

Noosa Chorale Tune in

The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

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Fifteen years of cultural harmony

Fifteen years ago Noosa Long Weekend (NLW) staged its inaugural festival and Noosa Chorale was delighted to take part by performing the George Frideric Handel oratorio, *Judas Maccabaeus*, at the invitation of the NLW patron, David Williamson.

As then Chorale president, John Woodlock, said later: "We were very supportive of it. We wanted to help the Long Weekend take off by adding variety to the program."

As Noosa's community choir, the Chorale felt gratified it had been asked to share the same stage as international pianist, Piers Lane, actor Bryan Brown, writer Robert Drewe and a swag of other Australian luminaries, all featuring in a potpourri of arts, music,

theatre, literature, dance, film, food and wine which is the Long Weekend.

Since then the Chorale has been a close cultural partner with the festival and has appeared several times, notably the 10th anniversary in 2011, when it presented *The Brahms Requiem* to packed audiences.

This year the NLW is observing its 15th anniversary and when director Ian Mackellar requested the Chorale perform Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* as a "flash mob" at Aroma's café in Hastings Street to promote the celebrations, the singers immediately said yes.

This special edition of Tune In has a report of the "flash mob" as well as a story on Long

Weekend highlights in the 10 days of the festival from July 15. It also has a story on the Chorale's concert at the J on May 28—Italian composer Gioachino Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* (Little Solemn Mass which is neither little or solemn).

This Tune In is a publishing first as it has been written for friends and supporters of both groups. We hope you enjoy it.

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Holy Chorale! It's an Easter 'flash mob'

Easter came to Hastings Street on Saturday with Noosa Chorale's "flash mob" performance of "The Hallelujah Chorus."

Surprised coffee drinkers at Aroma's café-restaurant nearly dropped their cups when soprano Fran Wilson, suitably uniformed as a waitress, suddenly burst forth with the first few bars of the famous work from Handel's "Messiah."

She was then quickly accompanied by choirmaster Adrian King and 40 singers from the Chorale who streamed in from Hastings Street or stood up from their tables.

Handel's "Messiah" is a much-loved oratorio and its "Hallelujah Chorus" in churches and concert halls in the weeks before Christmas is as traditional as turkey and plum pudding or oysters and prawns, depending on your preference.

The fact is, however, that George Frideric Handel composed it in 1741 as a lead up to Easter so it was appropriate for the Chorale to select it for its "flash mob."

The choir has a long-standing association with the Noosa Long Weekend Festival of the Arts and the singers wanted to do something to help launch the 10-day festival which starts on July 15. Tickets are now on sale.

A "flash mob" is a group of people who appear suddenly in a public place, perform



Chorale Music Director Adrian King leads the tenors in whilst serving coffee

some brief action and then disperse and the Chorale's impromptu performance was hugely applauded by patrons.

"What a wonderful way to appreciate Easter and celebrate this special holiday," Frank Bish, on holiday from Brisbane, said.

Visitor from Germany, 18-year-old Nils Lowhagen has listened to "The Hallelujah

Chorus" in church and hearing it as he sat down for coffee was a "nice surprise."

For Brisbane's Mark Strambi it was "fantastic. What a lovely way to start the day" and for wife Ann "the whole coffee shop bursting into song was quite surreal."

Noosa Long Weekend festival director Ian Mackellar said the Chorale had sung at the

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...sung at the first Long Weekend in 2002 and other years and, as an old friend and cultural partner, had offered to promote the festival.

“The singers this morning were brilliant. This impromptu performance just adds to the overall sense of excitement and the community spirit of the festival which is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.”

Photo: Andrew Seymour



Clockwise from top left:

Adrian King and Fran Wilson, disguised as Aroma's staff, wait on tables of unsuspecting morning tea patrons; a group of singers lurk around nearby shops waiting for their entry to the singing; pianist Janet Brewer charms coffee drinkers on the keys; Fran Wilson breaks out into the first bars of the Hallelujah chorus; Adrian King kicks off the tenor lead into the chorus.



Photo: Andrew Seymour



Photo: Andrew Seymour



Photo: Andrew Seymour



Photo: Andrew Seymour

Clockwise from left: Sopranos Fran Wilson and Rose Brown in Aroma's uniforms; Soprano Ann Milland, and Altos Margy Fisher & Wilma Barnes singing under the Poinciana tree; Sopranos Jutta Rathgeber and Valerie Cozens; Altos Ruth Jones, Trish Fox & Marianne McLennan; Singers recover for a "debriefing" session at the Noosa Heads Surf Lifesaving Club afterwards.



Photo: Andrew Seymour



Photo: Andrew Seymour



Photo: Andrew Seymour

10 days, 80 events for non-stop Noosa Long Weekend

Noosa Long Weekend Festival has once again pulled out all stops to assemble the best of local, national and international talent across a multi-faceted program to be presented in Noosa from July 15 to July 24.

This year's program has a wide range of entertainment options including music, dance, theatre, cabaret, film, food, literature, a festival of thought, events for the kids, workshops, a new inclusion **Locale after Dark** and an opening Carnivale parade in celebration of the festival's 15th year.

The Hastings Street parade will include street

musicians, performers, stilt walkers, jugglers, dancing girls and an abundance of feathers. It will end on Noosa Beach with a spectacular Twilight Skydiving display finale with Super Heroes jumping and soft landing on to the beach as well as other festive surprises.

According to Ian Mackellar, festival director for the eighth year, there are over 80 ticketed and free events with 220 local, national & international artists, authors and guest speakers.

"There really is something for everyone.



Internationally celebrated Queen of Cabaret, **Meow Meow**, who also opened the 2016 Sydney Festival to a series of sold out shows, is our opening act, for one night only

"It is selling out quickly as is the **Queensland Ballet** who are presenting a stunning program together with a fascinating conversation with Queensland Ballet Artistic Director Li Cunxin (of 'Mao's Last Dancer' fame).

"Closing our 10-day festival is the hit show and true festival winner **Swing on This** (pictured) starring the gorgeous and entertaining **Michael Falzon** (We Will Rock You, Rock of Ages), **Rob Mills** (Legally Blonde, Grease, Ghost), **Luke Kennedy** (The Voice, The Ten Tenors) and the 9 piece SWING ON THIS Orchestra, together with special guest yet to be announced.

"These guys are fast paced, fun and entertaining and a definite highlight.

"The Sydney Opera House, Arts Centre Melbourne and other great theatres and venues in Australia / NZ may provide the quintessential arts experience, but I am told time and again by performers and festival patrons alike that the uniqueness of Noosa as a destination, and the intimacy and quality of performances now marks their annual calendar as 'must do.'"

View the program and secure event tickets on the website www.noosalongweekend.com or phone **The J Theatre on (07) 5329 6560**.

Chorale's once-only Rossini concert

Four excellent soloists will add dramatic impact to Noosa Chorale's performance of Gioachino Rossini's famous work Petite Messe Solennelle at the J on Saturday, May 28.

The Chorale is only giving one performance of The Little Mass and a packed house is expected to hear the glorious music which has been hailed by audiences all over the world since the Italian master opera composer wrote it in 1863.

The Rossini concert will feature Queensland Opera and former Ten Tenors, **David Kidd**, soprano and Australian International Opera Awards winner, **Panayiota Kalatzis**, mezzo soprano **Anastasia Bickel** who is a specialist in sacred works, and bass baritone **Sam Piper** who has sung with us before and is a Chorale favourite.

The Mass is written for two pianos and harmonium and the Chorale is delighted to welcome **Natasha Koch** and **Janet Brewer** (piano) and **Huguette Brassine** (harmonium) as accompanists.

Ticket are now on sale at www.thej.com.au or phone **The J Theatre on (07) 5329 6560**.



Chorale to sing at Anzac Day Services

Noosa Chorale will again this year take part in the Anzac Day Verrierdale Dawn Service and the Eumundi Anzac Service on Monday, April 25.

Following the Eumundi observance the choir has been invited to sing "Amazing Grace" as part of the unveiling of the Spirit Orb of Peace, a sculpture to honour the 20 Eumundi Diggers who went to war and didn't come home.

The two-metre tall sphere will have a metal climbing frame and within the frame are 20 abstract presentations of birds, one for each of the Diggers.

The Spirit Orb won the \$20,000 Eumundi Sculpture Prize last year. "We wanted to commemorate the Anzac Centenary," Michael Carney, chairman of the Eumundi Foundation for Culture and Art, told Tune In.



Meg Geer with Luke McRae from The Blacksmiths at Nambour welding on one of the 20 birds on the Spirit Orb of Peace.

"The prize money was given by the Eumundi Combined Community Organisations and we are most appreciative of that donation as well as the \$5000 from the Sunshine Coast Council for the installation."

The winning artists were Meg Geer and Richard Thompson of Bribie Island who create public space sculptures to engage the whole community.

Said Meg: "The theme was "Anzac, Past, Present and Future" and it was an honour to win.

"Children will be able to climb on the sculpture. We see it as a symbolic gesture of thanks to those that fought, that they achieved what they set out to do - to give our children a better future in a more peaceful time.

The many faces of Signor Gioacchino Rossini (1792—1868)

Famous in his own time from a very young age, Rossini became the subject of many artists, caricaturists, and photographers, and even appeared on a cigarette packet. He

wrote 39 operas, the most well-known of which were William Tell, The Thieving Magpie, The Barber of Seville and The Italian Girl. He was also a master of the one-liner: "Give me a

laundry list and I'll set it to music." And "Wagner is a composer who has beautiful moments but awful quarter hours." He had a reputation for being somewhat lazy, Ludwig von Beethoven observing "Rossini would have been a great composer if his teacher had spanked him hard enough on the backside."

The *Petite Messe Solennelle*, which Noosa Chorale will perform on Saturday May 28 at The J, was written in 1863, Rossini describing it as "the last of the sins of my old age."

He died in 1868. He was 76.



Tune In

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