Noosa Chorale Tune In
The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

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CHORALE TO BAROCK!

by Jim Fagan

Opera choruses, jazz, traditional folk songs right through to classical music by great western composers-- there is no limit to the versatility of Noosa's own choir, Noosa Chorale.

And as it welcomes its 32nd year, its singers are preparing for something new next month—a baroque concert devoted entirely to the Italian composer and virtuosic violinist Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741).

"We included Vivaldi in a concert some years ago but this is the first time we have presented him on his own," said Chorale president Cal Webb. "He is acknowledged as one of the greatest composers of all time, the Superman of baroque. Vivaldi was almost forgotten until the early 1800s when a group of German musicologists uncovered evidence of the enormous influence he had had on the compositional work of Johann Sebastian Bach during Bach's formative years."

She said the subsequent discovery of large collections of forgotten Vivaldi works, followed by further finds of his vast unknown choral repertoire, signalled a resurgence of interest in his work. "His most famous uplifting choral work, the "Gloria in D Major", was performed in Italy for the first time in over two centuries in 1937.

"We will feature the 'Gloria' in the second half of the concert with maestro Kim Kirkman conducting our 60 strong choir, three outstanding soloists and a 12-piece orchestra led by Chrissy Davis. Amongst the pieces to be presented in the first half will be "Lauda Jerusalem", Vivaldi's only setting of Psalm 147, which he wrote for double choir and double orchestra. This muscular work achieves vivid drama through the dialogue between the reconfigured two choirs, orchestra and soloists.

"Viva Vivaldi" will be an unmissable experience in the musical calendar this year.

Noosa Chorale, under the baton of maestro Kim Kirkman, will present a selection of Vivaldi's choral compositions including the exquisite Gloria in D major, with three outstanding soloists and an orchestral ensemble who will also perform several Vivaldi instrumental pieces. "Viva Vivaldi" on 22 and 23 May at The J Theatre promises to be an unmissable experience in the musical calendar this year.

Friday 22 May at 7pm
Saturday 23 May at 2pm
The J Theatre, Noosa Junction
www.thej.com.au; 07 5329 6560
Tickets: $49 (Students $40)

Click here to book tickets

CHORALE TO JOIN ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES

Noosa Chorale is once again honoured to have been invited to contribute to two special ceremonies on Anzac Day - the Verrierdale Dawn Service, and the Eumundi ceremony - with piano accompaniment by Olena Kruta and conducted by Pam Sage. As well as leading the singing of the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems at both ceremonies, the choir will sing "Abide with Me". These sombre occasions are an important part of the choir's annual calendar and its commitment to our local communities.

Noosa Chorale at Verrierdale Dawn Service 2016

Noosa Chorale at Eumundi Ceremony 2016

CHORALE'S PERFECT MATCH

By Jim Fagan

The Beatles were belting out "Love Me Do" when a young South African university student, Jeremy Martin, walked into Jacky Martin's life 63 years ago at a party in Oxford.

"And he's still there," Jacky laughingly told Tune In as she and Jeremy prepared for their trip to South Africa to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday, April 30, with family and friends.

Jacky was 23 and Jeremy 25 when they met. They were married in Cornwall (pictured at left) where Jacky was born and later moved to Johannesburg where Jeremy worked as a data processing (it wasn't called IT then!) manager for the Star newspaper.

Jacky continued with her career as a French teacher, something she was to do for 50 years in England, South Africa and Australia.

In 1984 the couple returned to England. "We were not in favour of apartheid," said Jacky.

"We stayed there for 23 years but we kept going back because we love it so much."

Singing has been an enjoyable part of their life together. Jeremy has had leading roles in amateur musicals and operettas and all her life Jacky has sung in choirs.

They came to Australia in 2011 to be close to their two children, Peta and Simon, and cousins who live on the Sunshine Coast. They settled in Tewantin and, shortly after, they saw that Noosa Chorale was performing Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man and Puccini's Messe di Gloria at the Bicentennial Hall and they went along.

"We saw a notice in the programme inviting singers to join. John Woodlock was president at the time and he and his wife Yvonne were very welcoming. Everyone was so friendly, we felt at home."

They both enjoy choir practice and at this moment are rehearsing for the Chorale's "Viva Vivaldi" concerts on May 22 and 23.

"You might feel tired during the day but when you go to practice you become so absorbed you come out feeling so much better," said Jacky.

They also joined U3A when they arrived here and are still active members, Jeremy looking after the Monday morning session on opera, and Jacky the Tuesday morning singalong when members meet and sing popular songs.

So what are the values that have underpinned such a successful and happy marriage?
"A sense of humour," laughed Jacky, "and a lot of give and take."
Mumbled Jeremy: "Depends on who gives and who takes,"

Whatever the reason, a chance meeting that started with The Beatles "Love Me Do" has morphed into, to borrow another Beatles classic, a lifetime of "All You Need Is Love."

JONATHAN'S "FRINGE" HIT

By Jim Fagan

Balladeer Jonathan Anstock aka Leonard Cohen is home in Noosa from the Adelaide Fringe Festival still talking about audience enthusiasm for his one-man show celebrating the great Canadian singer-songwriter.

"It's the first time I've been asked to meet and greet people after the performance. I got the most amazing commendations, absolutely heart-warming and beautiful."

Until now, singer-guitarist Jonathan, who also sings bass in the Chorale, has been content to sing and play the timeless Cohen songs in places like Brisbane and venues all the way to Cairns.

Last month he performed at the Fringe Festival and he told Tune In comments like "keeping the Cohen spirit alive," "channelling him is so important" and "the songs show how humanity should come together" made the visit for him so memorable.

Jonathan, whose on stage persona is eerily like Cohen, performed 20 songs in his show which is called 'Leonard Cohen: his Life, Ladies and Lovers.'

“Hallelujah is probably his most famous and I introduced it early on both nights. Everybody just sang along.”

Jonathan said it had been recorded by 300 artists and had “incredible power. It has touched millions. As with many of his songs, they are considered close to prayer.

“I also try to explore the man who was Leonard Cohen-- his life of poetry, song writing, drugs, sex, spiritual searching, depression, political thought and eventual peace.”

The festival is now in its 64th year and Jonathan said Adelaide people love it. Over its month-long duration this year, it attracted more than 1000 acts.

“The festivities are phenomenal. Restaurants stay open late, lots of people dining out. Adelaide has some beautiful parklands and they are converted into fairy centres with all the fun of the fair. Round tents are all over the place, all with different performances going on.”

Jonathan has been a Cohen enthusiast for many years but it wasn’t until 2019 that he decided he wanted to perform some sort of tribute on stage.

“I got the idea while singing with Noosa Chorale backing singers in “A Migrant’s Son” at a Noosa Alive Arts Festival event. It’s the story of a Greek immigrant family and it instantly appealed to me as a theme for the Leonard Cohen story. Michaela Burger wrote and performed “A Migrant’s Son” and the emotion in her performance seemed to say the same things in Cohen’s songs-- yearning, longing, the search for love, spiritual truth and so on.”

Chorale Management Committee

At the March 2026 AGM, members thanked retiring President Donald Grant and retiring Secretary Margaret Haffenden for their excellent and dedicated work during their terms of office. Incoming President Cal Webb, Secretary Laurie Lumsden, and member Margie Fisher joined the continuing members of the committee.

Noosa Chorale Management Committee at March 2026 AGM
From left: Margie Fisher (new member), Elizabeth Henley, Babette Urban, Donald Grant (retiring President), Cal Webb (incoming President), Laurie Lumsden (incoming Secretary), Margaret Haffenden (retiring Secretary), Rita Malik, and Pam Sage.

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