

Noosa Chorale Tune in

The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

Volume 10, Number 2, March 2016

Rossini and all that jazz—what a year 2016 will be!

The Chorale's year is underway. And what a year it's promising to be.

Our first sing for the year took place on 26 January when we were invited by Noosa Council to help with its Citizenship Ceremony on Australia Day.

We performed an Australian medley which included iconic hits by Peter Allen and The Seekers and, of course, the National Anthem.

Former Deputy Prime Minister but now still Member for Wide Bay, Warren Truss, was moved enough to say Noosa was fortunate to have such a large group of singers with a wonderful sound. "I have enjoyed their work each time I've heard them."

The following Tuesday it was time to start rehearsals for our first concert on Saturday, 28 May, when we will present *Petite Messe Solennelle*, a Mass written by Italian opera composer, Gioachino Rossini.

It was fantastic to greet the large number of 75 keen singers, old and new, who wanted to be part of the choir and have the opportunity of singing this glorious music which has been hailed by audiences all over the world since the Italian master wrote it in 1863.

The Rossini concert will feature four vocal and three instrumental soloists of outstanding calibre. Soprano Panayiota Kalatzis, winner of the prestigious Australian International Opera Awards and the Ruskin Opera Scholarship, is a graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, as is baritone Samuel Piper who, with a number of awards under his belt, is a Chorale favourite, having sung before in the Chorale's 2014 Messiah concert.



Former Deputy PM, Warren Truss, Member for Wide Bay, welcomes new citizens. Photo: Heather Williams

Mezzo-soprano Anastasia Bickell, also a recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, is currently completing her studies at The Conservatorium, and is a specialist in sacred music.

Tenor David Kidd will be a familiar face and voice for many from Ten Tenors fame, and more recently Tenorissimo, as well as for his Opera Queensland performances. David received the Centenary Medal (for Outstanding Contribution to the Australian Music Industry) in 2002, and a "Mo" award in 2004 (with The Ten Tenors for Variety Group of the Year).

Our instrumental soloists for the concert are well-known and loved by Noosa and Sunshine Coast audiences for their inspired playing in many concerts and events. On two grand pianos, we have Natasha Koch and Janet Brewer playing, and on harmonium, Huguette Brassine whom the Chorale is delighted to welcome back after her years as our rehearsal and performance accompanist.

Bookings for the concert will open at the end of March—stay Tuned In for details.

This is the Chorale's 22nd year as Noosa's community choir, and enthusiasm for us to take part in local events seems to just keep building and you never can tell where we might pop up next.

Noosa Long Weekend has asked us to promote its Festival of the Arts on July 15-24 with a "happening" in Hastings Street on Easter Saturday, 26 March. We can't reveal what's planned but late morning coffee drinkers at Aroma's will be in for a nice surprise.

Then, we will start preparing for performances on Anzac Day, Monday 25 April, at both the Verrierdale and Eumundi ceremonies. Following these, our voices will again be heard at the next Noosa Council's Citizenship Ceremony on Tuesday 10 May, and several other community performances are also in the pipeline.

With only a couple of days to catch our collective breath after our Rossini concert at the end of May, we will start practising for Noosa's 10 Day Jazz Party which we will open with a jazz concert on 26 and 27 August, in league with the Noosa Heads Jazz Club. This year's party runs through to 4 September.

Then, before we know it, it will be December and time for our Wassail, the Christmas Cheer concerts which have been enjoyed by revellers since 2007.

As we said at the outset: What a year it's promising to be.

Noosa Chorale's 2016 concert program

28 May — Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*

26 & 27 August — Jazz Concert to open the 2016 Noosa Jazz Party

16 & 17 December — Wassail (Christmas Cheer)

“Rossini is epic and amazing!” says Adrian

Why the *Petite Messe Solennelle*?

I first discovered and encountered this epic and amazing piece at the Guildhall School of Music in London many years ago now, and sang as part of the tenor line in the chorus. I can remember being astonished and astounded at the way the music ranged from a hushed lyrical intensity to an animated, boisterous and high spirited flamboyance with an abundance of memorable tunes and rhythmic vitality for which Rossini has become justly famous.

Rhythm and modulation play an important part in the opening ternary-form *Kyrie* and the rhythmic excitement continues throughout the *Gloria* and *Credo*. Especially of note is the contrapuntal writing in the *Cum sancto spiritu* and *Et vitam venturi sæculi*. The magnificent tenor solo *Domine Deus* recalls the *Cujus animam* from Rossini's earlier *Stabat Mater*, while Rossini's operatic roots are represented in the *Quoniam*.

The insertion of the *O salutaris* (not part of the liturgy, but often used as a hymn during the Mass or Benediction) provided Rossini with an opportunity to explore the unusual harmonies he was using in his piano pieces at the time. The final, luminescent *Agnus Dei* for contralto (Rossini's favourite voice) and choir brings the work to a dramatic close.

I wanted to share this fantastic music with you to show that there is not only the “Classical” Mass genre but also a great variety of others – Romantic and Modern Jazz – we will be performing a piece of the latter style in our August concert!

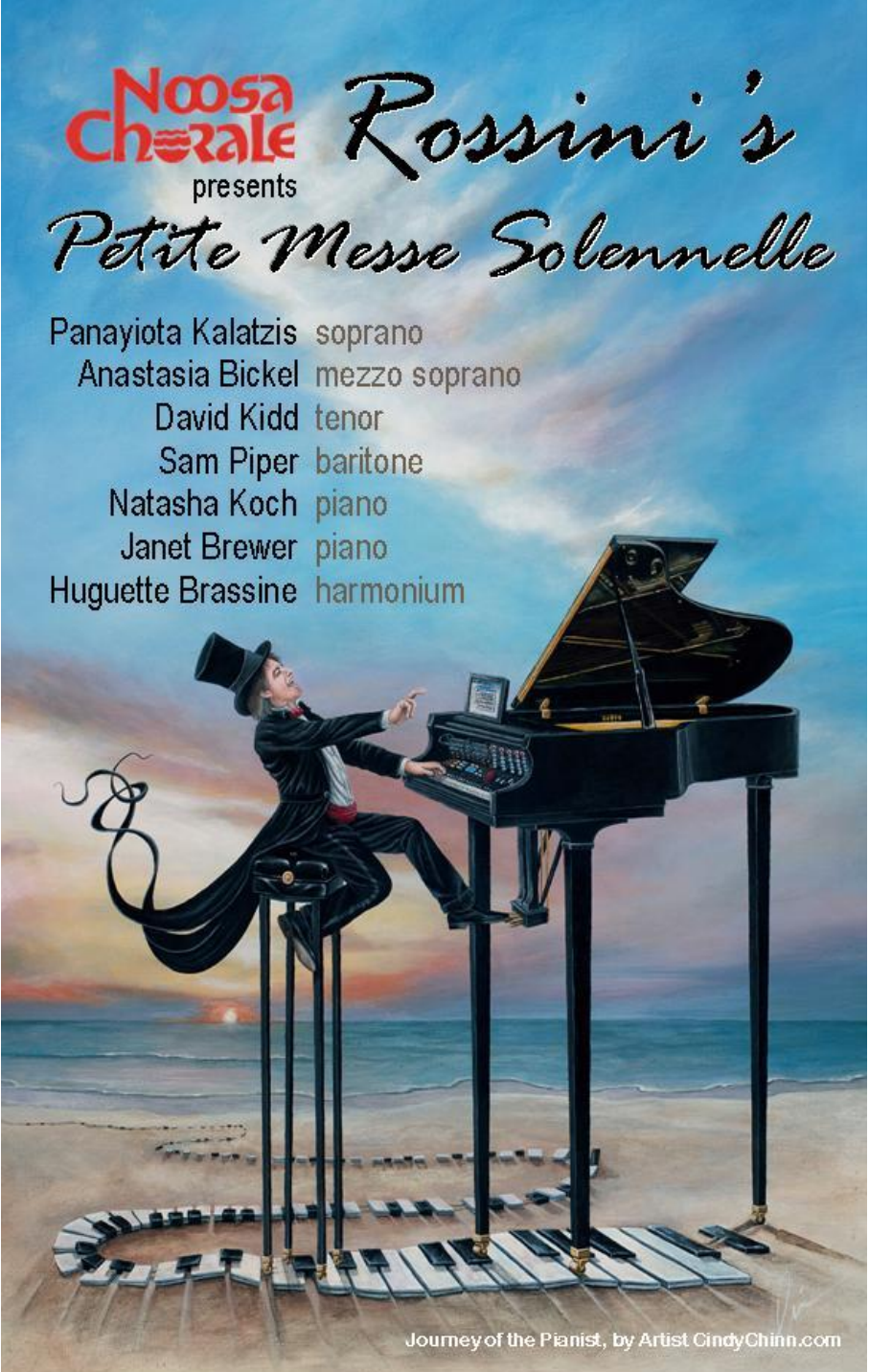
This “Romantic” Rossini is neither *Petite* (small) nor *Solennelle* (solemn) as in the classical style of Haydn, Mozart and Schubert, but instead, throughout, it exhibits a certain light, piquant and stimulating musical flavour, reminiscent of opera arias or ensemble numbers, but these are carefully constructed and moulded by Rossini to perfectly suit the religious text.

I have very fond memories of singing this work as part of the chorus at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and then of conducting it with the Grimsby Philharmonic Society whilst in the UK, and here in Australia, with the Sunshine Choral Society in 2009. On both occasions, I used the two piano & harmonium orchestration.

I hope that everyone is inspired by the uniqueness and grandeur of the work as much as I am, and that you are constantly amazed at the unfailing sense of colour and drama, great contrapuntal skill and the way in which its title exemplifies Rossini's characteristic wit.

Please enjoy and revel in rehearsing and performing this great work!

Adrian King
Music Director, Noosa Chorale




Noosa Chorale presents
Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle

Panayiota Kalatzis soprano
Anastasia Bickel mezzo soprano
David Kidd tenor
Sam Piper baritone
Natasha Koch piano
Janet Brewer piano
Huguette Brassine harmonium

Journey of the Pianist, by Artist CindyChinn.com

and the massed choir of Noosa Chorale
Conducted by *Adrian King*

2.00pm Saturday 28th May 2016

 Tickets: \$35
The J Theatre
60 Noosa Drive Noosa Heads
Enquiries: 07 5329 6560
Bookings: www.thej.com.au

Tickets will go on sale at the end of March

Margaret stitches up 53 years in theatre

Tape measure around her neck, Margaret Courtney is wedged between racks of stage costumes and shelves of hatboxes and wigs on dummy heads, everything, in fact, that goes into creating the magic and the fantasy of Noosa Arts Theatre.

"Tilt your head a little this way, Ebony," she says as she adjusts Mary Poppins' hat.

Eighteen-year-old Ebony Hamacek, of Sunshine Beach, who has acted with the theatre since she was 11, obligingly moves her head. Ebony's excited and happy. This is her first leading role and the first time she has seen her costume for next month's production of the musical Julie Andrews made famous. Wardrobe mistress and performer Margaret, however, is a bit more contained.

After all, she's been transforming fabric into colourful creations for the stage for the last 53 years, the last 25 with Noosa Arts. She estimates she has been involved in providing 1670 costumes!

Margaret (70) was 17 when she joined the Victorian Light Opera Company. My girlfriend and I had minor leads as sopranos in 'La Belle Helene.' We said we could do our own costumes and the next thing we were making

costumes for the whole chorus.

"Although I had lessons at school, I hadn't trained as a dressmaker. I remember saying to my girlfriend, 'We've got more front than Myers.'"

After some years in NSW, where she sang and made costumes with the Hurstville Light Opera Company, she came to Noosa in 1991 with husband George, a set designer and volunteer like Margaret as is everyone at the theatre. The following year she auditioned for the lead role of Mrs Barnum in the musical "Barnum."



Margaret Courtney and Ebony Hamacek, star of "Mary Poppins". Photo/Ann Milland

She got the nod -- and the job of making her own costume.

Asked about her biggest challenge, her answer is instant. "In 2008 we did 'Gigi.' There were, I think, 35 in the cast and everyone had three costume changes. I did a count at the time and, including the gloves, ties and scarves, my team designed and made more than 300 items.

"I had a fabulous role. I played the extremely wealthy aunt and she had the best costumes which, of course, I made myself! I had five costume changes of sophisticated fabulous clothes, all satin and lace. It was great fun."

Margaret says costuming for a big show is a seven day a week job but she loves it. "The top room at home is mine and sometimes it's just covered in clothes with sequins scattered all over the house."

Is it rewarding? "Well, there are some shows when, as the curtains open and there is an ensemble on stage, the audience just bursts into applause. That's a really nice accolade for me and the set designer."

Jim Fagan

Reprinted courtesy Seniors newspaper

(Margaret first joined Noosa Chorale as one of its founding members in 1994.)

Former Chorale member and friend, Diana Stott, who passed away in January 2016, is remembered fondly by founding member Joan Murray.

I met Diana back in 1993—I was then a member of the Noosa Singers. We entertained at Carramar quite often and it was during this time that I discovered Diana had a lovely voice. When the Chorale started in 1994, I asked her to join us. She was very pleased as she loved classical music.

When I told her we were still looking for a suitable place to rehearse, Diana suggested the community hall at Carramar where she was the Manager. Needless to say, I was thrilled when Diana rang me a few days later to say their Board had approved it. I informed Joe MacMahon, the Chorale's founding President, he went along to have a look, and the rest is history.

We spent many happy years there and it was all thanks to Diana who remained a choir member for some years.

R.I.P.



From the President

We have started the year with an impressive number of singers either returning to the choir or joining for the first time. Welcome to all our new members and those returning after some time away! The Rossini mass is certainly keeping our brains and vocal chords well-exercised as we head into the next couple of months of energetic rehearsals. The concert promises to be a thrilling event for audience members and performers alike.

The choir has been in big demand already this year for other events in the community including supporting Noosa Council's Citizenship Ceremonies, the Verrierdale and Eumundi Anzac Day ceremonies, and a few surprising 'pop-ups' around the place.

Thanks to Joan Murray for her words of appreciation for the efforts of Diana Stott who passed away in January this year. Diana was instrumental in helping the choir establish a suitable rehearsal venue at Carramar right back in the early days, and maintained a long association with and strong support for the choir through the last couple of decades.

The Annual General Meeting is coming up on Tuesday 15th March at 8.30pm at The J Theatre.

All paid-up members are eligible to vote. I had been urging members to consider nominating for a position on the Management Committee and, although it is now past the deadline for nominations to be received, we can still take late nominations from the floor at the AGM.

Contributing to the future development of the choir through committee involvement can be very satisfying for individuals, and it is important for the choir that potential successors to the key executive roles are supported in 'learning the ropes' through getting experience as committee members.

Keep in mind that some members have been serving on the committee for many years now, and they may be very pleased to step down in favour of newer hands.

John Davies

President

Musical terms (not!)

ACCIDENTALS: Wrong notes

AD LIBITUM: A premiere performance

ALLREGRETTO: When you're 16 measures into the piece and realize you took too fast a tempo.

AGNUS DEI: A woman composer famous for her church music.

ANGUS DEI: To play with a divinely beefy tone

A PATELLA: Accompanied by knee-slapping

APPOLOGGIATURA: A composition that you regret playing

APPROXIMATURA: A series of notes not intended by the composer, yet played with an "I meant to do that" attitude

APPROXIMENTO: A musical entrance that is somewhere in the vicinity of the correct pitch

BRAVO: Literally "how bold" or "what nerve". This is a spontaneous expression of appreciation on the part of the concert goer after a particularly trying performance

CONDUCTOR: A musician who is adept at following many people at the same time

COUNTERTENOR: A singing waiter

DILL PICCOLINI: An exceedingly small wind instrument that plays only sour notes

DISCORD: Not to be confused with datcord

DURATION: The length of time a conductor can exercise self-control

FLUTE FLIES: Those tiny mosquitoes that bother musicians on outdoor gigs

FRUGALHORN: A sensible and inexpensive brass instrument

GAUL BLATTER: A French horn player

GLISSANDO: The musical equivalent of slipping on a banana skin

GREGORIAN CHAMP: The title bestowed upon the monk who can hold a note the longest

HEROIC TENOR: A singer who gets by on sheer nerve and tight clothing

MODULATION: Nothing is bad for you in modulation

PLACEBO DOMINGO: A faux tenor

SPRITZICATO: An indication to string instruments to produce a bright and bubbly sound

TEMPO TANTRUM: What a choir is having when it's not following the conductor

TONIC: Medicinal liquid to be consumed before, during, and/or after a performance. (Diatonic is for the weight-conscious)

VIRTUOSO: A musician with very high morals

Farewell Cécile

On 23 February, Noosa Chorale bade a fond farewell to our talented and charming accompanist Cécile Elton who has moved to Brisbane to continue her professional career.

Cécile took up the post of accompanist at the end of 2014 and, as well as accompanying Tuesday night rehearsals since then, has also accompanied the Chorale's three major concerts in 2015 along with a number of other performances in the local community. The Chorale wished Cecile good fortune in her new career directions.



Welcome back Huguette & Janet

The Chorale is delighted to see the return of Huguette Brassine to the role of accompanist, even though only on a temporary basis. Through her long association with the Chorale, Huguette brought her considerable expertise to the role of accompanist in both rehearsals and performances. As an eminent harpsichordist and scholar of music in her own right, Huguette's more recent involvement on the Chorale's Management Committee has been much appreciated.

We look forward to welcoming Janet Brewer to the role of accompanist during the remainder of the "Rossini" term. Janet, who also has a long-time association with the Chorale, is a regular performer on the Sunshine Coast, particularly with Pacific Chamber players for whom she is Artistic Director, and has performed numerous piano concertos. A "multi-instrumentalist" with a special interest in early music and historical instruments, her secret passion for the harpsichord saw her studying under Huguette.

The Chorale is especially happy that both Huguette and Janet will also be accompanying the end of May performance of the Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Huguette on harmonium, and Janet on piano, along with Natasha Koch also on piano.



Tune In

The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc
Published 10 – 12 times per year
Distributed via email to subscribers
Downloadable from our website
www.noosachorale.org.au/news

Editor: Cal Webb
Email: cal@carolynwebb.com.au

Reporter/Assoc. Editor: Jim Fagan
Email: jamesfagan25@bigpond.com

 www.noosachorale.org.au
 www.facebook.com/noosachorale
 noosachorale@gmail.com
 07 5471 2938 (John Davies, President)
 www.thej.com.au (ticket bookings)
 PO Box 284, Noosaville, Qld 4566