

Chorale expects Olympics' concert sell-out

JIM FAGAN

Put a ring around the dates May 22 and 23. Better still put five Olympic rings because the music that has inspired the world's greatest athletes since the first Modern Games in 1896 is coming to Noosa.

In a glittering gold medal programme Noosa Chorale, with sublime Hungarian soprano Judit Molnar and former Tenors' David Kidd, will perform timeless music and songs, including *The Hallelujah Chorus* (Berlin, 1936), *Time to Say Goodbye* (Jose Carreras and Sarah Brightman, Barcelona, 1992), John Lennon's *Imagine* (Stevie Wonder, London 1996) and *Because We Believe* (Andrea Bocelli, Turin 2006).

Under the baton of Chorale music director Adrian King, the 44-piece symphony orchestra's performance of *Chariots of Fire* (Sarajevo Winter Olympics, 1984) will stir the emotions and, to add to the excitement of the performance, giant screens on either side of the stage will show rare photographs of historic Olympic moments.

"The concert idea comes from one of our tenors," Dr Ian Jobling (see story P2), said Chorale president Gai Ramsay. "Last year we were planning our program for 2020 and we needed something for May.

"Ian is a historian and international authority on the Olympic Movement and he suggested a selection of the music which has opened and closed the Modern Games since the first one in Greece.

"We thought it was a wonderful concept, particularly as we hadn't heard of it ever being done before. Also, the Olympics are being staged in Tokyo in July and August this year so the timing is good.

Gai said the concerts have attracted the recognition and support of President John Coates and The Australian Olympic Committee.

"We have permission to use the AOC logo and in a special message to the choir the committee's CEO Matt Carroll has said, '*The Chorale's initiative is certainly promoting the Olympic spirit in a most unique way.*'

"Last year our three concerts were sell-outs. Tickets are now on sale and I've no doubt '*The Spirit of the Olympics*' will also have packed houses."

Noosa Chorale

SPIRIT OF OLYMPIA

Music of the Olympic Games

FRIDAY
22 MAY @ 7PM

SATURDAY
23 MAY @ 2PM

thej

Tickets: \$39
The J Theatre
60 Noosa Drive
Noosa Heads
07 5329 6560
www.thej.com.au

The joy, the beauty, the glorious music of the Olympic Games since 1896
Massed choral voices, soloists and symphony orchestra
Musical selections from Handel to Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sibelius to John Lennon

NOOSA COUNCIL

Tewantin Community Bank® Branch
Bendigo Bank

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

book
now

Two performances only—
book your seats now to
avoid missing out!

www.thej.com.au

Olympic tribute “pure gold”, says Ian

JIM FAGAN

Dr Ian Jobling has been carrying a torch for the Olympic Games since he was a starry-eyed 14-year-old Geelong High schoolboy.

He was at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and since then he has made the Olympic Movement his life’s work and attended the Games world-wide.

Thus, it’s fair to say he knows something about outstanding medal-winning performances.

That’s why he believes Noosa Chorale’s musical tribute to the Games at the J Theatre in May, will be pure gold.

Ian, of Sunshine Beach, is Honorary Director of Olympic Studies at the University of Queensland, a founding member of the Australian Society of Sports History and a former board member of the International Society of Olympic Historians.

He has received numerous awards associated with the Olympics, including services to the Olympic Movement and Olympic Education. When he is not dealing with matters Olympic, he sings with the tenors in Noosa Chorale.

“From my research I believe the concert programme will be a first for Australia, if not the world.

“This year is an Olympic year with the Games being held in Tokyo from July 24 to August 9, so our timing is pretty good.

“We have also been given the rare privilege of using the Australian Olympic Committee Olympic logo with the Olympic Rings to use in our programme and our advertising.”

Ian said the pursuit of excellence was what Olympics was all about and it wasn’t just through physical activity and remarkable athletes.

“Every Games, since the first one in Athens in 1896, has had opening and closing musical themes and songs featuring not only timeless music but world-famous singers, musician and entertainers.”

Ian said invitations to Australian Olympic greats had been sent by the choir and he expected Noosa to be buzzing with Olympic enthusiasm on May 22 and 23.



Ian with Herb Elliott



Ian with Susan O'Neill



The first Olympic Games of the modern Olympics, Athens, 1896



The Olympic Hymn composed by Spyridon Samaras (right) and with lyrics by Greek poet Kostis Palamas (left).

The Olympic Hymn

Composed by Spyridon Samaras, and with lyrics by the Greek poet Kostis Palamas, the Olympic Anthem or Hymn was performed for the first time at the opening ceremony of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens, 1896. The official report on that event gives us a visceral glimpse of the sheer excitement in the air that day:

The harmonious strains of music floated on the air and kindled a fire of enthusiasm in every listener's breast. Everyone was profoundly touched, the spirit of antiquity seemed to hover round the Stadion.

The composition of Mr Samaras created an immense sensation, and was applauded as it deserved. The melody is slow and soft at the commencement becomes gradually more lively and ends in a triumphant crescendo swelled by all the voices and every instrument in the orchestra.

Frenetic applause resounded from every part of the Stadion at the conclusion of this hymn, its repetition was unanimously demanded, the King himself expressed his warm approval by applauding vigorously, and after it having been played a second time renewed cheers greeted the composer. But the most solemn moment of the day was approaching; the Games were to begin.

In the following years, each hosting nation commissioned a musician to compose a hymn for their games. But in 1958, the Samaras and Palamas hymn was declared the official Olympic Anthem by the International Olympic Committee, and has been performed ever since then at the opening and closing ceremonies of every Olympic Games.

Chorale welcomes new singers

ANGIE OAKLEY

We are delighted to welcome such a diverse and talented group, who have lived in a range of places in Australia and around the world before settling in Noosa, and who bring a rich mix of experience to the choir. Nevertheless amid the diversity there is a commonality of purpose. All have expressed their love of music, and their excitement about joining the Chorale.

'Exhilarating' was Helen Vaughan-Roberts' verdict after the first rehearsal. 'I adore it!' No stranger to music, Helen learned piano from an early age – an accomplishment that stood her in good stead throughout her career as a pre-school teacher. Having lived in different parts the world, including many years in Canberra, she has decided to make Noosa her home.

Helen had long heard about the Noosa Chorale, but was persuaded to join by current member, Donald Grant, a friend from the Noosa Arts Theatre. She has since re-connected with Peter Althaus, another member of the Chorale, with whom she sang in the Queensland University Music Society at three Intervarsity Choral Festivals in the late 1950s.

Annette Buzacott followed her mother's example and learned piano from an early age. Although she did not pursue it, she has maintained a lifelong interest in music. She hasn't been part of a formal choral group since her days at Cremorne Girls' High, when their choir regularly won all the competitions and Eisteddfods of the time.

However after fifteen years in Noosa, she was recently encouraged by soprano Eleanor McDonald to join the Chorale, and is busy making up for lost time, and thoroughly enjoying it.

For Derina McLaughlin the musical influence went in the other direction. Having encouraged both her sons into piano and singing, with considerable success, they in turn persuaded her to join the first choir of her life. In the midst of an immensely busy and varied career – she shows and breeds ponies, breeds Birman cats and is a published author – she is finding time for her own singing, and is currently re-locating from Canberra to settle in the area. She feels very fortunate to have found the choir, and considers Adrian 'amazing,' and her inclusion on the Chorale 'a privilege.'

John Nowlan has an extensive musical pedigree, having been brought up in a home where his parents loved to sing, and his Baptist pastor father's 'melodious tenor voice', betrayed his Welsh and Irish heritage. At Greenslopes Baptist, a large

choir was a weekly part of the service, and it was here that John's love for music developed.

Accomplished in guitar, and piano, he and some friends formed a folk group, and later his Vietnam War service saw him perform in the Battalions Military Band, playing Tenor Horn and Trombone. His career in graphic design took him to Canada, where he continued as a choir member of a large Pentecostal church in Calgary, and more recently he has performed with the Brisbane Tabernacle Choir.

Fortunately for the Chorale, Adrian's direction at the Aveo Christmas Concert inspired John to join us, and it's a decision he hasn't regretted. 'Joining in song with other enthusiastic voices inspires me. It's a great therapy!'

With Steve and Lilly Rosser, we get two most accomplished practitioners of dance as well as singing. Indeed the dance floor is where they met. Lilly's mother and grandmother sang in choirs, and Lilly sang in church choirs, although it's ballroom-dancing trophies that adorn her mantelpiece.

She and Steve have sung together in cruise choirs, to which Steve brings a wealth of experience...some of it professional. He is an accomplished pianist, and has pursued a musical career since the age of fifteen, culminating in performances with the New Zealand National Opera, work with TV2 in Auckland, and a range of musicals including *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

We are indeed fortunate to have attracted such a plethora of talent, and to know that all that piano practice has borne such rich fruit!



Annette Buzacott (back left), Lilly Rosser (back right), Steve Rosser (centre), Helen Vaughan-Roberts (front left), Derina McLaughlin (front right).

John Nowlan (left)

Pure artistry from *Artistri*

JIM FAGAN

"Silence please in the library" didn't apply when Noosa Library visitors were given an unexpected treat on Friday, February 14, by musical trio, *Artistri*.

The pure, blended tones and the gentle, funny theatrics of soprano Fran Wilson, mezzo soprano Debra Schneider and accompanist Pamela Turnbull provided a St Valentine's Day performance to love.

Readers laid down their books and joined in the enthusiastic applause at the end of the recital of works by Offenbach, Handel, Brahms, Schubert, Mozart and a Civil War folk song by American composer, Julie Wheeler.

Fran and Debra met as fellow soloists in Noosa Chorale's "Mozart Vespers" concert six years ago. They formed *Artistri* and are popular performers at concerts in places like St Patrick's Cathedral, Gympie, and St Peter's Church, Coolumb. While most of their repertoire comes from opera and lieder, they love to surprise their audience with a little jazz or folk music.

Accompanist Pamela is also a member of Noosa Chorale and sings with the sopranos. She is a graduate to concert pianist level with Royal Academy of Music, London.

Artistri is planning further recitals this year so tune in to Tune In for dates and venues for musical moments not to be missed.



Artistri from left: Fran Wilson, Debra Schneider and Pamela Turnbull

Going up a gear for the Olympics

JIM FAGAN

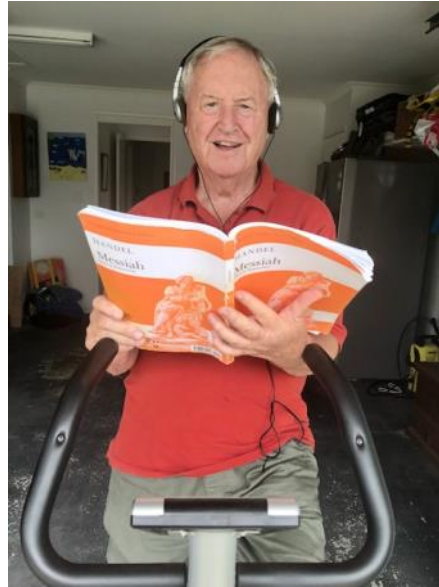
One of my favourite jokes is about the tourist in New York who stopped a man carrying a cello on his back and asked him, "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?" and receiving the answer "Practice, man. Practice."

At Noosa Chorale we're expected to learn our music at home so we can rehearse like angels for music director Adrian King and not cause him to boom out a bottom F for FRUSTRATION!

On May 22 and 23 at The J we are performing some of the glorious music that has inspired the Olympics since the first Games in 1896 and I am happy to report I have found a way to practise my notes, thus keeping Adrian happy.

At the same time it is also helping me to be as fit as a gold medal athlete (well, maybe).

All you have to do is get yourself a fitness bike that you can pedal all day and never move an inch. Perhaps you already have one, which is kept in the garage and, like me, you've forgotten it's there until now.



You'll also need to record the music and you may prefer to listen through a pair of earphones. Of course, you may also wish to have your computer belt out a selection from the learning tapes but the neighbours may not relish this blast to their ears amplified by your diaphragmatic vim.

I start to pedal slowly with the beautiful "Be Still My Soul" from Sibelius' "Finlandia" which was played at the 1952 Helsinki Games, then increase speed with the slightly faster song Andreas Bocelli made famous at the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics "Because We Believe."

It's then a seamless segue to John Lennon's "Imagine" that Stevie Wonder sang so beautifully in Atlanta in 1996, a slight increase in pace to Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" from the Vancouver Games in 2010. Then let the pedals rip with Handel's immortal "Hallelujah Chorus" (Berlin 1936).

Like any other well-trained athlete, I have to cool down and I slowly pedal to Barcelona and the 1992 Games with the Jose Carreras and Sarah Brightman's "Time to Say Goodbye" which, on reflection, is an appropriate note to end this story.

Maestro Adrian King conducts...

SUNSHINE BRASS - SUNSHINE COAST CHORAL SOCIETY

**DISASTER APPEAL
CONCERT**

2:00 PM
SUNDAY
22 MARCH

Tickets \$15 available at the door
Supporting The Salvation Army Disaster Appeal

**Classics - Swing - Fanfares
Beatles - Bach - Beethoven**

**GREGSON & WEIGHT
159 WISES ROAD, BUDERIM**

THE SUNSHINE COAST
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conducted by Adrian King
Presents ...

**Viva
Italia!**

Verdi Vivaldi Luigini Rossini Mantovani

2 PM SATURDAY
28 MARCH 2020

ST MARK'S ANGLICAN
CHURCH BUDERIM

TICKETS: \$20 PREBOOKED \$25 AT THE DOOR

www.sunshinecoastsymphonyorchestra.com
T 54453703 or Old Buderim PO

www.noosachorale.org.au/concerts
www.noosachorale.org.au/sing-with-us
www.facebook.com/noosachorale
www.instagram.com/noosa.chorale
www.noosachorale.org.au/tune-in-newsletter
noosachorale@gmail.com
www.thej.com.au

Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc.
 Editor: Cal Webb—cal@carolynwebb.com.au
 Regular contributors: Jim Fagan and Angie Oakley
 Thank you to our sponsors for their support in 2020

