

Chorale's Gold Medal Olympic Concert

JIM FAGAN

Nearly twenty years ago I saw Jose Carreras and Sarah Brightman sing "Friends for Life" at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. Admittedly, it was on television but for me it was an unforgettable performance which I still find thrilling to watch on YouTube.

The good news for Noosa Chorale fans is the lovely song will be heard again when the Chorale presents "The Spirit of Olympia—Music from the Olympic Games" on May 28 and 29 at the J.



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And in a glittering gold medal programme the Chorale, with sublime Hungarian soprano Judit Molnar and

former Ten Tenors' David Kidd, will perform "Friends for Life" and more of the timeless music and songs which has opened and closed the Olympics since 1896.

Music like *Chariots of Fire* (related to Paris, 1924), *The Hallelujah Chorus* (Berlin, 1936), John Lennon's *Imagine* (Stevie Wonder, London 1996) and *Because We Believe* (Andrea Bocelli, Turin 2006) and *Jerusalem* (London, 2012),

Chorale music director Adrian King, who will conduct the Chorale and the 33-piece Noosa Orchestra, says, "Every singer – without exception – is so pleased that at last we can all come together, make music and sing our 'hearts out'."

"Our rehearsals to date have had a renewed excitement and gusto for the most memorable programme of music from the Olympic Games ever since the competition's inauguration."

And to add to the excitement of the performance giant screens on either side of the stage will show rare photographs of historic Olympic moments.

Dawn is Chorale Olympic Ambassador

Australian swimming legend Dawn Fraser AC MBE has agreed to be Chorale Ambassador for the May "Spirit of Olympia" concert.

"I am thrilled by this invitation from Noosa Chorale. I have competed and been present as an official in many Games since 1956 and, while the pursuit of excellence is what the Olympics is all about. it isn't only competition, medals and remarkable athletes.

"Every Games. since the first one in Athens in 1896, has had opening and closing musical themes and songs featuring not only timeless music but world-famous singers, musician and entertainers."

"I am informed this is the first time a concert featuring Olympic music of this nature has been presented in Australia and I am excited by the promise it holds."

BUMPER ISSUE
 Welcome back to all our readers!

And, finally, we are extremely proud the concerts have attracted the recognition and support of President John Coates and The Australian Olympic Committee.

In a special message to the choir the committee's CEO Matt Carroll has said, 'The Chorale's initiative is certainly promoting the Olympics in a unique way.'

As well as presenting a unique and original concert, this is a brand-new year for the Chorale. We have a new president, Kay Cartwright, taking over from Gai Ramsay who has served us so well for the past four years. You can meet Kay on P.2

In addition to Noosa Council's support for our May "Spirit of Olympia" concert, we are also delighted to welcome a new sponsor, Sunrise Beach Village, which comes to us via Lendlease Corporation which is developing the new retirement village in association with Blue Care (see P.7).



Dawn Fraser met with Chorale singers, Ian Jobling, Kay Cartwright and Jim Fagan at the Forest Café, Noosa Acres (Photo: Leela Lewis)

Hail and Farewell

ANGIE OAKLEY

Gai Ramsay has decided to step aside from her position as President of the Noosa Chorale. But fortunately for us, she will still be fully involved in everything choral!

Her time in the role has been infused by her wonderful spirit, energy, musicianship and all round accomplishment – not to mention her ability to throw a marvellous party! We have all benefitted enormously from her generosity and commitment.



We'll let Gai speak for herself with her signature grace and generosity:

After four years as President, I found myself "running out of steam" and the enthusiasm needed successfully to lead the Chorale.

Having recently turned the grand age of 75, I'm also having a "late life" crisis and feel the need to spend more time with Bob and my family.

As I reflect on the past four years (which have sped by), I'm enormously grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Adrian, Janet and the Management Committee and to have participated in such successful events.

All of this was with the support and appreciation of the Noosa Chorale membership.

I leave this position, fully confident in the skills and enthusiasm of the incoming President, Kay; Secretary Rita, and newly formed Management Committee which now has the added skills of Sherelle Scott and John Whitely.

I'll now be happily singing along in the alto section, and always available to assist in whatever way required.

Love to all Gai

Big shoes to fill! (Well, elegant pumps if they are Gai's shoes.) Nevertheless, we are indeed fortunate to have another capable, generous and musically gifted Chorale member to take up the role.



Kay Cartwright needs no introduction, but we can take a moment to remind ourselves of her long history with the Chorale, and her dedication and love for the music. We are in good hands...

I began singing with Noosa Chorale in 2002. The first concert I was involved in was conducted by Ken Evans and was entitled "Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II". I stood next to a lady called Betty, in the alto section. Turned out to be Betty Evans, the wife of the conductor.

I was absolutely taken with the music, the variety and especially the jazz piece entitled "American-Czech Musings". When I looked to see who the composer was, Betty proudly pointed to Ken.

At that time, Leonard and Gail were sitting in the audience and I could not help but notice they were looking at me and whispering to each other.

What had I done? Was I singing flat? Was something undone? But Gail set me straight later. She said that they decided I had the most perfect chorister's mouth. Well, I'll take that.

I have been involved in choirs for most of my life. My father and mother both had very fine voices and encouraged all children to be involved in music. Primary school, high school, college choirs were all joined by me.

I did not really choose to be an alto. When I was at high school, the nun teaching us music asked all those who were learning piano to put up their hands. I dutifully did so and she told us that we were all altos.

I really didn't mind though because I was the youngest in a family of 8, with two older sisters who insisted on singing the harmony when we sang all the Supremes' songs together. I was told I had to sing the melody – Diana Ross style.

I had a big break from singing in choirs after I left college, due to the fact I had to work. Then marriage and children intervened and it was not until my youngest child was at school that I felt I could join again.

Trish Fox was teaching my three children piano and insisted I join the Noosa Chorale.

I remember feeling very inadequate but quickly gained enough confidence to sing out. I was promptly told by another alto (she's not a member any more, so all you altos can relax), that I was singing far too loudly. That dented my confidence for a while.

After Ken's concert, which I am told was the first concert for Jim Fagan as well, Leonard Spira resumed his duties as conductor and I continued with him until Adrian took over in 2007. We are so fortunate to have had Leonard and now Adrian to take us to such musical heights.

May I say, it is the most uplifting experience to be able to sing in a choir! To be part of a large body of voices is unparalleled in my musical experience.



My head literally spins when we achieve that sound that our conductor is looking for. It is also so therapeutic. I hope to be able to feel that for many years to come.

But Noosa Chorale is not only about singing. The camaraderie is obvious. The fact that Noosa Chorale is a non-audition choir is something pretty unique.

While I am sure that can sometimes be challenging for some, the fact is that we can encourage people to come and try it out without any pressure. Some may leave, but many stay and become valuable members.

And it is for all the above reasons that I decided to accept nomination for President. This gives me a chance to give back to the organization that has given me so much pleasure.

Kay Cartwright

Meet the multi-talented Janet Brewer

ANGIE OAKLEY

The slender and elegant figure of Janet Brewer at the keyboard is a familiar and much admired fixture of our Chorale rehearsals. Smilingly obliging, picking up Adrian's every cue with consummate skill and patient attention, she is the perfect accompanist.



It's a unique role and requires an equally unique combination of musicianship, technical excellence and the ability and temperament to support and augment the 'main attraction' – be that the Chorale concerts, or the students she assists for their performance exams.

But to imagine Janet only in a support role is to miss the point of this quite remarkable musician in our midst.

Her whole life has been one of music. From the age of seven, when she was irresistibly drawn to the piano in her grandmother's house, the shape of her life was set.

She comes from a musical family – aunts and uncles played piano and trombone, her brother is an accomplished trumpeter and drummer, and her father was a jazz aficionado. But Janet takes this to a new level of passion and commitment.

'I never set out to be a performer,' Janet declares. 'From an early age I just loved to play.' And to this day she spends anything from four to six hours a day practising. So much so that when she is prescribed a two-week break, as a 'rest', she tells me that her patience 'leaves her.'

Hard to imagine for those of us who have witnessed her infinite supply of that particular quality! And of the time she was teaching in a school and couldn't play as much as she wished, she simply says, 'It hurt me inside.'

To augment her love of music, Janet has achieved much academic distinction: a Bachelor's degree in Music, German and Education, and a Masters degree from The Queensland Conservatorium in performance and research.

Her thesis was a study of the legendary Australian pianos made by Stuart and Sons – four pedals, and 108 keys – who knew!

As well, 2013 saw Janet travel to Trondheim and Cambridge to study under Professors Ketil Haugsand and Peter Holman respectively and subsequently to perform at the St Olav Festival Trondheim, and in Cambridge as part of the 2013 Cambridge Early Music concert Series.

As many of you are aware, Janet is also an accomplished flautist, saxophonist, clarinetist and trombone player. Her first job was in Bundaberg, where she taught woodwind, brass, and percussion, and played in various bands.

That was where she met her musician/engineer husband Warren, whose work took him to Nambour, where they discovered the particularly vibrant musical community of the Sunshine Coast.

Fortunately for us they decided to make Yandina their home, installed 'the best piano on the Sunshine Coast' – a Steinway, as well as a harpsichord and an upright piano for her work as a much sought after music teacher, and spent the next twenty years enriching the cultural life of this region immeasurably.

At least once a month she can be found in concert with one of any number of ensembles, most often with the Arioso Chamber Ensemble, and the Pacific Chamber Players, of which she is musical director.

Janet loves the variety of outlets for her talents, which range from guest appearances with the Queensland Baroque Orchestra (BYO

harpsichord!) and the Camerata Chamber Orchestra, to the Fragments Ensemble, and, most recently accompanying choir member Jonathan Anstock in his evenings with Leonard Cohen.

Always learning and pushing herself to higher levels of excellence, she finds herself inspired by her fellow musicians. Over the years, she tells me, her playing has changed somewhat. No longer in a rush, she finds she is able to put more space into the music.

Nevertheless there is still so much to be done. One of her future projects is the recording a CD, and who among us would not wish to have a permanent record of the work of this splendid musician. In the meantime we can all enjoy the privilege of witnessing the work of such a classy and accomplished artist.

A poster for Pacific Chamber Players 2021. It features a yellow and white color scheme with a treble clef graphic. The text lists four concert programs: "Glorious Beethoven" (March 20-21), "Sparkling Classics" (August 28-29), "Baroque Brilliance" (November 13-14), and a pre-concert talk. It also includes booking information and the website www.pacificchamberplayers.co.



(Above) Janet with Pacific Chamber Players
(Below) with Arioso Chamber Ensemble

ARIOSO CHAMBER ENSEMBLE CONCERTS 2021

Saturday 24 April, 2:30 pm | Eudlo Hall
19 Rosebed St, Eudlo, Qld 4554

Friday 30 April, 7:30pm | Uniting Church,
114 Rusden St, Armidale NSW 2350

Friday 7 May, 7:00pm | 4MBS Classic FM,
384 Old Cleveland Rd, Coorparoo Qld 4151

Sunday 9 May, 2:30 pm | Majestic Theatre
3 Factory St Pomona Qld 4568



“It’s great to be back,” say happy singers

IAN JOBLING

Noosa Chorale singers are happy to be back post pandemic, singing for Adrian King as they prepare for their concert of unforgettable music from the Olympic Games, “The Spirit of Olympia.” The air has been alive not only with the sounds of music but with members telling each other tales of how they spent the year of Covid 19. I asked a few of the singers to write about their experiences and adventures during that time, and how it felt to be back singing with their friends.

RITA MALIK

Alto, and newly elected Secretary of the Chorale

After the initial shock, despair and worry about my business, I settled with a lot of gusto into this new lifestyle.



No singing, but also no work, as my travel agency specializing in tours to Europe came to an absolute standstill.

After processing all the cancellations and refunds, the days were all of a sudden for me to enjoy as I pleased. What an awesome feeling.

We completed two 2 ‘reno’ jobs – one a derelict house, the other ‘myself’ (not quite as derelict, I like to think) - requiring a few minor operations. The things you do when you are bored!

I made use of the lack of visitors in Noosa and took my bike across to the North Shore for a few dream rides on the hard sand right beside the ocean. Magic! A ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ opportunity with no speeding 4W-D vehicles to worry about.

Apart from riding my bike, I am on a quest to check out as many coffee shops with friends as possible, enjoying more sporting activities, trying my hand at becoming a travel blogger, and am turning our 5-acre property into a Christmas tree enterprise.

What does it feel like to be back singing in the Chorale? Wonderful!!

Conductor Adrian King leading the Chorale’s socially distanced rehearsals, with Janet Brewer accompanying on keyboard.



JOHN WHITELEY

Bass and newly elected member of the Chorale committee

No choir! Thank heavens for gardening.

Having the time, energy and finance from the Noosa



Council allowed me to spend endless days rebuilding garden beds in the Noosa Community Garden.

C19 rules meant there was no one else around – freedom to play out loud whatever music I desired. In a C19 world, it really was a win-win situation.

To sing or not to sing—that is the question. C19 news about singing in choirs was not very encouraging. So, deciding whether to return to the Chorale was not an easy one.

It was rather like walking a tightrope over the Grand Canyon, it’s easier to accept all the good reasons why it’s not a good idea to do it and stay home.

However, once you’ve committed and taken those first few steps you wonder what all the fuss was about. A few more steps and you start to enjoy it and begin to admire the amazing view.

That’s where I’m now at with the Chorale—loving the music and enjoying the wonder of creating music with a great group of people.

Of course, I’m looking forward to getting a little closer to my fellow singers and to the end of the tightrope walk and the final performance. Now that will be fantastic too.

DONALD GRANT

Tenor

When the Covid lock-down came along, life became much quieter and very insulated. Chorale activities came to a sudden



stop and that left about a 6-hour vacancy in my usual weekly routine, as I had tried to spend that time practicing as well as attending the Tuesday evening rehearsals.

I missed the opportunity to spend time with the group and to be challenged in a very enjoyable way.

So I decided to fill my spare time by doing some writing. I had long been brewing up an autobiographical account of my six years doing Medicine at Sydney University and two years of Residency at Sydney Hospital.

It was the Sixties; medicine was very different at that time than it is now; I was a naive teenager and young adult who had to grow up fast and learn to take responsibility.

I had many memories, anecdotes and emotional experiences that I could recount. So I got into the zone and the daily routine of writing and over the next six months completed a draft manuscript of 80,000 words.

The tentative title is “Son of the Preacher Man”. It is an early draft and if it is ever to be submitted to publishers it will need a lot of work. But I enjoyed it and in a way I was sorry when the lock-down came to an end.

It feels great to be back with the Chorale, and to have a head start with the first half dozen pieces for the Olympia Concert. With everything getting back to normal, I now find it very hard to get time to write.

So there is something for which I am grateful to Covid. Every dark cloud can have a silver lining.

But I am glad to be back to more normal life and back with the Chorale and I shall have to find time some way other way than a pandemic to finish my writing task.

Continued page 5

DAPHNE WAYTH
Soprano



When the 2020 COVID-19 shut down began, I was immersed in rehearsing for the Olympic Concert and doing my work with individual people with disabilities. Both families postponed the carer work for their loved ones and I had a lot of spare time for two months.

I worked out how to pay the bills and have a bit less savings. I also visited my daughter in Brisbane for two events and my new friend in the beautiful hinterland showed me around and I met some of his friends.

In May I resumed work for two days a week with one young man with an intellectual disability, and spent time in the community at the library, National Park, Noosa River, cafes, and picnic areas.

All of this required hand sanitising and 1.5 metre social distancing, except when I held his hand when close to traffic. My other client chose to continue his therapies on-line.

There was no problem finding things to do as I played ukulele weekly with my Boreen Point friends and practised in between. After a 35-year break due to hand pain, which seemed helped by just a little

playing and strengthening, I took up playing the guitar.

Playing Irish tunes on my tin whistle and Irish tunes with Boreen Point friends was always fun. A bit frustrating when I realise how much there is to learn.

A road trip near and over Christmas-New Year to Stanthorpe, western NSW, and several regions of Victoria for Christmas, was a delight, despite the coastal rain and flooding causing us to change alter our return route.

No problem with border closures, but people in all rural areas used masks within shops. We did need to isolate for with John's family as they had just returned from Queensland at the time of the Greater Brisbane three-day lockdown.

We chose to go through the little and big deserts on one of the hottest days in Victoria. DUH! When heading north the car's air=conditioner failed -DUH again – but after repairs in Dubbo we drove home confident our next road trip for the 'Agnes Blues Roots and Rock Festival' in the town of 1770 would be great. It was!

Having just returned from two weeks in WA to visit another daughter, I expect I will mainly tinkle, thump, strum and blow and hopefully produce tuneful music for my own enjoyment.

And, yes, rehearse the music for upcoming concert, including how to pronounce those Latin words.

What would I do without music? I do not know.

PETER WRIGHT
Bass



Karen and I live in the Peregian Springs retirement village.

When the COVID lockdown occurred, AVEO, the village owners, closed all but one entrance to the village and stationed delightful security people at that one entrance.

They checked our temperature each time we entered and asked us if we had been overseas in the last two days (we wish!!).

Gatherings in the community building were banned so we were limited to sitting on our front terrace, sipping red wine and waving to our neighbours across the street.

Hence, we drank much more 'red' than was good for us.

This was hard on Karen who is more outgoing than me. [I was once told by a psychologist after a personality test that I undertook for a job application that I was a "rugged individual who does not need people". ']

So, lockdown suited me fine!! Needless to say, I did not get the job.]

Having said that, I missed chorale rehearsals and am delighted that we are back.



BRONWYN INNES, Soprano

Bronwyn has provided the article she wrote for the 'Eumundi Voice' - <https://eumundivoice.com.au>
Hate the virus...but love the shutdown

Loving my garden..... loving the solitude.....

Loving the cooking.... Loving sharing the cooking with elderly neighbours.....

Loving the beach walks with each of my friends in turn.....

Loving going to different places to walk with my dog Harley Quinn and with friends.... and spending unrushed quality time with them....

Loving the mobile, texts and messages from those who care about me..... Love my nice clean house... Love reading books again.....

Love selling stuff on GUMTREE. Love my clean windows... Love the smog lifting from cities that haven't seen clear skies for decades.....and birds flying into these skies like never before....

Love putting together parcels to send to my 92 year old Mum in care.... to write letters to her....her way of communicating....

Loved making an ANZAC wreath out of egg cartons like we did in Primary School in the 50's.

Gambling is less.... less money wasted.....

Loving most of all seeing the wildlife coming out to enjoy the now unpolluted air and lack of human life around to hunt them and invade their new found space....

I think sometimes we need to take a step back and realise we have no greater right than any other animal..... to be on this earth..... and we should be acutely aware of what we do.... and respect that.

There is much to be thankful for in all of this!!! Basically, I learnt that solitude can be awesome. Time for my music.... time to re evaluate..... time to accept and be thankful for all that I have!!!

Chorale's Jonathan sings Leonard Cohen

JIM FAGAN

Singer and guitar player Jonathan Anstock has been a greatly enjoyed entertainer at cafes, hotels and the like in Noosa for the last four years.

Taking the music of famous singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen, and many others, he has also volunteered his talents at U3A, and aged care homes like Carramar and Kabara.



Jonathan Anstock

Jonathan, who is an enthusiastic bass with Noosa Chorale, has now written a complete cabaret about the life of Cohen and he is bringing it to the Majestic Theatre in Pomona next month. Later in June he will perform it as a fundraiser for Katie Rose Cottage Hospice at Noosa Arts Theatre.

"I got the idea while singing with Noosa Chorale backing singers in "A Migrant's Son" at a Noosa Alive event in 2019. It's the story of a Greek immigrant family and it instantly

appealed to me as a theme for the Leonard Cohen story.

"Michaela Burger wrote and performed "A Migrant's Son" and the emotion in her performance seemed to say the same things as in Cohen's songs—yearning, longing, the search for love, spiritual truth and so on."

Jonathan said songs like Cohen's 'Hallelujah' which had been recorded by 300 artists had incredible power.

"It has touched millions. As with many of his songs, they are considered close to prayer. For me, singing Hallelujah is like worshipping the divine.



Leonard Cohen

"I also try to explore the man who was Leonard Cohen—his life of poetry, song writing, drugs, sex, spiritual searching, depression, political thought and eventual peace.

"Music is therapy. It is social. It is an innate soul need and soul nourishment. I suppose that's why I've been going to aged care homes for the last eight years.

"It brings movement, joy and memory through music and to sing to the elderly warms my heart. Cohen knew this. He performed at mental hospitals. He had great empathy for those struggling mentally.

"Cohen was a wordsmith and his poetic words will be heard in the songs I'm performing—" Suzanne", "So Long Marianne", "A Bird on a Wire", "Hallelujah", "Dance Me to the End of Love", "Anthem" and many others.

"I'm very fortunate in having a wonderful backing group, Chorale accompanist Janet Brewer on keyboard, her husband Warren on bass guitar and Chorale singers, Sherelle Scott and Marianne Johnson."

"The Spirit of Leonard Cohen"

Majestic Theatre (Easter) Saturday April 3, 7pm

Fundraisers for Katie Rose Cottage Hospice are planned for Friday, June 25 and Saturday June 26, 7pm at Noosa Arts Theatre.

**THE SPIRIT OF
LEONARD
COHEN**
His story and his songs
Saturday 3 April 2021, 7pm
Majestic Theatre
Pomona (3 Factory street)
Bar and doors opens 6pm
Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)
www.themajestictheatre.com.au
*Hallelujah
So Long Marianne
Suzanne
Dance Me To the End of Love
Anthem ... and many more*

These are the words of Cohen's "Hallelujah" represented in the choral version, in 4-part harmony, arranged by Roger Emerson.

<p>I've heard there was a secret chord That David played, and it pleased the Lord. But you don't really care for music, do you? It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth The minor fall, the major lift The baffled king composing Hallelujah.</p> <p>Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.</p>	<p>You say I took the name in vain Though I don't even know the name But if I did, well really, what's it to you? There's a blaze of light in every word It doesn't matter what you heard The holy or the broken Hallelujah.</p> <p>Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.</p>	<p>I did my best, it wasn't much I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch. I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you. And even though it all went wrong I'll stand before the Lord of song With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah.</p> <p>Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.</p>
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A message from our sponsor, Sunrise Beach Village

Exciting new retirement village coming to Sunrise Beach

Nestled between national park and the ocean, with everyday conveniences on your doorstep, Sunrise Beach Village offers remarkable retirement living.

Sunrise Beach Village is a community defined by its nature-rich location, proximity to shops and services and sense of belonging. Whether you're into beach strolling, whale-watching, bush walking or ice-cream eating, this is a lifestyle conducive to all that and more.



Register to be the first to view the range of homes available, all with light, bright, low-maintenance layouts. Expect spacious homes with generous floorplans, many offering private gardens.

The beauty of living in a retirement village goes beyond buying your home. It's an all-encompassing lifestyle, without all the hassles of home maintenance.

This joint project between Lendlease and Blue Care will see Lendlease develop and operate the retirement village on behalf of Blue Care, drawing on our five decades of experience delivering enviable places where communities thrive.

The precinct includes the adjacent residential aged care facility, developed by Blue Care.

To find out more about Sunrise Beach Village, visit our website

www.sunrisebeachvillage.com.au

or speak to one of our Customer Support Consultants on 1800 550 550.



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noosachorale@gmail.com



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Editor: Cal Webb—callyannwebb@gmail.com
Regular contributors: Jim Fagan, Angie Oakley, Ian Jobling
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