

## Chorale's bitter-sweet start to Christmas rehearsals ANGIE OAKLEY

After a year of extraordinary challenges and equally marvellous triumphs, Noosa Chorale singers began rehearsals for their Christmas concert with the usual spirit of conviviality and friendship, hard work and dedication, laughter and music, and of course, food!

This is a year made unforgettable by the knowledge that it would sadly be the last with our wonderful musical director, Adrian King.

As if that were not difficult enough, we have sung through winter in Covid masks, weathered personal challenges among our friends, and finally were waylaid by a viral laryngitis that wiped out 30 silenced singers from the 110-strong choir that was due to sing the second Carmina Burana performance at Peregrin Springs.

But none of this has daunted us, and our response has been to work more diligently, support one another more kindly, and sing more passionately at our last concert performances.

With the Christmas term getting underway last Tuesday, singers were welcomed back with the second of a social gathering organized by volunteers Ian Jobling, John Davies and

Wilma Barnes with the support of a tribe of 'bring-a-platers.' (My personal favourite was the tuna and turmeric pastries, although Peter Althaus's pikelets took some beating.)

The gathering was in response to a survey in which the singers asked for more social events, and it has proved a brilliant way to start the term.

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*In the foreground, alto Karen Wright (left) and soprano Joan Trusler*



*(from left) Maestro Adrian King, Carol Monks, Gai Ramsay, Terri Giesen, Fran Wilson, and Jenny Jackson*

## Carmina and Rhapsody Concert Album

An audience of 600 was treated to a grand concert on September 17 by the combined forces of the three musical groups led by retiring maestro Adrian King - the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra, Noosa Chorale, and the Sunshine Coast Choral Society.

Following masterful orchestral performances of Gershwin's "An American in Paris" and "Rhapsody in Blue" with piano soloist Theo Pike, the orchestra and choirs, including children from the Sunshine Beach State High School, received a rapturous standing ovation at St Andrew's Anglican College Peregrin Springs with their passionate performance of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana".

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*Adrian King conducts Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra, Noosa Chorale, and Sunshine Coast Choral Society performance of Carmina Burana. Photo: Ann Milland*



**Chorale starts Christmas rehearsals ...continued from page 1**

Friends reunited after absence, and we were able to have some lovely chat about the last concert.

As well it provided an opportunity for President Fran Wilson to offer heartfelt thanks (and flowers) to Anne Kropman and Donald Grant whose herculean



*Tenor Donald Grant and alto Anne Kropman*

efforts ensured such quality staging of 'Carmina Burana'.

This delightful start to the term is just one of the many components in the social glue that keeps us sane and happy.

**Carmina and Rhapsody concert ...continued from page 1**

It was a very similar story at the performance the week before at Bokarina's Venue 114 where a full-house audience was equally thrilled by this musical extravaganza celebrating the Orchestra's 50th anniversary.

Said Maestro Adrian King of the Carmina Burana, "It's a very vocally demanding work, but choir members rehearsed with diligence,

determination and conscientiousness to achieve a very high standard of performance at both venues."

Adrian King will retire at the end of the year, after conducting all three groups in their final performances of the year leading up to Christmas.

Of the Chorale's part in the performance of Carmina Burana, his note of thanks highlighted how special

the occasion was for him.

"Congratulations on two superb concerts. We had worked hard to bring the Orff to fruition, and consequently I was exceptionally pleased with the whole production. You all performed brilliantly, sang confidently and with much musicality.

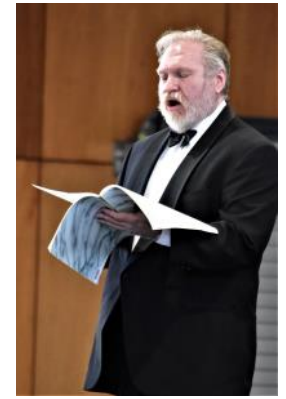
"Wonderful and special memories for me in my last year with you all!"



*Noosa Chorale with Sunshine Coast Choral Society and, in the foreground, soloists Ron Morris (tenor), Daniel Smerdon (baritone), Adrian King, and Judit Molnar soprano). Photo: Ann Milland*

**Save the date for an Angelic Christmas with Noosa Chorale**  
**at The J Theatre: 7pm Friday, December 16 & 2pm Saturday, December 17**





*Adrian King conducts the orchestra and choirs, with soloists baritone Daniel Smerdon (left), soprano Judit Molnar (middle), and tenor Ron Morris (right).*

*All photos this page: Ann Milland*



*Pianist Theo Pike plays Rhapsody in Blue*



*(below) Judit Molnar, Theo Pike, Daniel Smerdon, Ron Morris, and Adrian King*







John and Jill Beath



Robyn &amp; John Larking

Caroline & Maebh  
Smyth

David &amp; Kate McKnight



Ingrid and Rob Aitken



Shirley Beekhuis &amp; Marg Townsend



Helen Williams

### Audience members at Carmina & Rhapsody concert

Photos: Ann Milland and Carmel Young



Pat Rodgers and Robyn Ward

Jason, Angelina, Sahara and  
Noah Discount

Sarah Prather and Lin Holthusen

## Community farewells a volunteer hero

Many people gathered at the Lion's Den at Pomona on Saturday September 3 to celebrate the life of Con Bleyerfeld, husband of Jean, Noosa Chorale alto and member of the Chorale Management Committee.

Con, a great supporter of Noosa Chorale, and a Lions member for 40 years, died in August. It was fitting that the 'Open House' was held in the 'Den' as Con led the team of volunteers who restored this derelict building to the functional premises it is today.

Con's volunteer work with the Cooroy-Pomona Lions Club earned him a 2022 Queensland Day Award.

Jean Bleyerveld with Jeremy Martin and Joe  
JurisevicJohn Hackworthy, Ian Jobling, Jean Bleyerveld,  
Anne Jobling, Frank Wilkie

Donald Grant (Chorale tenor) said, "Con will be greatly missed for his skilled carpentry contributions to the Noosa Arts Theatre's Secret Men's Business backstage work."

Con and Jean's contributions to Noosa Arts Theatre were acknowledged in an article in Noosa Today in April this year <https://noosatoday.com.au/news/19-04-2022/noosa-arts-theatre-calls-out-for-volunteers/>



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