

Mary's prayer for justice—the Magnificat

by CAL WEBB

Church portrayals of Mary, the mother of Jesus, are generally that of a pious young woman demurely bowing her veiled head.

Vivaldi's and the Bach father and son's Magnificats, however, all three of which Noosa Chorale will present at the J Theatre on May 26 and 27, portray a very different Mary.

This Mary is far from meek and mild, and a long way from being beholden to a mortal man. On the contrary, she has become pregnant without the need for a man, which must have represented an enormous challenge to the accepted social morals of the time, even though it was God who was the father.

According to Luke's Gospel, Mary was grateful to have been chosen by God to bear his son in spite of her obscurity, and low status. Perhaps this was the inspiration for her prayer in which she calls on God to cast down the powerful from their thrones, to send the rich away empty-handed, to feed the hungry, and to lift the lowly.

This message, in what was then Roman-occupied Palestine, could even have been construed as a heretical statement of defiance against the state and the prevailing social order.

Mary's prayer in the Magnificat, with its message of praise for humility over pride, and rejection of injustice and the

exploitation of the poor and the powerless, transcends all religions.

This focus on social justice is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. It has been recited every day for centuries by Christians, chanted by monks, set to music by composers of every age, and sung by choirs all over the world.

The Magnificats selected for this concert, composed by three musical giants of the Baroque era, are amongst the best known and most frequently performed in the world today.

Vivaldi created his various revisions of the work around the period 1717 through to the early 1720s. JS Bach, a contemporary of Vivaldi's, composed his in 1723. His son, CPE Bach, who composed his some twenty-six years later in 1749, was clearly inspired by his father's Magnificat, but his is more "modern", very different in style and effect from the high baroque

influences and strong theological references of JS Bach.

Conducted by well-respected conductor and choir director Kim Kirkman, the concert features five exceptional Brisbane-based soloists and an orchestra of 22 players, along with the choir.

Tickets \$45

Friday 26 May at 7pm

Saturday 27 May at 2pm

at The J Theatre

www.thej.com.au

FRIDAY 26 MAY, 7PM
SATURDAY 27 MAY, 2PM
The J Theatre, Noosa
Tickets \$45

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Noosa Chorale's 2018 performance of JS Bach's Magnificat *Photograph: Andrew Seymour*

Singers joined 'the Occasional Choir' on Good Friday

by IAN JOBLING

Members of Noosa Chorale responded to Tenor Ian Jobling's invitation to become part of an 'Occasional Choir' to sing 'Were You There' at the 7.30 am Good Friday service at St Andrews Church Sunshine Beach. The 16 singers also led the congregation in four other Easter hymns.

The service was very moving, and many of those present really appreciated the Occasional Choir's rendition of 'Were You There,' which followed the poignant reading by the Revd Lynda Johnson of The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (Chapters 18 and 19).

The Revd Chris Johnson, Rector of the Anglican Church of Noosa, has written to all singers, stating:

"Having the choir really lifted our Good Friday worship and was a great encouragement for the congregational singing. I want to especially thank you though for your rendition of 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord'.

"This is a very powerful hymn that really stirs the emotions and so appropriate after hearing the passion narrative read.

"You had obviously put a lot of care into the way you presented it which lifted all of our hearts in worship."



Noosa Chorale singers on this occasion who are not members of the Anglican Church of Noosa were Jonathan Anstock, Wilma Barnes, Colin Brown, Bronwyn Innes, Jenny Jackson, Jutta Rathgeber, Des Storer, Jutta Rathgeber, and Daphne Wayth.

Chorale sings at Anzac Day ceremonies

Noosa Chorale was once again delighted to have been invited to sing at local Anzac Day ceremonies—firstly at dawn at Verrierdale Hall, and then at the Eumundi ceremony. The choir sang "Abide with me" and both the

Australian and New Zealand anthems, with Pam Sage, Deputy Music Director of the Chorale, expertly conducting, and Janet Brewer, the Chorale's rehearsal pianist, sublimely accompanying. (Photos: Bob Ramsay.)

The singers enjoyed the convivial Gunfire Breakfast at Verrierdale before going on to the Eumundi ceremony. (Photos: Jacky Martin)



Soprano Ann paints for the bank

by JIM FAGAN

When Tewantin artist Ann Milland was four years old, she discovered the thrill of putting paint on paper and the image it created.

Today, after a lifetime of her work being shown at exhibitions in the UK, New Zealand, the Brisbane EKKA and, locally, Harbourside Gallery, Noosaville Library and now Bendigo Bank, she is still painting—and cherishing every moment.

Ann sang with the sopranos in Noosa Chorale for twenty years before retiring last year. Wearing another of her artistically creative hats, her photography of the Chorale's concerts and their audiences over the years have enlivened the pages of Tune In and the choir's social media pages.

She told Tune In her grandfather had been an artist as had her mother.

"I've just gone on from there," she said. "I did well at school and then I went to Eastbourne Art College in England which, frankly, I thought was a waste of time.

"I remember running a bicycle into paint and then going over a piece of paper on the floor. It was fun but it wasn't art and certainly not teaching you how to paint. I wanted the real thing."

Since then, Ann (75) has studied drawing and painting in different media and twenty of her paintings are



Ann Milland

now being showcased at the Tewantin branch of Bendigo Bank in Poinciana Avenue. The exhibition will close on May 19.

"I have a mix of charcoal, pastels, water colour and acrylic. A lot of them are of children which I really enjoy doing. They seem to create the most comment, maybe it's because they are of little children on the beach.

"I like painting people with interesting faces. The more wrinkles the better!

"I enjoy painting. It takes me to another world with peace, harmony and colour. To be able to paint and to create beauty, gentleness and, at the same time, a variety of moods is extremely good for your wellbeing."

Noosa has its share of unassuming volunteers and Ann, who came here to live 23 years ago, is one of them. She joined Story Dogs five years ago and with her dog, Billy, supports students at Tewantin State School who need extra help and encouragement with their reading.

She is also a driver at Noosa Hospital for those who require a courtesy buggy and, until recently, she was a volunteer helping patients in oncology.



"Little girl on the beach", by Ann Milland, now on display at Bendigo Bank, Tewantin.

TONGUE TWISTER CHALLENGE

1. Nine nice night nurses nursing nicely.
2. A tidy tiger tied a tie tighter to tidy her tiny tail.
3. Six sick hicks nick six slick bricks with picks and sticks.
4. A big black bug bit a big black bear, made the big black bear bleed blood.
5. If two witches would watch two watches, which witch would watch which watch?
6. I saw Susie sitting in a shoe shine shop. Where she sits she shines, and where she shines she sits.



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