



Noosa Chorale

Tune In

Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

Volume 13, Number 2, April 2019

Live broadcast for Verdi Requiem JIM FAGAN

It will be the first time in 25 years that Noosa Chorale and Noosa FM 101.3 have got together but the coming collaboration promises to be a musical experience well worth the wait.

On Sunday May 26 at the Leisure Centre at Wallace Park Noosa Chorale and the Sunshine Coast Choral Society will perform Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*.

And Noosa FM has agreed to broadcast this iconic oratorio live to its own Sunshine Coast audience and stream it worldwide through its website.

Conductor Adrian King and a total of 130 singers from the Chorale and the Sunshine Coast Choral Society, 50 musicians, and four outstanding soloists, will present the work, renowned for its powerful solos and its beautiful passages.

Noosa FM station president, Sibylle Reisch, believes the whole concept is "just fabulous".

"It's wonderful that we have something of this magnitude in the shire. I think there is a classical music

revival as I can see there are a lot of young people—12 to 14-year-olds—becoming interested and I think it's great we have that.

"It's a happy coincidence, too, that we are also celebrating out 25th anniversary of our founding in 1994. We have a lot of exciting plans for the year but this live broadcast will be a highlight."

Chorale president, Gai Ramsay, is thrilled with Noosa FM involvement and the prospect of the Requiem being streamed to the world.

"There seems to be 25-year birthdays in the air as the Sunshine Coast Choral Society is also observing its silver anniversary.

"We've had 65 major concerts in our 25 years as Noosa's community choir and the broadcast is a first for us. I'm particularly pleased we are presenting the Requiem as we have performed it three times since 2001 and we know audiences love it.

"It is a stunning piece that leads to standing ovations.



Noosa Chorale President Gai Ramsay (left) with Noosa FM President Sibylle Reisch outside Noosa FM Station. Photo/Jim Fagan

"Verdi wrote the *Requiem* near the end of his life and brought to it all the passion and skills of a lifetime of creating dramatic operas.

"The result is the most operatic of all requiems, reminiscent of his *Aida* and *La Traviata*."

VERDI REQUIEM

NOOSA CHORALE
SUNSHINE COAST CHORAL SOCIETY
THE REQUIEM ORCHESTRA
ADRIAN KING CONDUCTING
JUDIT MOLNAR – soprano
MELISSA GREGORY – mezzosoprano
ANDREW PRYOR – tenor
JEFFREY BLACK – baritone

NOOSA FM 101.3
Real People... Real Variety

NOOSA COUNCIL

NOOSA CHORALE SILVER ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY 26 MAY 2019, 2.00pm

NOOSA LEISURE CENTRE
9 Wallace Drive, Noosaville

Live broadcast – Noosa FM 101.3

Tickets – \$35 (\$25 student)
Phone enquiries – 07 5329 6560
Bookings – www.thej.com.au



Verdi Requiem—
Noosa Leisure Centre
Sunday 26 May 2pm
Tickets: \$35
(students \$25)
Bookings:
www.thej.com.au
Phone enquiries:
07 5329 6560

Students cheer Noosa Chorale

JIM FAGAN

Music students at Tewanin Primary have something to sing about. After months of frustrated waiting for a new keyboard, they now have a brand-new Yamaha console digital piano, courtesy of Noosa's community choir Noosa Chorale.

The choir is celebrating its 25th birthday this year and, according to president, Gai Ramsay, "We wanted to give something back to the community

which has been so supportive of us since we were founded in 1994.

"We heard the school needed a new piano and, because our wish is to promote music, especially choir singing, to young people, our singers decided to donate \$1500 to buy one."

The Grade 6 students were making a beautiful job of the Mamas and Papas hit song *California Dreaming* when Gai and Chorale singers Fran Wilson and

Linda Bishop, a former teacher at the school, visited to view the Yamaha.

And, while the students may have been singing about "dreaming" it was clear their music specialist teacher, Geoff Peel, was in his own seventh heaven.

"The last piano we had was an old one we'd had for many years. It died just before the end of last year and, as I have a budget which is pretty well non-existent, there wasn't much I could do to replace it.

"Then the Chorale came along with their offer and that was just fantastic. We are very grateful to the Chorale."

Geoff said the piano actually cost \$1900. "I went to see Tim Lee who owns Music at Noosa and when he heard I was from the school he gave me a \$400 discount."

The piano will be used by both the school's senior and junior choirs and for piano lessons. It's very manoeuvrable and we can move it to the concert hall for performances."

Said Geoff: "My main drive is for kids to have fun with music, to come to the music class and feel they can't wait to get there. The piano goes a long way to achieving this."



Grade 6 students at Tewanin State School cheer delivery of their new piano. Photo/Bob Ramsay

WATCH THIS SPACE! in our May issue of Tune In: Special interview with Verdi Requiem guest soloist, international soprano, Judit Molnar

Arioso Chamber Ensemble "Serenata"

Lovers of Baroque music will be pampered with a selection of rarely heard yet stunningly beautiful works, including Antonio Vivaldi's arias "Sovente il sole" from "Andromeda liberata", "Vedrò Con Mio Diletto" from "Il Giustino", "Mentre dormi, Amor fomenti" from "L'Olimpiade" and motet "Nulla in mundo pax sincera". Instrumental works will include Corelli's famous "Follia" from "Sonate a Violino e Violone o Cimbalo" op 5 and De Fesch Cello Sonata in D minor op 8. Arioso Chamber Ensemble brings together the talents and experience of leading specialists in Baroque performance, Judit Molnar (soprano), Margaret Caley (baroque violin), Belinda Manwaring (baroque cello) and Janet Brewer (harpsichord).

2.00pm Saturday 4 May
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
115 Eumundi Road, Noosaville

12.00pm Sunday 5 May
Caloundra Regional Gallery,
22 Omrah Ave, Caloundra

Tickets \$28 (full), \$25 (concession, EMSQ members, 4MBS subscriber) and \$7 (school student).

www.ariosochamberensemble/concerts



VERDI REQUIEM

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Adrian King conducts Giuseppe Verdi

From Leisure Centre to Verdi Concert Hall

JIM FAGAN

During any week the Leisure Centre at Wallace Park, Noosaville, is alive with the sounds of basketball, netball, table tennis, badminton and exercise classes as Noosa folk keep active, healthy—and, for some, age at bay!

On Sunday, May 26, at 2pm, however, there will be a new sound, a sound described as a “musical miracle,” as the largest indoor gathering of singers and musicians ever in Noosa (185 in all) perform *Messa da Requiem* by Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi.

Chorale music director, Adrian King, describes it as “a masterpiece. Blazing trumpets, thunderous drums and grand, moving choruses. This will be a memorable afternoon.”

The gala performance is being produced by Noosa Chorale, as part of its 25th anniversary year, and president, Gai Ramsay, admits



Noosa Leisure Centre, 60 Wallace Drive, Noosaville



Normally a hive of relaxing and healthy activities for all ages

Gai said: “This is quite a unique event for Noosa. We have sung the Requiem three times before. The first was in Noosa 2001. The Acting Consul of Italy, Sergio Oddo, who saw it on his visit then to Noosa, told our founder, Joe McMahon, ‘I didn’t expect it to be this good, this touching. It was fantastic.’

“In 2006 we went to Brisbane and sang it in St John’s Cathedral and seven years later we performed it with the Sunshine Coast Choral Society but none of these concerts is on the same scale as this one.

“A first for us will be the live broadcast Noosa FM has agreed to do. As well as its Sunshine Coast listeners it will be streamed on its website across the world.

“Silver anniversaries must be in the air as Noosa FM was also founded 25 years ago!”



Transformed to a concert stage for Conductor Adrian King, 4 outstanding soloists, 135 choristers, and 50 orchestra members. Photo — digital “mash-up” showing how the Leisure Centre will look with its specially constructed stage — Cal Webb.

converting the utility interior of the Leisure Centre is a challenge.

“We’re bringing two squads of expert stage construction and sound and lighting engineers from Brisbane. They will move in on the day before the concert and prepare the hall for the performance

“We have 130 singers and the engineers are building a huge, elevated stage four rows high and 24.4 metres wide. The four soloists and conductor will also be on raised platforms.

“The contractors have guaranteed the

best possible presentation and sound production. As good as any theatre, they say.”

Asked about parking, Gai said there was space for 300 cars at Wallace Park. “There is also parking in nearby streets but we want everyone seated on time so we have arranged a shuttle bus service from Good Shepherd Lutheran College in Eumundi Road where patrons can also park their cars.

“And to make sure that any parking hitches are reduced to a minimum, Coast Guard Noosa volunteers will be on duty at Wallace Park and Good Shepherd.”

“Usually, our concerts are at The J but with the two choirs, four recognised opera soloists and a 50-piece Requiem Orchestra, it just wasn’t big enough to stage it.

“The good thing is we can fit twice as many people into the Leisure Centre. It’s an extremely expensive production and we’re grateful for the support of a Noosa Council grant and sponsorship from Bendigo Bank.

“This will be an event Noosa will long remember.”

When we were growing up—1999 to 2012



1999 Chorale singers at the performance of Haydn's



2001 Chorale takes to the sand at Noosa Main Beach.



2001 120 chorists, soloists, and musicians performed Verdi's "Requiem" in July 2001



2004 Betthoven's Choral Symphony was performed as part of the Noosa Longweekend in June 2004.



2006 Performing Verdi's "Requiem" at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane, September 2006



2006 Farewell party for Music Director, the late Leonard Spira, with wife Gail, December 2006



2007 Hijinks with Chorale Music Director Adrian King before performance of Mendelsshon's "Elijah", October 2007



And "reverent" choristers (l to r) Debbie Boyles, Ann Milland, Valerie Cozens, Helen Cundiff, Jutta Rathgeber before "Elijah" performance, October 2007



2007 First Wassail (Christmas Cheer) concert



2008 Wassail Christmas concert



2010 Wassail Christmas concert



2012 Karl Jenkins' "Armed Man" at Bicentennial Centre, May 2012



2012 "Fabulous Favourites—Opera Opera to Abba", October 2012. (l to r) Tony Jones, Jonathan Anstock, Jeremy Martin, Debbie Boyles, John Woodlock, and Michael Gough.



2012 Noosa Chorale with Conductor Adrian King

25 years of song and friendship

ANGIE OAKLEY

When, in 1994, a small group of singers, 'desperate for somewhere to sing', answered an ad placed by Chorale founder and former Noosa barrister Joe McMahon in the local paper, who could have imagined the twenty-five years of wonderful music that would ensue?

And as the Noosa Chorale prepares for a huge celebratory performance of the Verdi Requiem, what better time to ask our three remaining founding members—sopranos Hettie Van Wyk, Joan Murray and Jennifer Rayner—what this remarkable musical journey has meant to them?

It is clear is that all of them have considered music as an indispensable part of their lives. Hettie simply can't remember ever not singing, and reckons she must have begun at age two! Formal choirs include the Gisborne Choral Society and she has sung with the Queensland Opera.

Joan too, notwithstanding a life lived all over the world—from her native Ireland to Pakistan, Nigeria, PNG and Sydney—has



L to R: Noosa Chorale sopranos Joan Murray, Hettie van Wyk and Jennifer Rayner, members since the founding of the Chorale in 1994. Photo/Ann Milland

always sung in 'wonderful' choirs, under the direction of some stellar musicians, including opera singer Rita Hunter, our own Leonard Spira, who 'knocked us into shape', and of course Adrian, with whom the choir has gone from strength to strength.

Jennifer began singing with her father at their local church and says she 'grew up on

the Latin Mass.' So the Verdi will be second nature to her. As well, she fondly remembers an early performance as one of the 'three little maids from school', and yet more Gilbert and Sullivan with the Peninsula Light Opera. Her time with the Melbourne Chorale saw her perform in many prestigious venues including at the Sydney Myer Music Bowl.

All three women have embraced the remarkable repertoire of the Noosa Chorale. But the choir has meant a great deal more than the music for them.

Jennifer credits her choir friendships with helping her through a sadness, and for Joan, the lifelong friendships have meant the world to her and her late husband Paddy. Hettie tells us, 'no matter what situation you're in, singing will bring you happiness...and because we come together regularly, we make good friends.'

Great directors, great music, great friendship! It's a wonderful legacy for all of us to share.

Verdi preview at Anglican Church

Twenty-three singers from Noosa Chorale gave worshippers at the Anglican Church of Noosa, Sunshine Beach, on April 14 a preview of part of the Verdi Requiem oratorio the choir will sing on Sunday May 26. Led by music director Adrian King and accompanist Janet Brewer, they presented

the opening chorus of the Requiem at the church's Passion Sunday Morning Prayer.

The Rev Mark Calder thanked the Chorale "for making our Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week very moving and memorable".



Adrian King (back left) and Janet Brewer (right) with Noosa Chorale singers. Photo/Anne Jobling

Farewells...

Chorale singers sadly farewelled bass Alastair Innes at a memorial event organised by his daughter, Chorale soprano Bronwyn, in the garden of their Doonan home in April.



Noosa Chorale sings "Abide with Me", with Gai Ramsay on piano. Photo/Wim van Wyk

In February, Chorale singers also sang "Abide with Me" at the funerals of tenor Daryl Gray, and soprano from a decade earlier, Beryl Perham, whose daughter Linda was a choir member in 2017.



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Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc.

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