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Noosa Chorale celebrates 20th anniversary in 2014

18th May
Handel's Messiah

19th October
Gala Performance

21st & 22nd December
Wassail 2014
(Christmas Cheer Concert)

From the President of Noosa Chorale

Cal, our editor, has allowed a little more space in this Newsletter to provide me with an opportunity to review the past year and move us along into the Festive Season spirit—as in relationships, not drink!

Dropped into the hot seat so to speak as the newly elected president of the Chorale in March, I was presented with plans for the Verdi Requiem concert that had been well laid out and organized by the outgoing President of many years, John Woodlock. This made my entry into the new job a relatively easy progression from my role as Vice President.

What an event the Verdi Requiem concert was, with some 120 singers and the 55-piece orchestra complemented by 4 excellent soloists, all led by our conductor Adrian King. Audiences in both the Bi-Centennial Hall and the Lake Kawana Community Hall were awe struck that such professional performances could be heard on the Sunshine Coast, and the standing ovations on both occasions testified to their appreciation.

Our second concert, Mozart meets Jenkins, was one that demanded much from the choristers. The fast-paced Latin phrasing in the Mozart brought extra challenges in the learning process, but the choristers proved themselves equal to the task and the result was outstanding. The Jenkins Requiem was another coup for the Chorale. Here was a modern composer, somewhat unknown to the local populace, who was brought to light under the capable

The first Wassail, the Angels did sing...

JIM FAGAN



On December 14 and 15 Noosa Chorale will stage its seventh *Wassail*. Jim Fagan looks at why the Christmas Cheer concerts were started and how they have become such an amazingly popular annual event.

It was 2007 and Noosa Chorale was celebrating a bumper year. In two wonderful concerts with its new conductor, Adrian King, it had produced some beautifully expressive singing with *An Evening of Music* by English composer, John Rutter and brought the audience to its feet in a standing ovation with its glorious, soaring Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

But it had also been an expensive year and the choir knew it must raise



Noosa Chorale's Wassail 2011 with Conductor Adrian King in full flight.

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command of Adrian King, revealing the beautiful choral harmonies and orchestral brilliance with some unusual inputs from a variety of instruments. The overall effect was so striking to the audience that a standing ovation resulted.

We are now well into preparations for the 2013 Wassail, with Talluah Harper up to her head in arrangements to ensure a fun evening for all, and Nan Felton leading the preparation of some very surprising decorations. Choir members and patrons will be thrilled with the Christmas setting in the Bicentennial hall for the two concerts. And the hundreds of mince pies being cooked up now by the members under the expert tutelage of the Woodlocks are to die for!

This year, we have received an influx of new members, a number of whom have joined wholeheartedly in supplementing the work of Chorale committees. The addition of these new voices and helping hands augers well for the future of the Noosa Chorale.

Next year promises to be another exciting milestone in the history of the Noosa Chorale. It will be our 20th anniversary, we will be singing the Messiah in our first concert in May with other exciting events to follow for celebrating our 20th year. Stay tuned!!

Kind regards to all, and best wishes for the Festive Season!

John Davies (President)



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www.noosachorale.org.au

Find out more from our website

some money if it was to fulfil its 2008 program with planned choral blockbusters like Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and the Faure *Requiem*.

Enter Adrian's wife, Helen. She suggested the Chorale stage a *Wassail*, a Christmas Cheer concert which she and Adrian had used to good effect to raise money for their former U.K. group, the Grimsby Bach Choir. The 'fun-raiser' would also give fans the chance to sing carols and enjoy themselves with the choir.

Wassail comes from the Old Norse *ves heill* (or from a later time, the Anglo Saxon *waes hael*) which literally means "good health." Depending on how you feel at the time it can be a toast, an alcoholic drink like mulled or spiced ale, or a party.

It is a picture-evoking word. It's easy to imagine roistering Vikings hallooing *Wassail* as they dip their beards into their cups or 12th Century Englishfolk warming up in the winter weather with a hot bowl or two and a Christmas carol.

The Chorale loved the idea of its audience sitting at tables drinking punch and wine, eating mince pies and other Christmas fare and singing carols and festive songs. Members moved among the audience, handing out drinks and nibbles and singing as someone later said "like angels."

And Noosa loved it, too, as both nights were sold out with door patrons somehow being squeezed on to already



full tables.

"STARS" was the theme for the décor and the usually expressionless Bicentennial Hall looked like a giant winter fairyland with a 4-metre tree, studded with pine cones painted white, huge stars on the walls and a stage screen dotted with stars behind the singers.

Helen King's Grimsby experience and her skills as an interior decorator along with choir member Ann Milland's artistic flair plus an enormous effort of time and talent from the choir were responsible for the transformation.

As a means of having something to jingle (besides bells) for 2008, the *Wassail* was hugely successful. As a way of having a good time, it was a knock-out.

This Christmas, the choir is hoping for a full house both nights as next year will be its twentieth anniversary and it has plans for a year of lavish choral extravaganzas with Queensland Opera

soloists and huge symphony orchestras.

Every year since the first *Wassail*, the theme has been highly imaginative – "POINSETTIAS," "SNOWDROPS," "BELLS, BOWS, HOLLY AND BERRIES," and last year 'SEASIDE NOOSA.'

This year it's ANGELS and, if the fundraising and support from Noosa is as successful as previous years, the Chorale will no doubt be singing "Pennies from Heaven."



Audience members in 2008 get ready to start wassailing along with the choir.

Dabblings and diversions for the holidays

Choral Practice Sites

www.vocalist.org.uk/exercises.html

www.cyberbass.com

www.imslp.org/wiki/category:composers

www.royalfreemusicociety.org.uk

www.choralia.net

www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk

www.classical.net

www.gasilvis.net

www.choralnet.org

www.classiccat.net/index.php

Voice Stuff

www.singup.org/teaching-tools-advice/magazine-article/view/515-inside-the-voice/ Inside the Voice (A comprehensive, multi-media guide to the voice and vocal health)

www.lionsvoiceclinic.umn.edu/page2.htm Lions VOICE Clinic (How does your voice work?)

Music Stuff

www.limelightmagazine.com.au Limelight Website (Australia)

www.gramophone.co.uk/ Gramophone Magazine (UK)

www.soniclabyrinth.blogspot.com.au Sonic Labyrinth (Blog for the Eternally Cool in Classical Music)

Listen to Stuff on the Radio

www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/musicshow/

www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/intothemusic/

www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rhythmdivine/

www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/soundquality/

www.finemusicfm.com

Tougher Stuff

Try this quiz on rhythm. http://www.summitchoralsociety.org/rhythm_quiz.asp

Take basic lessons in music theory and test yourself on your understanding. www.musictheory.net

Try this quiz. Don't know the answers? Then go back and study the lessons!!

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learnlisteningonline/higherandadvancedhigher/musicaltopics/choralmusic/choralquizpage.asp

Books and Films about Choirs

Noosa Sings: Noosa Chorale, 15 Years of Classical Harmony. Book by Jim Fagan. 2009 (Available from Noosa Chorale)

Choir Man. Memoir by Jonathon Welch (Choir of Hard Knocks). Harper Collins Publishers. 2009 (Available from the ABC Shop)

The Choir, Unsung Town. Documentary in Gareth Malone series on community choirs. (Available from the ABC Shop)

Imba means Sing. Documentary feature film through the eyes of the African Children's Choir. 2013-2014 www.imbafilm.com

Song for Marion. Film starring Vanessa Redgrave and Terence Stamp. Director Paul Andrew Williams. 2012

Joyful Noise. Film starring Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton, Keke Palmer, Director Todd Graff. 2012

The Prisoners' Choir. Danish documentary. Directors Katia Forbert Petersen & Annette Mari Olsen. 2012

The Choir. Film about a prison choir in South Africa. Director Michael Davie. 2007 (Available from the ABC Shop)

Preaching to the Choir. Film starring Billoah Greene, Darien Sills-Evans, Novella Nelson. Director Charles Randolph-Wright. 2005

Les Choristes. Film starring Gérard Jugnot, François Béreland, Jean-Baptiste Maunier. Director Christophe Barratier. 2004

As it is in Heaven. Film starring Michael Nyqvist, Frida Hallgren. Director Kay Pollak. 2004

Boy's Choir. Japanese film. Director Akira Ogata. 2000

The Choir. TV Mini-Series based on Joanna Trollope's 1992 novel. Starring David Warner, James Fox. 1995

The Joys of the Women. Film about an Italian choir. Director Franco Di Chiera. 1993

Special Treats for Choristers

A subscription to the Berlin Philharmonic's Digital Concert Hall—Try it out for free.

www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/info



A roll-up portable electronic piano keyboard



A USB flash drive digital audio voice recorder (take to choir rehearsals to capture your part)



What's coming up?

SUNSHINE COAST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2013

A NIGHT AT THE PROMS

Conducted by *Adrian King* Featuring *Dominique Fagan* *Nick Kirkup*

7:00pm Saturday 23rd November 2013
Lake Kawana Community Centre
114 Sportsworld Parade
BOKARINA QLD 4575

7:00pm Saturday 30th November 2013
The J
61 Noosa Drive
NOOSA HEADS QLD 4567

2 Performances

Tickets Phone (07) 5445 5123 Website www.scsco.org.au

Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra
A Night at the Proms
Conducted by Adrian King
23rd November 7.00pm (Lake Kawana)
30th November, 7.00pm (J, Noosa)
Ph: 5445 5123
www.scsco.org.au

Sunshine Coast Choral Society Inc.
presents

Sounds of Christmas

Conductor
Adrian King

Soprano
Karina Gough

Accompanist
Natasha Koch

Sunday 8 December, 2:30pm
Nambour Uniting Church

\$20 includes afternoon tea and programme

Enquiries and bookings: 5444 3899
Credit card sales: www.trybooking.com
www.suncoastchoral.org.au

Sunshine Coast Choral Society
Sounds of Christmas
Conducted by Adrian King
8th December, 2.30pm
(Nambour Uniting Church)
Ph: 5444 3899
www.suncoastchoral.org.au

www.noosachorale.org.au

Noosa Chorale

presents

Wassail*

Christmas Cheer Concert 2013
With guest artist Andrew Pryor

7.30pm Saturday 14th December
7.30pm Sunday 15th December
Bicentennial Hall, Sunshine Beach

* **wassail** n. 1. the singing of Christmas carols. 2. a hot mulled punch often associated with Yuletide. vb. 3. to enjoy oneself with others in a noisy, lively way. [C13: from Old Norse *was* 'he'll be in good health', related to Old English *was* 'hale'; see HALE.]

Tickets \$30

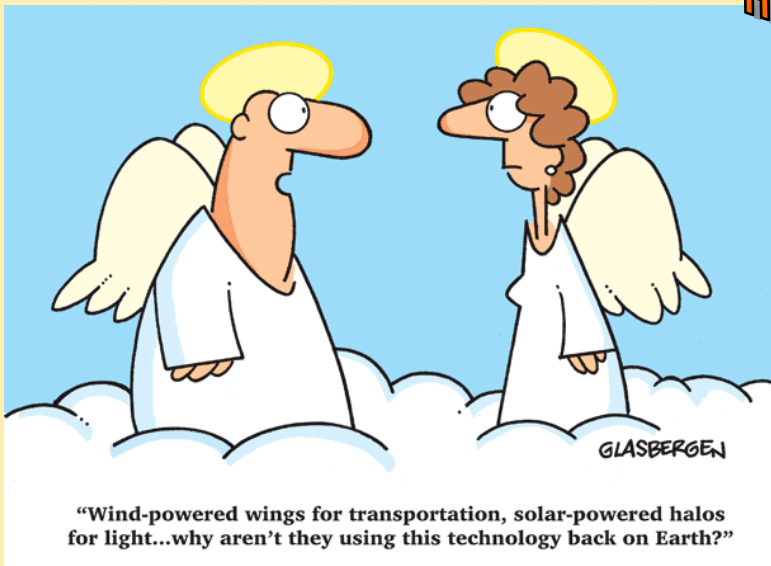
Includes fruit punch, gourmet nibbles & desserts, complimentary glass of bubbly, & program/song sheet (bar available for beer and wine purchases).

Organise a table for a family or group of friends, or just buy an individual ticket for yourself.

For further information and bookings:
phone 0424 086 732

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And on a light-hearted note



Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year
from Tune In



Noosa Chorale is supported by

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For enquiries regarding Tune in, the Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc, please contact the Editor, Cal Webb.

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