



Noosa Chorale

Tune In

Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

Volume 13, Number 7, September 2019

Adrian rarin' to go for Wassail

JIM FAGAN

Noosa Chorale music director Adrian King is back to his brilliant best and the enthusiasm from the choir confirms this year's Christmas Cheer Wassail will top anything in the last 12 years.

But six weeks ago it was no laughing matter. Adrian was in hospital recovering from seven fractured ribs, a fractured sternum and extensive bruising as a result of a car collision.

Our singers are still in awe at how Adrian fought off his injuries and, with the help of painkillers, managed to work through a week of rehearsals and two shows at The J when the choir presented "Cabaret and all that Jazz" with The Australian Jazz Ensemble on August 23-24.

It was in the best showbiz tradition of the show must go on and he well deserved the rapturous ovation from cheering audiences.

Chorale president Gai Ramsay summed it up best when she said, "Adrian's bravery and strength of will was amazing. He was in considerable pain but it didn't show.

"Adrian has been our music director for 12 years and largely because of his



talent and dedication the Chorale has given Noosa many wonderful performances of music to suit all tastes and enjoy.

"What he did this weekend was inspirational."

This year the theme for the Wassail is LOVE and, although still a bit tender, Adrian has lovingly planned a programme of timeless carols and

popular Christmas songs for audiences to sing with the choir.

Favourites like "Love Came Down at Christmas" and "All My Heart This Night Rejoices" plus five Australian Carols, including "The Three Drovers" have been included.

Tickets are now on sale so book now to enjoy the hearty Christmas Cheer of drinks, mince pies and cheese platters in a "cabaret-style" table setting.

Eat, sing, drink and be merry. It's time to Wassail!

Wassail
Christmas Cheer Concert
13 & 14 December 2019

BOOK NOW

Cabaret a huge hit with Noosa Jazz Party-goers! More photos page 4...



Gail's 25 years of dedication

ANGIE OAKLEY



Gail Spira inverted on Noosa Beach

If the slender, ballerina-graceful figure near the front of the altos looks very much at home, it's because she is.

From the very first tentative notes of the Noosa Chorale, Gail Spira has been instrumental (to use an appropriate pun) in its smooth running, its burgeoning success, and in the joy it has given to countless aficionados down the years.

She might claim otherwise, seeing her role as a background one, playing down (those puns keep coming) her own importance. But as her story unfolds it's clear that without her devotion to music, the arts, and to her beloved husband Leonard who, together with local barrister Joe McMahon, determined to put on a performance of 'Messiah', the Noosa Chorale might not have blossomed in the way it has. She tells the story with typical self-deprecation:

"During the Chorale's first 13 years I acted as Leonard's 'personal assistant' and was secretary on the committee. It never occurred to me to be one of the choristers—my attention was taken up behind the scenes.

"Besides I did not consider myself 'a singer'. I played the violin in several early concerts before Leonard was able to source more experienced musicians! Over the years I came to realize that you did not have to be a trained singer to join the Chorale.

"After Adrian King took over as conductor and it was announced that the Chorale was going to do 'Carmina Burana', I couldn't resist an attempt to sing in that. I quickly discovered the joy of singing."

Gail's life with Leonard until his death in 2013 gave her many years of happy marriage and was a true partnership of equals. Their shared love of music, the arts, and adventure took them around the world on many memorable trips.

As well, it enabled her to pursue a life dedicated to the arts. In her home town of Melbourne, her work in early childhood education enabled her to pass on her passion for the creative arts - movement and dance, art, and of course music.

Gail moved with Leonard to Sydney, where she continued teaching until she was invited to become the administrator at The School of Colour and Design in Cammeray.

Eventually, Sydney's loss became Noosa's gain, and their contribution to the cultural life of the area has been immense - and still is.

Gail is addicted to her regular yoga class and home practice, and maintains her fitness in a range of ways—a regular Jazz Dance class, walking, and occasionally jogging, not to mention some modest cycling close to home in Noosa Springs.

Nevertheless she still maintains her lifelong commitment to voluntary work. She was president of the Friends of the Noosa Regional Gallery, and for many years volunteered with The Noosa Long Weekend, and Noosa Music Society.

For the last six years she has been on the ADFAS committee (Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society), undertaking a particular role as a Young Arts coordinator sourcing young persons worthy of modest annual sponsorship in the arts.

And those who know her well are aware of the many quiet generous acts she performs for those in need. But as always, she takes a modest view of her achievements:

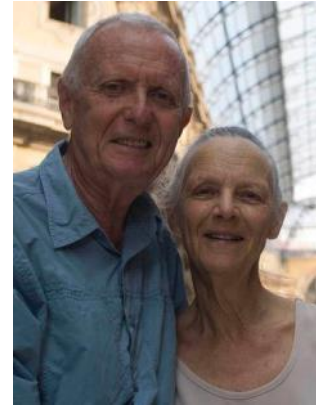
"In 2014, I was made a Life Member and Patron [of the Noosa Chorale] I accepted this graciously but was not sure I was deserving - many members have made significant contributions to the Chorale over the years."

And the devotion has been reciprocated. As Gail says:

"Noosa Chorale is like family to me!"

Musicians are familiar with grace notes - the tiny beats before the main notes, which unobtrusively create a fuller sound, thus enhancing the music.

Seems like a fitting metaphor for a person whose life of cultural accomplishment, service to the community and dedication to others, has enriched every endeavour of which she has been a part.



Gail with husband, the late Leonard Spira OAM

Party time for Chorale's 25th year

JIM FAGAN

Noosa Chorale had something to sing about on Sunday 22 September. It was party time for about 80 choir members and supporters as they celebrated the choir's 25 years of entertaining Noosa.

And it was a special time also for sopranos, Hettie van Wyk and Joan Murray, who sang in the choir's first concert, Handel's Messiah, in 1994, both receiving a framed certificate recognising their continuous contribution to the choir over the years.

The party was held at the Tewantin home of Chorale president, Gai Ramsay, who told guests including past president John Woodlock and Yvonne, now living on the Gold Coast, that the choir had established itself in the hearts of Noosa music fans as an entertaining, talented and innovative group of singers.

"During the last 25 years we have had two music directors, the late Leonard Spira and Adrian King.

"We were lucky to have the benefit of Leonard's inspirational leadership until he retired at the end of 2006—and the continuing leadership of his wife Gail Spira who

serves as one of our two patrons (along with Chorale founder Joe McMahon). And then in 2007 we were delighted when Adrian picked up the baton.

"While Leonard's strength was classical choral works, Adrian has challenged us with Grand Opera, light opera, English folk songs and jazz hits from Broadway. We've had anthems at Anzac Day services, Aussie songs at Citizenship ceremonies, Christmas carols at Hastings Street and the Junction, flash mobs and pop-ups, we've sung at local church services, we've done choral backings for other singers... You name, and we've done it!

"Thanks to these two consummate musicians, our wonderful committees and all of you singers we have established a tradition of excellence during the last 25 years.

"We have a healthy membership as well as a solid, enthusiastic groups of volunteers and supporters and I believe the months and years ahead are alight with growth, opportunity and fun times."



President Gai Ramsay

Helen King and Music Director extraordinaire Adrian King, with Hayley Brown and future hopeful chorister 10-week old Eloise



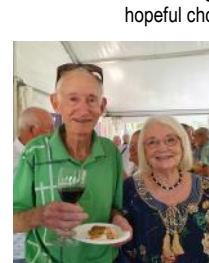
Jenny Jackson, Helen King, Valerie Cozens and Jutta Rathgaber



Ian Jobling, John D'Arcy, Gai Ramsay, Jim Fagan, Ann Milland



John and Yvonne Woodlock



Eugene and Rose Barry



Gai Ramsay, Hettie van Wyk, and Joan Murray



Hettie van Wyk & Ann Milland



Jean-Luc and Isi Lawrence, Fran Wilson, Anne Purdue



Jo Fagan, Anne Jobling, John and Elizabeth Henley



Trish Fox, Ann Milland, Pam Sage



Marilyn Benson, Tony Wellington, Judy Ditter, Veronica D'Arcy



Carol Monks, Julie Simpson, Claudia Andersen



Jean Bleyerveld, Eleanor MacDonald, Wilma Barnes, Marilyn Abel



Cal Webb

The J swings with “Cabaret and all that Jazz”



Australian Jazz Ensemble (Peter Locke [piano], Nigel Date [guitar], James Clark [bass], Rod Gilbert [drums], Paul Williams [reeds] and Steven Grant [trumpet] with vocalist Juliarna Clark



Janet Brewer accompanies the Chorale’s set



Juliarna Clark, chanteuse



The Shimmy Sisters (Margaret Haffenden, Jenny Jackson, and Linda Bishop)



Frank Wilkie, Emcee



Conductor Adrian King



Rod Gilbert sings “The Way You Look Tonight” with the Sopranos and Altos



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