



# Tune In

Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

Volume 13, Number 1, March 2019

## VERDI MASS-TERPIECE FOR NOOSA

JIM FAGAN

This year audiences in London, Paris, Minneapolis, Pennsylvania, Brisbane, the Gold Coast and, no doubt elsewhere in the world will be entranced by Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*—one of the great icons of western music.

And here's the good news. You don't have to travel all over to enjoy this musical marvel by Italian composer Verdi, best known for his wonderful operas like *Aida*, *La Traviata* and *Il Trovatore*.

It's being performed on Sunday May 26 at 2pm right here in Noosa. Noosa Chorale is staging it at the Leisure Centre in Wallace Park and music director, Adrian King, can't wait.

"It's a conductor's dream," he told Tune In. "Blazing trumpets, thunderous drums, divine solo passages and grand, moving choruses. Probably that's the best way to

summarise the power and emotion of Verdi's masterpiece.



"It's Noosa Chorale's 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary Year and we want to make it a year that Noosa music lovers will long remember.

"We have 130 singers in the chorus as we've invited the Sunshine Coast Choral Society which, coincidentally, is observing its 25<sup>th</sup> year, to join us.

"I'm also music director of that choir and I can tell you the enthusiasm in rehearsal of all these talented singers in both choirs is wonderful to see and hear."

The four guest soloists include internationally recognised opera singers Hungarian soprano Judit Molnar and Australian baritone Jeffrey Black.

"Queensland Opera tenor Andrew Pryor has appeared several times with us and is a Noosa favourite. Our mezzo soprano is another Queensland Opera soloist Melissa Gregory."

Adrian said: "The 50-piece Verdi Orchestra will be the largest number of musicians the Chorale and the Sunshine Coast Choral Society has ever sung with – not unlike *The Symphonic Orchestra Giuseppe Verdi of Milan*, founded in 1993 by Vladimir Delman.

"I am delighted and proud to work with such wonderful and talented Sunshine Coast players in what will be a most memorable afternoon."

**Tickets now on sale—book early to be sure of your seat!!**



Adrian King, Music Director



Judit Molnar, Soprano



Melissa Gregory, Mezzo Soprano



Andrew Pryor, Tenor



Jeffrey Black, Baritone

Noosa Chorale Silver Anniversary

# VERDI REQUIEM

**Sunday 26 May 2019, 2pm**

Noosa Leisure Centre

9 Wallace Drive, Noosaville

tickets: \$35 (\$25 student)

bookings: [www.thej.com.au](http://www.thej.com.au)

phone enquiries: 07 5329 6560

**Tickets now  
on sale**



## WHEN WE WERE YOUNG : 1994—1999

JIM FAGAN

This call in Noosa News on April 4, 1994, for singers to learn and perform Handel's *Messiah* heralded the beginning of a tradition of performance excellence that Noosa music enthusiasts have come to expect.

For 25 years the Chorale has delighted Noosa with a total of 65 major concerts of world-renowned classical works by names like Handel, Puccini, Beethoven, Mozart, plus jazz classics, hit Broadway musicals, English folk songs and the always popular Christmas Wassail and its carols.

As Noosa's own community choir, it has been a fixture with innumerable appearances in Anzac Day Observances, Council Citizenship Ceremonies, Hastings Street carols, church anniversaries and fundraising events by other not-for-profit groups.

To me, the wonder of it all is that this coastal shire of ours with just 44,000 people has been, and is able to produce a choir that inspires reviewers to use words like "remarkable" and a "musical experience."

The Chorale has enjoyed many history making moments and, as it's our Silver Anniversary Year, Tune In takes a nostalgic look in pictures at some of them.

### MUSIC

## Learn the *Messiah*

HANDEL'S *Messiah* is probably one of the most well-known and often performed early classical choral piece.

Considered slightly risqué in its day, it was first performed in Dublin, Ireland. No doubt this was due to the fact that Irish audiences were known for their flexibility in the musical world and also to test the sensitive religious waters of the time.

On hearing the Hallelujah chorus for the first time the then King of England, so thrilled with its majesty, rose from his seat. Of course when the King of England stood so did everyone else. This tradition is still carried out, the audience for the Hallelujah chorus standing for its duration.

The newly formed Noosa Chorale, under the direction of Leonard Spira is now rehearsing for excerpts during the year and a full performance at Christmas. The Chorale is currently seeking new members.

Anyone interested in learning the *Messiah*, whether beginner or otherwise should attend at the main hall Carramar retirement village on the Tewantin/Cooroy Rd in Tewantin at 6.30pm Monday April 11 or phone Joe McMahon on 49 7222 or 74 0627 after hours.

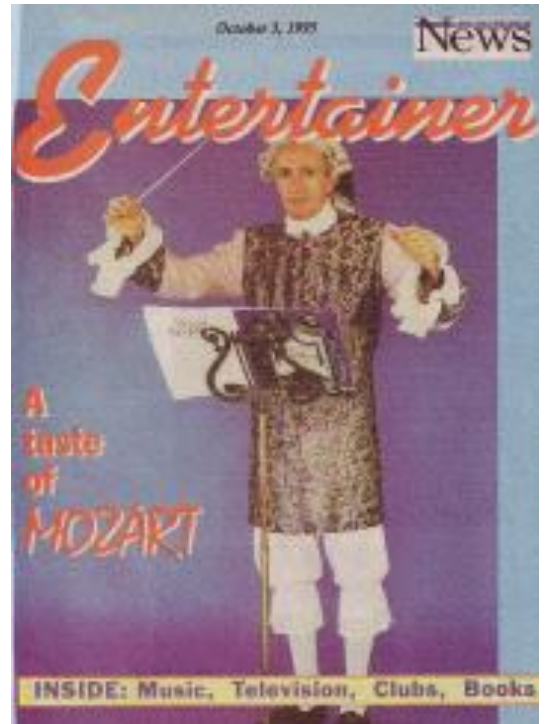
Excerpt from Noosa News, 4 April 1994



**1994** It's March 1994 and Chorale founder Joe McMahon (front row on the right, in the blue shirt) welcomes singers to the first practice at Carramar Aged Care's club house.



**1994** Singers and musicians on stage before the inaugural performance of Messiah on December 11 1994



**1995** Is it Leonard or Mozart? Music director Leonard Spira on the cover of Noosa News Entertainer, October 3, 1995



**1995** First outdoor publicity shoot at Noosa Fair, September 1995



**1997** Gertrude Macey, Pam Morley and Diana Wales pin their scarves before the Mozart, Handel and Vivaldi concert on March 1, 1997



**1998** The Choral Symphony concert in May, 1998

**1998** Sopranos and tenors prepare for the April 24, 1999, performance of Messiah.



## New singers excited about singing Verdi Requiem ANGIE OAKLEY

Our 25<sup>th</sup> year has seen us welcome seven new members. All bring a diverse range of experience and accomplishment to our choir, and all are united in their love of music - their main motivation for joining the Chorale.

The Verdi Requiem has been a drawcard for many to take the plunge. As alto Rita Malik says, 'It's now or never', and all are relishing the challenge, which soprano Frances Pennay intends to 'take in both hands.' They are delighted to be working with Adrian, who is deemed 'very serious, but with a twinkle in his eye', and consider Janet's accompaniment to be 'quite marvellous.'

Amid lives lived in many places and in a range of professions, all were quick to acknowledge their school choir as their introduction to the singing that has led them to join choirs throughout their lives.

Having recently moved to Noosa, soprano Marianne Seldon has been a long-standing member of the Red Hill Community Choir in Brisbane, and specialises in Scandinavian music, as a link to her heritage.

Alto Sarah James, another recent arrival in Noosa, is a classically trained flautist who has sung in school and university choirs. In Canberra she participated in the community singing programs of Canberra Choral Society and the Llewellyn Choir.

Fellow Noosa-newcomer, bass John Whiteley was for many years the musical director of the Yass Music club, and has fond memories of growing up in Yorkshire in a musical family who would gather round the piano at home or at the local pub for a Sunday evening sing song.

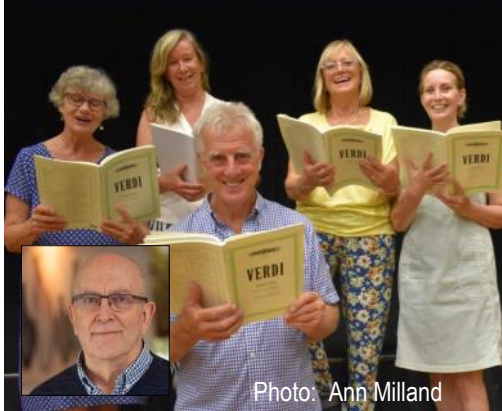


Photo: Ann Milland

L to R: Frances Pennay, Rita Malik, John Whiteley, Marianne Seldon, Isabel Lawrence  
Inset: Donald Grant

Rita Malik too has memories of her time as a student in Salzburg, when they would vacate their rooms for the Berlin or the Vienna Philharmonic in exchange for free tickets to their wonderful concerts. She has come to Cooroy after 40 years in Gympie and has always loved singing... 'it feels so natural, like breathing.'

Another long standing local, soprano Isabel Lawrence has sung in a Melbourne choir but has called Noosa home for the last twenty-two years. She was somewhat hesitant about joining but has felt very welcomed by everyone, especially fellow soprano Linda Bishop whose lovely smile is well known to us all.

Tenor Donald Grant also hails from a musical family. His father – a minister – played the organ and piano and his sisters were all good singers. He has sung in the Queensland Municipal Choir, and music has always provided some light relief from his work in forensic psychiatry.

Soprano Frances Pennay doesn't mind a challenge and has performed some esoteric works including some Renaissance music sung *a cappella*, and the Duruflé Requiem. She has sung with Spirit Song in Tewantin and is finding great satisfaction in being part of the choir – a sentiment echoed by the others.

'It's a fabulous feeling being in the middle of a group of singers', John Whiteley tells us, and Rita Malik especially loves, 'when it all comes together and it's glorious!'

I think I can heartily endorse her words on behalf of the whole of the Chorale and we look forward to many glorious moments as the year unfolds.

## Chorale welcomes new Aussies

JIM FAGAN

The Chorale's first sing of the year took place on January 26 when we were invited by Noosa Council's to help with its Australian Citizenship Ceremony on Australia Day.

Twenty-six new Australians from Africa, the U.S. Europe and the Pacific Islands were welcomed by Mayor Tony Wellington who said our country's heritage had been made richer by people from many lands.

The Chorale was in fine voice singing an Australian medley which included iconic hits like Peter Allen's *I still call Australia Home*, The Seekers *I Am*

*Australian* as well as the *National Anthem*.

Thanking the Chorale, Council executive administration officer and ceremony

organiser, Colleen O'Shea, said "the performance was the best I have experienced."



Noosa Chorale sings at Council's Citizenship ceremony on Australia Day Photo: Colleen O'Shea



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