



Painting by Anne-Marie Jones, "St Matthew Passion", see story below

Tune In



Inside this issue:

The Passion, Organisation & Soloists	2
2009 Wassail	3
Creation Concert Review	3
Noosa Long Weekend	4
Hastings Street Carols	4
Sunshine Coast Choral Festival	5
Around the Chorale	5

Passion Performance Proceeding

St Matthew Passion

Noosa Chorale and the Sunshine Coast Chorale Society have joined forces to perform the great Bach St Matthew Passion on Saturday 17 July at 2.30pm in the Lake Kawana Community Centre.

The work demands two adult choirs, a children's choir, two orchestras and five soloists. It dramatizes the events leading up to the crucifixion of Christ as related in St Matthew's Gospel. Bach interweaves dramatic action and devotional reflection to produce one of the most moving musical and emotional experiences.

Well known Chorales eg O Sacred Head Sore Wounded with their dignified solemnity and poignancy lift the singers and audience into a realm of sublime beauty and spiritual awe. Bach also confronts us with the terrible narrative of Christ's death related by the recitative of the Evangelist and we become caught up in the

drama, the tension and terror of this event. As each phase of the drama unfolds, Bach articulates a response for us as sympathetic and devout observers through beautiful arias. In response to the Agony in the Garden narrative the tenor sings

If I could weigh Thy grief and share it

Could make it less or help to bear it

How gladly would I watch with Thee

The St Matthew Passion is more than just a musical masterpiece. Its emotional intensity, its dramatic and violent moments wrench the soul. Its beautiful, poignant moments and its firm faith in the ultimate order and goodness of the world and its Creator, bring hope and joy to the soul.

There is little wonder that Alex Stobbs, the young musician with cystic fibrosis, chose the St Matthew Passion to conduct last year. Alex loves a challenge and

conducting this work so that it engages and draws the audience into the full drama and emotion of the Passion is an enormous challenge. The drama and pain of his own life and his moments of despondency will be reflected in the emotional journey Bach takes us on. And yet there is a determination and a mighty act of will power in The Passion as Christ fulfills his destiny.

Bach's music has a unique ability to communicate transcendence and divine purpose and order in the universe and this is particularly true of his most loved work the St Matthew Passion.

'As listeners to Bach's music, we may feel as if we were present when God created the world' Goethe.

'We are taken outside of ourselves into something that is far bigger and far better and far more wonderful than anything that we've yet experienced, intellectually, or emotionally or physically.' John Kleinig. JW

2010 Concerts

17 July - Bach's St Matthew Passion joint concert with Sunshine Coast Choral Society at Lake Kawana Community Centre

2nd October – Mozart Requiem, Ave Verum and Flute and Harp Concerto, Bi-Centennial Hall, Sunshine Beach

18th & 19th December - Christmas Cheer/Wassail, Bi-Centennial Hall, Sunshine Beach

The Story Behind the Painting

Coming from a "Christian" upbringing, Bach's St Matthew Passion naturally evoked images of Christ on the cross with the usual spear-bearing Roman soldier, the gathering of the crowds and the thunderous sky as a threatening backdrop.

However, for me, the first words of the chorus "Come, come ye daugh-

ters and share my mourning...." struck such an emotional chord that the lump rose in my throat and affected me deeply. The imagery was strong and I did try to deny its presence. However, when the image became a recurring one, I had to deal with it.

In my mind's eye, I saw

the grief that mothers, wives and partners have borne across the ages and across cultures. It is grief at being aware that their child, like Christ, has been taken away from them. For me, the cross should be a symbol of pain and sorrow, perhaps forgiveness, but I cannot reconcile myself with the barbarity of this act and I could not bring

myself to represent it as a major part of the picture. That is, even though it is a very strong element of Bach's St. Matthew Passion. I approached it with a female perspective. The women are the ones who bear the cross, they never forget the moment of birth of their child and when that child is taken away, the tears never dry despite great fortitude and the inner strength that they find within themselves to keep going. *Full story, visit Noosa Chorale web site*

A-M Jones

Organising St Matthews Passion

On 17 July at 2.30pm at the Lake Kawana Community Centre, you will have the opportunity of hearing and experiencing the St Matthew Passion.

The performance on 17 July will be under the direction of Adrian King, whose reputation for wonderful musical concerts on the Coast continues to grow. Adrian has brought together some outstanding soloists for this performance. Gregory Massingham, the

GREGORY MASSINGHAM (Tenor)

A graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium, tenor Gregory Massingham is one of Australia's most experienced singers. Following postgraduate study at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Mr Massingham took up the position as Head of Opera at the Conservatorium.

Mr Massingham maintains a busy performance schedule chiefly as a concert artist. In particular, his performances as the Evangelist in the Bach Passions and his interpretation of the works of Benjamin Britten have been highly acclaimed. Mr Massingham has been a regular guest artist with the Sydney Philharmonia, appearing in their presentations of Bach's *Matthäus Passion*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, amongst others

For Canberra Opera he has performed the role of Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, for Victoria State Opera, the role of Alessandro in Mozart's *Il re pastore* and with Opera Queensland, the role of Jack in Graeme Koehne's *Love Burns*.

Recent performances have included Bach's *Matthäus Passion* in Hobart and Auckland and *Johannes Passion* in Wellington and Brisbane, concerts with harpist Marshall Maguire at the Bangalow Music Festival. He has devised two programs for the Southern Cross Soloists 2010 concert season - Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Schumann's *Scenes from Goethe's Faust*.

SUSAN CHAPMAN (Mezzo-Soprano)

Born in the north of England Susan travelled to Australia with her family to eventually settle in Brisbane.

Susan later went on to study at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music where she received several scholarships and bursaries. After completing her studies Susan went on to be one of the founding members of the Sydney Song Company with Charles Coleman. Susan has performed as soloist for many Oratorio concerts over recent years and now makes regular appearances with Opera Queensland.

The list of operas Susan has been involved in with Opera Queensland is extensive and just a few inclusions are *Madama Butterfly*, *La Traviata*, *Fidelio*, *The Elixir of Love* and later this year the wonderful *Aida*.

See Noosa Chorale web site for more details, on all the soloists

Head of Opera at the Queensland Conservatorium, will sing the role of the Evangelist. Other soloists are soprano, Anita Parakh-Morgan; alto, Susan Chapman; tenor, Martin Paroz and bass, Brett Holland.

The Children's Choir will be from the Sunshine Coast Grammar School and be directed by Brendan Scully, Head of Music.

Soloists

ANITA PARAKH-MORGAN (Soprano)

Anita Parakh-Morgan performed internationally with The Chicago Philharmonia Orchestra in 2002. Productions include *Cavalleria Rusticana*/*I Pagliacci*, *Carmen*, Verdi's *Requiem*, *The Damnation of Faust*, *The Masked Ball*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Turandot*.

Major awards include a 1998/1999 Queen's Trust Award for Opera Studies in England.

Operatic roles include appearances in the title roles of Bellini's *Norma* and Janacek's *Jenufa*, Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Violetta (*La Traviata*), Santuzza (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) and Miss Jessel (*Turn of the Screw*).

As Artistic Director and Founder of Diva Productions Australia, Anita manages professional events of all types which incorporate music performance and production, including corporate events.

Her recent appearances as soloist with the Sunshine Choral Society have been in Handel's 'Samson' in 2008, Haydn's 'Creation' in 2007, and 'Opera Favourites' in 2006. Anita also appeared as soloist in Noosa Chorale's Haydn's Creation in 2009.

CHORAL EXCHANGE

"Suddenly the chorus breaks into two antiphonal choruses. 'See him!' cries the first one. 'Whom?' asks the second. And the first answers: 'The Bridegroom see. See Him!' 'How?' 'So like a Lamb.' And then over and against all this questioning and answering and throbbing, the voices of a boy's choir sing out the chorale tune, 'O Lamb of God Most Holy,' piercing through the worldly pain with the icy-clear truth of redemption. The contrapuntal combination of the three different choruses is thrilling. There is nothing like it in all music."

- Leonard Bernstein

MARTIN PAROZ (Tenor)

Martin undertook a Bachelor of Arts (Music) degree majoring in voice, at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and completed in 1989. He graduated with a Diploma in Education (Secondary Music) at the Queensland University of Technology in 1990.

The massive yet delicate work, with its multiple levels of theological and mystical symbolism, its powerful and dramatic biblical teachings, and its psychological insight, is **one of the most challenging and ambitious musical compositions in the entire Western tradition.**

David Gordon

BRETT HOLLAND (BASS)

Brett Holland completed his Bachelor of Music (Vocal) at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music obtained a Graduate Diploma in Education at QUT and recently completed a Master of Philosophy majoring in Vocal Performance at UO.

He has performed all over the state in various roles - Scarpia (*Tosca*) for 4MBS's Music Festival, Toreador (*Carmen*), Colas (*Bastien und Bastienne*), Commadore (*Don Giovanni*), Mikado and Poo-bah (*Mikado*), Sarastro (*Magic Flute*), and his most recent being the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* with the Powerhouse Opera in 2005.

Brett has directed operas for the *Taabinga Music Festival* and *Opera by the Sea*, and has conducted performances such as *Carmina Burana*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Haydn's *Nelsonmesse* with the Brisbane Philharmonic Orchestra and the Queensland University Musical Society, amongst others.

Brett was the Bass soloist for Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* and Stanford *Songs of the Fleet* with the Brisbane Symphony, and *Elijah* and *Messiah* with the Queensland State and Municipal Choir.

Brett is currently Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at The Brisbane Boys' College.

Martin undertook postgraduate studies (from 2004) at the University of Southern Queensland, where he appeared in such roles as Filch in "The Beggar's Opera" (John Gay), Tenor soloist in the USQ Singer's performance of "Requiem Mass" (Mozart), Mr Snow in "Carousel" (Rodgers and Hammerstein), and Ferrando in "Cosi Fan Tutte" (Mozart), as well as being Musical Director for "Godspell" (Schwartz) in April 2006. Martin was also the recipient of the prestigious Joyce Campbell Lloyd Scholarship in September 2006.

In October 2009, Martin sang in the Opera Queensland production of "Rigoletto" (Verdi), and was Tenor Soloist in the oratorio "Creation" (Haydn) as a guest of the Noosa Chorale.

Martin is pleased to have been involved in this production of "Les Miserables", as part of such a talented and committed team.

The 2009 Christmas Cheer Concert

Christmas Cheer (Wassail)

Christmas Cheer (Wassail) 2009 was a huge success musically and visually.

The Chorale sang with a mixture of gusto and sensitivity many musically diverse offerings such as The Twelve Days of Christmas, Aussie Jingle Bells and the exquisite Angel's Carol by Rutter. The Chorale was joined by Scott Estrich on didgeridoo for a bracket of beautiful Australian carols. The very Australian sound of the didgeridoo gave these carols such spin chilling atmosphere. All the usual old favourite carols also had an airing. The Audience sang with vigour and nearly drowned out the Chorale!

The decoration theme of poinsettias



(designed by Helen King) was a delight to behold. There were poinsettias eve-



by Chorale members went smoothly and efficiently in a joyful manner. This time the bar, offering wine by the bottle for a very reasonable charge, was very well patronised. Alcoholic and



rywhere – on the front of the stage, on the screen at the back of the stage, on the large wall paintings, on the hanging decorations and even on the tables as candle holders.

The poinsettia theme was picked up in one of the non-musical items. Anna Abbott

(Saturday) and Margaret Shepherd-Tovey (Sunday) gave a very moving reading of the Story of the Poinsettia.

Margaret Courtney (T'was the Night Before Christmas) and John Woodlock (Eddie the Elk) lightened things up with their comic pieces.

Food and drink flowed freely again and the table service



non-alcoholic punches were still served as part of the ticket price.

It was a wonderful experience to be part of Christmas Cheer 2009 for Chorale members and audience alike. It lived up to its name and brought Christmas Cheer to all. In fact, it gave the audience a delightfully glorious Christmas evening unlike anything else on the Sunshine Coast.

So here's looking forward to Christmas Cheer 2010 which will take place on Saturday 18 December and Sunday 19 December.

Provisional bookings for 2010 are now being taken. Please note that confirmation of exact numbers and ticket money is not required till later in the year. Last year tickets sold out a month before. So don't miss out. Get your provisional booking in now.

Phone Yvonne on 5474 0334 or email jjwoodl@tpg.com.au

As seen and heard from a couple on the Channel 9 news video, "It was the best Wassail yet and we are definitely coming again next Christmas"

Review of Hayden's Creation Concert October 2009

It was standing room only at the Bicentennial Hall in Noosa for the performance of this magnificent work by Haydn. It is impossible to come away from a good performance of this sparkling oratorio and not feel inspired and uplifted. This astounding masterpiece of optimism and hope, rejoicing in a perfect world is a reminder of what it could be if all peoples on earth co operated with each other instead of fighting.

Starting with chaos, the story of how God created the world in seven days (Genesis) out of the darkness and into the light was told by the three angels, Raphael, Uriel and Gabriel. They took it in turns to relate how first the inanimate – the oceans, the mountains, rivers, trees, then the animate, whales and lions, and lastly humans came into being.

Soprano, Anita Parakh-Morgan, fresh from furthering her studies in Germany, has a gorgeously rich voice and a purity of tone that endears her to an audience. Her soaring high notes were beautifully

and effortlessly realized.

Martin Paroz sang the tenor part of the angel Uriel. He has a powerful and beautiful tenor voice. I particularly noted his excellent singing of the aria "In native worth and honour clad" which earned spontaneous applause.

The angel Raphael was sung by bass, Shelden Mathieson. With his beautifully resonant voice he sang with passion and conviction and was applauded for his singing of "Now heav'n in fullest glory shone".

The soloists ensemble was excellent, and when they combined as a trio, with the choir in choruses such as "The heavens are telling" and "The Lord is great" and "Sing the Lord" the impact was simply stunning..

The choir's singing was just marvelous – it just doesn't get any better than this. Adrian King, now fully established on the Sunshine Coast after arriving from the

UK several years ago, again proved himself as an outstanding conductor of the sixty three strong choir and thirty four piece orchestra. He got the balance just right between the musicians and the singers. He has amazing energy and an excellent rapport with all under his baton.

The Noosa Sinfonia, with Leader, Trish Corben, had most of the cream of the Sunshine Coast's orchestral musicians included as well as harpsichordist Huquette Brassine. Their contribution added greatly to the overall fabric of the oratorio.

Altogether this performance was an artistic triumph of extraordinary quality and magnificent sound.

Marguerite Webber

Chorale Starred In First Noosa Longweekend

Noosa Chorale singers have a long association with Noosa's mid-year arts' celebration, Noosa Longweekend, both as performers and private supporters.

The Chorale was invited to be part of the inaugural Longweekend in June 2002 by the festival's co-founder, David Williamson.

We performed Handel's Judas Macca-baeus and international pianist Piers Lane who was in the audience had this to say: *"Fantastic, very impressed. It is so exciting to hear local forces make such a success of a wonderful piece that one gets to hear so rarely."*

The full story of that performance may be read in my history of the Chorale *Noosa Sings* but it is worth noting that of all the Longweekend events in that wonderful first year the Chorale was voted fourth best in a patrons' survey.

The Chorale also took part in later Noosa Longweekend festivals and today many choir members strongly support the quality events the Longweekend has to offer.

Dates for this year's ninth anniversary are



'Breathtakingly Beautiful'- International Stars of Ballet -

June 25 and 26 NLW Festival 2010

Jim Fagan

Friday June 18 to Sunday June 27 and some world class events are among the 120 plus to be presented.

The San Francisco Ballet is sending seven of its principal dancers to Noosa and Caloundra for exclusive Longweekend performances and there will also be the world premiere-preview of David Williamson's play, *Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica* starring Georgie Parker.

Ita Buttrose, Paul Kelly, Don Burke, Underbelly authors, John Silvester and Andrew Rule, Karen Brooks, Anne Summers and Kylie Kwong are just some of the authors who will cater for a wide range of reader interests.

Toni Lamond, Caroline Nin (Edith Piaf), the Grigoryan Brothers, comedian Tim Ferguson are part of the entertainment as well as Bollywood dancing, film and food events, Japanese puppet making, music...the list goes on.

A 48-page colour program with booking information will be available from April 27. They may be obtained online from the festival web-site www.noosalongweekend.com or emailing info@noosalongweekend.com or calling the Longweekend office 5474 9941.

Hastings Street Carols

Christmas Carols in Hastings Street

December 2009

Jim Berado made a great night for the Chorale to sing carols



at the lighting of the Hastings Street Christmas Tree. A very large audience was in attendance (see photos) and the special permit that allowed the

stopping of the traffic meant very many more children and their parents could take an active part in the singing of the carols and greeting father Christmas and his "elf". The later parade to Aroma's Coffee shop enabled the large crowd to disperse easily.

Adrian King in his usual festive manner conducted the choir who were dressed in Christmas attire for the evening, The large crowd was very appreciative of the singing performed by the Chorale. In all this was the best organisational effort so far that allowed the Chorale to show its singing talents to the Noosa public..



News Letter of Noosa Chorale Inc

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Please advise the editor if you wish to be removed from this emailing list

Some web sites to check out for background to our upcoming concert

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88203558>

SUNSHINE COAST CHORAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 29 MAY - MAROOCHY BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTRE

Be inspired and thrilled by some fabulous singing at the Sunshine Coast Choral Festival at the Maroochy Baptist Community Centre, 186 Wisers Rd, Buderim, starting at 1.30pm on Saturday 29 May.

The Australian Voices and the Matthew Flinders Anglican College Chorale will be guest choirs when nine Sunshine Coast choirs and singing groups gather to celebrate their love of singing.

The Australian Voices is one of Australia's most innovative ensembles and has won many international awards and honours. The singers, aged between 17 and 28 come from different Australian cities and commit to a rigorous professional schedule of concerts and workshops, both in Australia and overseas.

The Matthew Flinders Anglican College Chorale is a choir of students who range in age from 11 to 18 years. The choir has been awarded first place in the Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod for the past

three years. In June this year it will travel to Canberra to perform in the Great Hall at Parliament House with the James McCusker Orchestra.

'We are thrilled to have two guest choirs that show choral music has much to offer youth and young



adults,' said John Woodlock, President of the Festival.

If choral music stirs your soul or you have been thinking of joining a choir on the Coast, come and hear Cool Harmonies, Heartsong, InsingC, New World Rhythm, Noosa Chorale, Out of the Blue, Sunshine Coast Choral Society, Sunshine Statesmen and Tapestry.

These groups sing a wide variety of music including classical choral music,

jazz, gospel and world music, so there is a choir for everyone and the concert will appeal to all musical tastes.

The nine regional singing groups will each sing works specially chosen for the Sunshine Coast Festival Concert. The guest choirs will then perform and, as a finale, all choirs will come together as a massed choir of over 250 people to sing some fabulous classical choral pieces such as the Hallelujah Chorus, Cwm Rhondda and world music songs.

The massed choir will be conducted by Brian Martin, Adrian King and Gordon Hamilton and the Master of Ceremonies for the Concert will be Graham Schultz. There will be an easily learnt concluding piece which all choirs and audience can sing together.

Tickets will be able to be purchased at the door and are concession priced at \$12 with light refreshments included. Free admission for children 12 or under. Enquiries 5448 5487.

More action around the Chorale



Our fearless leader, Adrian King, choir master



Noosa Chorale "Elfs" taking care of the Christmas tree 2009



Audience members enjoying the singing in "The best Wassail ever" 2009



Anna Abbott reading the item about poinsettias, Saturday night, 2009



Margaret Shepard-Tovey reading the item about poinsettias, Sunday night 2009