

# Tune in... to Noosa Chorale

The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc  
Volume 9, Number 6, June 2015

## Broadway to Jazz—simply de-lovely!

JIM FAGAN

It's de-lectable, it's de-licious, it's de-lightful and it's de Noosa Chorale taking time out from its usual offerings of superb classical music to sing Cole Porter's "It's De-lovely" and other great Broadway and movie smash hits at The J.

Tickets are on sale now for the two shows on Saturday and Sunday August 28-29 and are already being snapped up. Noosa locals and jazz enthusiasts from across the country are lining up to see the Chorale perform with Sydney and Melbourne's finest jazz musicians, the Australian Jazz Ensemble, led by ace trumpet player Bob Barnard.

Noosa Heads Jazz Club is bringing the band for its 10-day, non-stop Noosa Jazz Party which will drum roll with two toe tapping concerts with the Chorale.

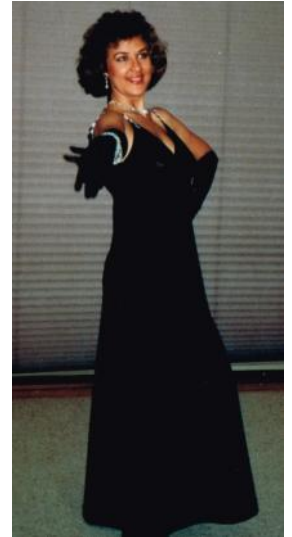
Headlined "Broadway to Jazz" the shows will be an infectious melange of trad jazz classics plus timeless songs from musicals like "South Pacific," "The Sound of Music," "Show Boat" and movies like "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" and the "Glenn Miller Story."

For the Chorale singers it's a change of beat and they're loving it. Tuesday night rehearsals at The J are jumping as singers practice "Chattanooga Choo Choo" with all the enthusiasm of a trainpotter who hasn't seen an engine in a month.



(Left) Linda Bishop kicking up her heels as Mabel in "The Pajama Game".

(Right) Linda singing "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend".



And for some it's a chance to display their previously unrevealed experience and talent in theatre and revue.

Soprano Linda Bishop is one. She has sung and danced in several productions, playing the roles of Mabel in "The Pajama Game" and Guilia in "The Gondoliers."

An experienced chorister, she has sung with choirs in Illinois, Texas, Brunei, Darwin and Caloundra and trained primary school choirs in the Northern Territory, Queensland, the U.S., Brunei and Hong Kong.

Diana Thomson sings with the altos and has been involved in more than 90 shows as a performer, composer and musical director and backstage.

She appeared in "The Boyfriend" in Canberra. "I played the role of Hortense, the French maid, who does her best to keep the young girls in line. The songs are jazzy as befits the era and it all ends very happily. A bit ditsy really but hey—it's a musical."

Margaret Haffenden, who joined the soprano section of the choir in 2014, has been involved

in musical theatre since high school, and has played supporting roles in the musicals "Brigadoon", "Calamity Jane", "Pirates of Penzance", and "Sweeney Todd the Barber", and the lead role of Jane Dawes in "Salad Days".

Fellow motorists on the route between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane may hear



Margaret Haffenden plays the lead role of Jane Dawes in "Salad Days" in 1975.

Margaret practising as she drives to and from work there each day.

These are just three of the Chorale's talented singers, and in the weeks leading up to The J concerts, we hope to feature others in Tune In —so stay tuned in!




Diana Thomson as Hortense in the 1983 production of "The Boyfriend" in Canberra.

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## Dancing Feet—a singing treat!

Noosa Chorale Vice-President Talluah Harper wanted something special for the St Thomas More Primary School fundraiser she was helping to organise so she invited a dozen or so singers from the Chorale to help with the entertainment.

And, judging by the calls for more from the 200 or so parents and friends there, she wasn't disappointed.

Led by Chorale music director Adrian King, the small group turned up at the Sunshine Beach school and sang "Lullaby of Broadway" and "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" which the Chorale is featuring in its upcoming "Broadway to Jazz" concert on August 28-29.

"I was incredibly proud of the Chorale's flexibility and performance. We could have sung more," a happy Talluah commented later.

"Many people told me we were fantastic. The school is so grateful it is going to help us publicise the "Broadway to Jazz" concert."



Left to Right: Carolyn Hay, Pam Sage, Gai Ramsay, Kay Cartwright, Linda Bishop, Debbie Boyle, Margaret Haffenden, Talluah Harper, Sherelle Scott, Adrian King, Roland Schroder, John Davies, Jim Fagan

## The never ending love the Beguine began

JIM FAGAN

*"It brings back the sound of music so tender  
It brings back a memory evergreen"*

It was 1941 and the Cole Porter classic *Begin the Beguine* was the swoon song for young lovers. Certainly, it was John and Mamie's. They laughed and they danced to it and, when they were married, John sang it for Mamie at their wedding reception.

But it was also a time of war and, after just a few months of being together, John was summoned to the Army. He joined the elite Long Range Desert Force and operated behind the German lines. He was killed in action, leaving behind a grieving widow and a daughter he never saw.

Mamie never married again. Her heart was closed to love and any thought of another man, devoting her life to her work in a university registrar's office and her family, nursing her

mother, her sister and her brother in law, when they became ill and until they died.

Mamie was my aunt. At family parties we sometimes sang *Begin the Beguine*. Indeed, at her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday party 12 months before she passed away, I sang it for her. She clearly loved the thought but wryly said it would have been better had I known all the words!

I'll be thinking of her when I sing it with the Chorale at our *Broadway to Jazz* concert in August. Were her thoughts in her final moments that now at last she would be reunited with beloved John? I believe they were.

*"Until you whisper to me once more, Darling, I love you.*

*And we suddenly know what heaven we're in  
When they begin the Beguine."*



Eleanor Powell and Fred Astaire dance to *Begin the Beguine* in the musical "Broadway Melody of 1940".

## NZ hills are alive with musical memories

ROSEMARY BROWN

Since beginning rehearsals for this upcoming concert, I cannot get Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine" out of my head ... I seem to be humming it all the time. It takes me back to our old lounge room in Christchurch when I was a child, number 7 out of 8 children, back to the sing-a-longs around the piano, whether it was my parents and some of their friends or just some family fun.

My favourite though was definitely Rogers & Hammerstein ... I am an absolute "Sound of Music" tragic and whilst I was only very young



Rose with husband Simon after singing at the Chorale's recent Anzac Centenary Concert.

when the movie was released, I think I saw it about 9 times, and these days have the digitally remastered version of the DVD, which surfaces when my husband, Simon, least expects it!!

The medleys we are singing take me back across the years with fond memories of family, some of whom are no longer with us, school musicals and growing up with the love of music. I'm excited ... and my sister is flying over from Christchurch for this one!!

# Still got that swing

CAROLYN HAY

When I was asked what memories the songs featured in our Broadway to Jazz Concert evoked, I was a bit surprised, and probably answered a bit curtly, that I was too young and, while I know and love many of the songs in the selection, they were not songs of my era but that of my parents.

When telling my parents about the songs chosen for this concert, of course the inevitable impromptu sing-a-long began.

Dad, who still has a good voice, tapping toes and conducting with his fingers and singing along, knew all the words to "Lullaby of Broadway" while I had the music and had to refer to that.

Mum, who still loves to try a little jitterbug, got the swing happening in her shoulders and sparkle in her eyes as she sang along to Cole Porter.

I'm sure they were both transported in time back to Cloudland in Brisbane where they danced during their courting days. It was the post war era and every Saturday night they waltzed and jitterbugged and gipsy tapped to the music of Billo Smith and his band.



Cloudland had a sprung floor and bounced as the people danced. Dad remembers when one corner collapsed and fell about six inches so the dancers had to dance down hill and up hill again.

They were very sad and said it was the end of an era when Cloudland was closed down.

So, I was very happy to hand Mum & Dad at lunch today tickets to the Saturday matinee of our concert. It was my birthday present to Dad who turns 90 on Sunday, August 30.

There will be family members from NZ joining them for the concert. I'm sure they will have a fantastic afternoon.



(Top) Cloudland Ballroom, in Brisbane's Bowen Hills, was the scene of thousands of concerts and dances after WWII and through to 1982 when the building was demolished.

(Below) Billo Smith and the Cloudland Dance Band were the main performers at Cloudland during the 1950s. Usually on piano, his wife Nessie Smith also sang with the band.



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to  
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# Tripping the light fantastic

KERRIE COOK

I was blessed to have grown up spending lots of time with both my maternal and paternal grandparents and even great grandparents! All of them and my parents too loved music and dancing. My paternal grandmother was of Irish and Welsh parents, so you can understand from where I inherited my passion for music.

Growing up, my home did not have a television but we did have a big old radiogram which we would sit around and listen to music and "soapies" in the evening, as well as my parents' wonderful records.

Many of the tunes I listened and danced to are part of the repertoire for the "Broadway to Jazz" concert. I have wonderful memories of times shared singing with my family to some of these tunes and practising my new dance steps with my father or mother.

My former husband also enjoyed music and dancing and we would spend many weekends at the local old time dances swirling around the dance floor to many of these rhythms. Some of my favourite tunes are included in the Col Porter tribute.

Apart from singing and dancing, one of my



other indulgences is musical theatre and the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lullaby of Broadway and the selections encompassed in Show Boat automatically bring a great big smile to my lips as I reminisce of great shows I have seen and of singing these tunes myself.

One particularly fond memory is of singing some of these around a big campfire with fellow campers when I went on a wonderful camping holiday with my grandparents in southern NSW just before I turned 13, and there I met my first boyfriend!

# Editor's film picks... and that's jazz!



**Cinema classics**  
**The Jazz Singer** (1927)  
 Watch Al Jolson sing "Toot Toot Tootsie Goodbye" with a whistling interlude.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD\\_YRnuuKyY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD_YRnuuKyY)



**42nd Street** (1933)  
 Watch Ruby Keeler sing and dance the title song "42nd Street".  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge8qktLangw>



**Born to Dance** (1936)  
 Watch Virginia Bruce sing "I've Got You Under My Skin".  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap9BZo18Tss>



**Show Boat** (1936)  
 Watch Paul Robeson sing "Ol' Man River".  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyJtGNk9iEU>



**Broadway Melody of 1940** (1940)  
 Watch The Music Maids sing "Begin the Beguine" and a dance routine with Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Za5ke6YwMtc>



**Lullaby of Broadway** (1941)  
 Watch Doris Day sing "Just One of Those Things".  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtQ\\_fx2sbY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtQ_fx2sbY)



**An American in Paris** (1951)  
 Watch Gene Kelly sing "I Got Rhythm".  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvglHa\\_P9BA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvglHa_P9BA)



**Oklahoma** (1955)  
 Watch Gordon MacRae sing "The Surrey with the Fringe on the Top".  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIG\\_GVE-KiE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIG_GVE-KiE)



**Anything Goes** (1955)  
 Watch Mitzi Gaynor and chorus sing and dance to the title song "Anything Goes".  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqQ\\_OgAANgM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqQ_OgAANgM)



**High Society** (1956)  
 Watch Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong singing "Now You Has Jazz".  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BBwycMj7Po>



**South Pacific** (1958)  
 Watch Mitzi Gaynor sing "I'm Gonna Wash that Man Right Outta My Hair".  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odcCzb-h3Fo>

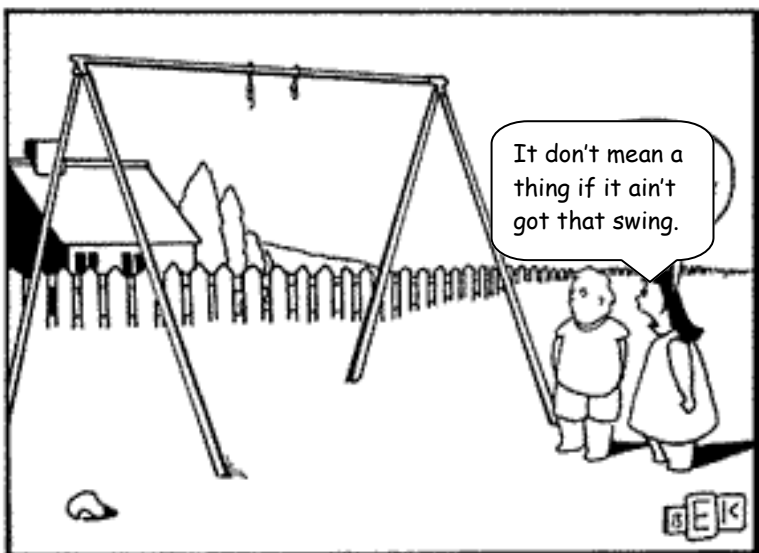


And the male chorus sing "There is Nothin' Like a Dame".  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgzvTHsOxSQ>



Ever thought you'd like to play the clarinet, if only you had a clarinet? Well, now nothing needs to stop you—you can make your own. All you need is a carrot, a little ingenuity, and a lot of musicianship. Watch Linsey Pollak, Australian musician, instrument maker, composer, musical director and community music facilitator show how in his TEDX talk. Or if you don't have a carrot, how about using a garden hose or feather duster instead?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BISrGwN-yH4>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu60MwpMiow>



## And the last word from our President

Dear Singers and Friends,

We're delighted to welcome some new members who've joined the Chorale this term. But we can always fit in more basses and tenors—it's not too late for all you enthusiastic shower-crooners to throw down the towel and pick up a jazz score. Our rehearsals are very enjoyable and excellent brain food too.

Ticket sales for the Broadway to Jazz concert have opened up unusually early and already many seats have been booked by interstate jazz enthusiasts who are staying on for the 10-day Jazz Party that follows the concert. Please book soon if you don't want to be disappointed.

John Davies,  
 President.