Noosa Chorale



## Wassail Christmas Cheer Concert

7.30pm Saturday 20 December 2014  
Sunday 21 December 2014



**All tickets \$30**

(Ticket price includes a cheese platter and homemade mince pies.  
Drinks may be purchased at the bar.)

**The J**  
60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Junction  
Bookings: [www.thej.com.au](http://www.thej.com.au)  
Enquiries: 07 5329 6560

[www.noosachorale.org.au](http://www.noosachorale.org.au)

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### Noosa Chorale's famous Wassail is on again!

#### A great night out!

Get into the Christmas spirit by coming to Noosa Chorale's very popular and highly enjoyable Christmas Cheer (Wassail) concert. This joyfully festive event has been an essential part of the Christmas calendar for Noosa audiences since 2007. Give yourself a treat this year by coming along and experiencing it for yourself—but book early to avoid disappointment as the concert always sells out.

#### What's it all about?

Christmas Cheer is all about eating, drinking and merry singing. This revelry derives from the cider-producing counties of South-West England where the tradition of wassailing would awaken the cider apple trees and scare away the evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit. People now come together to enjoy a hearty time singing cheery songs and carols, and toasting each other's good health ('wes hale') with a drink in a noisy lively way!!!

#### A feast of a program!

Noosa Chorale, led by Adrian King, our charismatic conductor and musical wizard, will sing a varied mix of carols—traditional and modern. Encouraged and egged on by Adrian, the audience is invited to join in many of the carols from the song sheets. There is plenty of time for chatting at your table, eating and drinking in the two long intervals, and joining in the song and laughter.

#### Come and wassail with us!

Organise a group of your family / friends, or just come along by yourselves. Join us in sharing wonderful music, mouth watering Christmas goodies and a genial atmosphere of bonhomie and hearty Christmas Cheer!

#### @ The J Theatre, Noosa Junction

**Bookings:** [www.thej.com.au](http://www.thej.com.au)

**Enquiries:** 07 5329 6560

#### All tickets are \$30.

Ticket price includes a cheese platter and homemade mince pieces, as well as the concert song-book / program. Drinks may be purchased at the bar.

## What else is on?

### My Fair Lady

Caloundra Chorale

7—30 November, CCTC Theatre, Wurtulla

<http://www.caloundrachorale.com.au/>

### Messiah

Sunshine Coast Oriana Choir and Orchestra with the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir

23 November, Lake Kawana Community Centre

<http://www.scvenuesandevents.com.au/lake-kawana-community-centre>

### Baroque Brilliance

Pacific Chamber Players

30 November, Cooroy Butter Factory

<http://www.pacificchamberplayers.com/2014-season.html>

### Brisbane Symphony Orchestra

30 November, Lake Kawana Community Centre

<http://www.scvenuesandevents.com.au/lake-kawana-community-centre>

### Music with Art

Hot Ginger Chorus

30 November, Lift Gallery, Maleny

<http://hotgingerchorus.org.au/performances/>

### Bach's Christmas Oratorio

Sunshine Coast Choral Society

7 December, Lake Kawana Community Centre

<http://www.scvenuesandevents.com.au/lake-kawana-community-centre>

### Christmas Spirit

Cello Dreaming, Louise King with choral singers

13 December, Eudlo Hall

<http://www.celldreaming.com.au/concerts/>

### Wassail (Christmas Cheer Concert)

Noosa Chorale

20 & 21 December, The J Theatre

<http://www.noosachorale.org.au/2014-concert-program.html>



[www.noosachorale.org.au](http://www.noosachorale.org.au)



[www.facebook.com/noosachorale](http://www.facebook.com/noosachorale)

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### Life as a Muso

Q: What does it say on a blues singer's tombstone?

A: "I didn't wake up this morning..."

Q: What happens if you play blues music backwards?

A: Your wife returns to you, your dog comes back to life, and you get out of prison.

Q: What do you get when you play New Age music backwards?

A: New Age music.

Q: Know how to make a million dollars singing jazz?

A: Start with two million.



Once again, as she heard the carollers sing of 'Happy Golden Days of Yore', Elsie wondered, as she had many, many times in past years, 'Yore what?'

For enquiries regarding Tune in, the Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc, please contact the Editor, Cal Webb.

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