

Adrian King takes his final bow at Chorale concert by JIM FAGAN

It was the best of times. It was the saddest of times. Noosa Chorale's two Christmas Cheer performances at the J last Friday and Saturday were a triumph with audiences joining the choir to sing ever-popular Christmas carols.

MC Frank Wilkie encouraged everyone "to lift your voices and raise the roof" and, such was the enthusiastic response, Deputy Mayor Frank must have been tempted on Monday to check the Council's flagship theatre ceiling!

Saturday concert was his last performance.

As Chorale president, Fran Wilson, said in her speech farewelling Adrian at the concert, "it isn't easy to put into a few words the measure of gratitude the choir owes you. It was a fortunate day for the Chorale when you and Helen came from England to be with your two daughters and their families, and you found your way to become our conductor.

Later, at the choir's after concert party Adrian again thanked Fran for her speech and said he was honoured. "It has always been a pleasure to attend our Tuesday evening practice and be greeted by all of you lovely people sharing the thrill and beauty of the music together.

"It has been so rewarding and it has been an honour and a privilege to make music with you."

He then recalled some of "the powerful works of the last 15 years" by great Western composers like Verdi, Mozart, Schubert, Vivaldi and many more which the choir had performed along with many light opera, jazz and popular music selections, and he thanked the Chorale members for "their friendship and camaraderie" during all this time.

Adrian has conducted choirs in different parts of the world since he was 19 and he told Noosa Today he had no regrets that his choirmaster career was over. "Helen and I came to Australia 16 years ago and we haven't seen much of it. It's time to travel."



For many Noosa people the Chorale's Christmas concerts are the "official" start to the festive season and this year, with the theme of "Angels" and the singalong cavalcade of traditional carols like "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "The First Nowell", there was a joyful feeling Christmas had arrived.

Comments like that of sisters Leanne Sorbellov and Deb Daley, "Beautiful, wish we could sing", and Tom and Ann Mulligan, "Absolutely fantastic... sublime music beautifully sung" could be heard as people left the theatre.

Amidst the jollity and laughter, there was one sad note. Adrian King, the choir's music director and conductor for the last 16 years, was retiring and the

"Over the years the choir has thrived and grown under your musical leadership and knowledge. Your sense of humour has made our rehearsals great fun. You have inspired us with your love and appreciation of music. You set us very high standards.

"Tonight, on this your last performance with us, the words of the Abba song are appropriate, *'Thank you for the music, the song I'm singing. Thanks for all the joy we're bringing.'*"

Thanking Fran, Adrian (73) said the choir had worked and practised very diligently "not only for this concert but also for the many fantastic others that we have performed together over the last 15 years. I appreciate every one of you."



Adrian King takes his final bow

President Fran says farewell from the heart

Towards the end of the Chorale's Saturday performance of the "Angelic Christmas" concert, Adrian King's final concert before his retirement, President Fran Wilson surprised him with this unexpected speech of farewell that captured the shared heart-felt emotions and good wishes for his retirement, and ended with a spontaneous standing ovation by all on the stage and all in the audience.

Tonight as you know, it is Adrian's final concert conducting the Chorale after 16 years with the baton, and so I want to publicly acknowledge his contribution to our choir and to the Sunshine Coast community on behalf of all our singers, those on the stage tonight, those who are in the audience and those who cannot be here.

Adrian, it is not easy to put into a few words the measure of gratitude that we owe you. It was a fortunate day indeed for the Chorale when you emigrated from the UK to be with your family and found your way to Noosa and became our conductor.

Over the years the choir has thrived and grown under your musical leadership and knowledge. Because of your sense of humour, rehearsals were always great fun, and despite you threatening to get "nasty" if we hadn't practised hard enough or continued to sing the wrong notes...you never did!

Adrian, we respect you and admire you for your patience and your humility, for your energy and your enthusiasm. You have inspired us with your love and appreciation of music, always encouraging us to strive harder and to sing better.

You set us very high standards, both in our singing and may I addour

breathing. "That's a four bar phrase" you would say as we rehearsed. "Do NOT take a breath in the middle!"

And so we would stagger on, digging deep... and turning blue! And if someone did take a breath, you had an uncanny ability to know exactly where the culprit was... but never singled an individual out!

Tonight on this, your last performance with us, the words of an Abba song are very appropriate: "Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing, thanks for all the joy we're bringing"

Thank you Adrian for the joy that you have brought to the Chorale and to Noosa audiences over the past 16 years. It is hard for us to contemplate our Tuesday nights without you. But it's time now for you to enjoy your retirement with your lovely wife Helen and to look forward to your travels together. You have earned it!

But remember, if ever you feel like joining a choir, I am sure our tenors would make room for you.

Thank you Adrian ...we will all miss you!

And now please join me in applauding our Maestro - Mr Adrian King.



Adrian King thanks the Chorale and our loyal audiences over the years

Most of the photos throughout this issue by Ann Milland





Janet Brewer accompanied on piano



Concert MC was Frank Wilkie,



Throughout the concert, a slide show prepared by tenor Mark Taylor was projected onto a large screen to accompany the programme, and display the words of the carols sung by the audience.



Soprano Linda Bishop read "A Christmas Poem".

PRODUCTION OF THE CONCERT WAS A TRUE TEAM EFFORT

coordinated by tenor Donald Grant, and with front-of-house support by our fabulous volunteers, and production support by the staff of The J Theatre.



The theatre and stage were beautifully decorated with angels and stars courtesy of a team of people including sopranos Jenny Jackson, Marianne Seldon, and Bronwyn Innes, with the décor co-ordinated by Isi Lawrence.

A Christmas Poem

By Hettie van Wyk

I wasn't looking forward to visiting the store,
'Twas Christmas Eve, and I was hot, my feet were pretty sore.
I found an empty parking spot, my luck could not believe,
With cars and people everywhere, this busy Christmas Eve.

I had a little girl with me who did her best to help,
By choosing things from all the shelves, so proudly "by herself".
We made our way down all the list, and as we went to pay,
She asked to show me one more thing, if she could lead the way.

Thinking it was Santa Claus that she had gone to find,
I smiled my way through gritted teeth, resigned to stand in line.
But no! We walked past Mr Claus, his golden throne and sleigh,
She seemed to know just where to go, let nothing block her way.

She pointed to a quiet spot, her eyes were filled with joy,
A life-sized stable, dimly lit, with Mary and her boy.
She sweetly introduced herself, sat down, took off her shoes,
And lifted up her little bear, so he could meet them too.

She didn't see the paint was chipped, and Joseph's coat was torn,
She worshipped with the angels, the little child new born.
She beckoned me to sit with her, and sing the songs she knew,
Like 'Silent Night' and 'Peace on Earth', and 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' too.

We sat and sang for quite a while, to praise the newborn King,
And through the store's cacophony, I heard an angel sing.
She welcomed Jesus to her world, in sweet simplicity,
Her loving smile, this moment shared, her special gift to me.

So when you shop this Christmas, stop and listen, look around,
We never know just when or where an angel may be found...
To lead us to the Christ-child, away from stress and noise,
To fill our hearts with love and peace, and everlasting joy.



Adrian King performs simultaneous conducting of choir and audience. Photo: Jenny Woodhouse



Fred and Nicky Austin



Paul Shin, Agnes Pennay and Kay shin



Tom and Ann Mulligan



Rose Brown and Ingrid Aitken Angela Sharkey



Sisters Leanne Sorbellov and Deb Daley



Graham and Belinda Griffiths



Elise Hicks



Gail Spira



Mike and Hilde Wilde



Jan and Jennie King



Jan Bender



Three generations of the King clan, with Helen and Adrian King centre



Tran Wilson (Fran's daughter-in-law)
Photo: Fran Wilson

Photo captions this page: Carmel Young



Fran Wilson presents Adrian with a farewell gift and card while Helen King looks on.



A Farewell song for our Maestro

Words Fran Wilson, sung to the tune of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah".
Rehearsed in secret, conducted by Pam Sage, accompanied by Janet Brewer.

He came from way across the sea to seek and join his family
And then he found his way to us at Noosa
He trained us well, we sang quite swell
And even tried a bit of bell
Our vocal chords became a great deal looser.

He's our Maestro, Music Maestro, he's our Maestro, Maestro Adrian King

He worked us hard and pushed us on until our concerts fairly shone
The sops, the altos, tenors and the basses
He gave us joy He heaped on praise
The roof as one we aimed to raise
The crowds they showed delight upon their faces

He's our Maestro, Music Maestro, he's our Maestro, Maestro Adrian King

We sang quite high, we sang quite low, we sang so sweet, we sang just so
We struggled through our phrases and we staggered
We tried our best to get it right
King told us we would stay all night
And with success to home we fairly swaggered

He's our Maestro, Music Maestro, he's our Maestro, Maestro Adrian King

And now it's time to say goodbye, to bid Adieu and not to cry
To celebrate the happy times and years
The joy, the jokes, the laughs, the fun
And when at last the day is done
We'll drink a toast and even shout you beers.

You're our Maestro, Music Maestro, you're our Maestro, Maestro Adrian King.



Adrian thanks Jeremy Martin (Jackie Martin looking on) for producing the photo book gift capturing 16 glorious years of Adrian's tenure.



Adrian and Helen King listening to the choir singing Fran's touching lyrical tribute, led by Deputy Music Director Pam Sage (left)

Celebrations after the Saturday concert were even more convivial than usual, dominated as they were by the farewell of Adrian King. Platters of delectable food were brought in by choir members, coordinated by tenor Ian Jobling. And in yet another surprise moment for Adrian, bass Jonathon Anstock broke out in a rendition of the unofficial anthem of Yorkshire, "On Ilkla Moor Bhat 'At", with exuberant joining in by Adrian and the assembled choir, before presenting Adrian and Helen with a tweed flat cap each for their planned driving trips.



Delicious treats contributed by choir members, with soprano Joan Clift in the foreground.



Jonathon Anstock surprises Adrian by leading the choir in singing "On Ilkla Moor Bhat 'At".



(from left) Bass singer and newsman Jim Fagan with accompanist Janet Brewer, and sopranos Di Blount and Dale Heidenreich.



Farewell to our angels! Photo: Rose Brown

Thank you for your generous donations

The Chorale is very grateful to the following local organisations and businesses for their generous donations to our Christmas raffle.

Alto Wilma Barnes, with help from soprano Jacky Martin, organised donated prizes, and coordinated the drawing of the raffle at the performances with the assistance of Wilma's granddaughters and volunteers.

EUMUNDI MEATS NOOSAVILLE
NOOSA FERRY AND CRUISE COMPANY
NOOSA HARBOUR FISH MARKET
M.V. NOOSA QUEEN
TEWANTIN MARKET GARDEN FRUIT SHOP
AWESOME LITTLE FRUIT SHOP NOOSAVILLE
TEWANTIN NOOSA R.S.L.
SWEET STORY NOOSAVILLE
WOOLWORTH TEWANTIN
WOOLWORTHS NOOSA CIVIC
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I.G.A NOOSA JUNCTION
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DAN MURPHY'S NOOSAVILLE
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BWS NOOSA OUTLOOK
CAFE VIN CINO NOOSA MARINA
NOOSA ITALIAN RESTAURANT AT THE MARINA
INDUSTRY HAIR TEWANTIN
LUCIO'S MARINA TRATTORIA AND BAR
GIBSONS NOOSA
NOOSA CHOCOLATE FACTORY



Thank You!



Post-concert blues turn to joy for Hettie

When you are recovering from Covid and just tested negative, probably the last thing you want to have is a group of singers standing on your back verandah singing "Away In A Manger".

That's what happened to popular Noosa Chorale soprano Hettie van Wyk on Wednesday afternoon at her home at Weyba Downs and she loved every moment of it.

Hettie, who has been with the choir for close on 30 years and is a foundation member, laughed and even shed a happy tear or two as sopranos Fran Wilson, Debbie Boyles, and Jenny Jackson, and altos Pam Sage, Kay Cartwright, and Marianne Johnson, along with bass Jim Fagan sang to her.

Because of her Covid illness, Hettie was unable to be with choir at its two

Christmas concerts and the singers decided to take some of the concert carols to her and share a Christmas moment.

Her comment: "It was lovely."



(from left) Marianne Johnson, Fran Wilson, Pam Sage, Jim Fagan, Kay Cartwright, Debbie Boyles, and Jenny Jackson.



Hettie van Wyk on her balcony.

Merry Christmas from Tune In to all our readers!



As the curtain closes on another year and Christmas approaches, I thank our Tune in readers most sincerely for your support and friendship throughout the year. We have been delighted to perform concerts for our Noosa audiences in May and September.

Our Christmas concert - An Angelic Christmas - was a bittersweet finale to the year as we sang our hearts out to farewell our much loved conductor Adrian King who is retiring. The Chorale looks forward to bringing you more wonderful concerts in 2023.

I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fran Wilson, President Noosa Chorale.

And Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Tune In team, Cal, Angie, Jim, and Ian



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