

## Golden songs, music from the Olympics JIM FAGAN

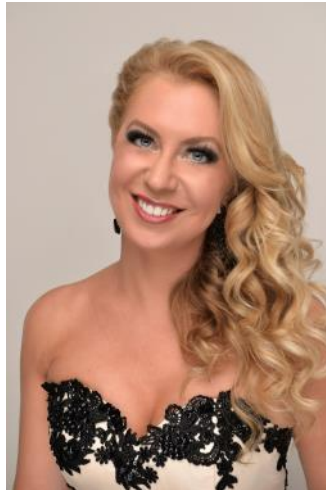
It is 1896 and you are in Athens sitting on a marble seat in the Olympic Stadium listening to the Hymn of the Olympics—the opening music of the first-ever Modern Games.

Fast forward 125 years and this time you are sitting in the J Theatre listening to Noosa Chorale sing the same inspirational hymn as it opens its gold medal concert of songs and music—spectacular music which has thrilled spectators and athletes alike at the Olympics ever since.

Music like Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” from “Messiah” (Berlin 1936), “Friends for Life” (Jose Carreras and Sarah Brightman, Barcelona 1992), John Lennon’s “Imagine” (Stevie Wonder, London 1996), and “Because We Believe” (Andrea Bocelli, Turin 2006).

And the Chorale has invited two of Noosa audiences’ favourite soloists—Hungarian soprano Judit Molnar and former Tenors’ David Kidd to perform with it and sing this timeless music and song.

The choir and the 33-piece Olympic Orchestra will be conducted by Chorale music director Adrian King who has promised a very special concert in which everyone’s senses will be “stirred and enthused and one which I sincerely hope will stay in the memories of the performers and audience alike for a long time to come.”



Soprano Judit Molnar



Tenor David Kidd

Adrian told Noosa Today that after a concert-less year because of the pandemic the singers had returned with a real eagerness to perform.

“Every singer—without exception—is so pleased that at last we can all come together, make music.”

To add to the excitement of the evening, giant screens on either side of the stage will show rare photographs of historic Olympic moments.

As it is the perfect prelude to the Tokyo Olympic Games in July and August, tickets for this original gala event—understood to be a first for Australia—are selling quickly.

The concerts are endorsed by the Australian Olympic Committee. In a special message, its CEO Matt Carroll says, “The Chorale’s initiative is certainly promoting the Olympic spirit in a most unique way.”

And at the invitation of the Chorale, Olympic swimming legend Dawn Fraser AC MBE OLY has agreed to be its Ambassador for the concerts and will make a guest appearance on stage.

She will be introduced by our MC, Noosa Deputy Mayor Frank Wilkie, popular local actor and journalist, who will add to the enjoyment of the performances with his witty and informative narrative.



Dawn Fraser  
AC MBE OLY



Frank Wilkie

**BOOK  
NOW  
CLICK  
HERE**

**Tickets selling fast— \$45**

**“Spirit of Olympia” at the J, Noosa Junction**

**Friday, May 28, 7pm, and Saturday, May 29, 2pm.**

**[Book online](#) or phone (07) 5329 6560**

Noosa Chorale  
**SPIRIT OF OLYMPIA**  
Music of the Olympic Games

A unique concert of glorious and memorable music

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## “Citius, Altius, Fortius” rehearsal mantra

CAL WEBB

During rehearsals for the “Spirit of Olympia” concert, Noosa Chorale singers are constantly reminded of the Olympic motto (Citius, Altius, Fortius) as masterful conductor Adrian King urges us to sing “Faster, Higher, Stronger” ...and “louder, softer, more crescendo, grander, more...!” Together, we are the very epitome of the Olympic spirit in our efforts to do our best and more.

When we think of the Olympic Games, we don’t normally think about music. Yet every Olympic Games since their modern-day beginnings in 1896 have featured music—not just the anthems that capture the national pride of the participating countries, but the many other musical pieces that transcend these borders.

The music played in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies has proven its power to transform the spectacle of the ceremony into a momentous event, a celebration of our shared humanity, the apotheosis of the Olympic Spirit of hope and peace.

Although many of the songs selected for Noosa Chorale’s “Spirit of Olympia” concert will be familiar, they are imbued with new meaning in the way they cherish the ideals of Olympism.

And who better to draw out these new meanings than Chorale Tenor Ian Jobling, who also happens to be an Olympic historian? No, this is not a new category of sport in the Olympic Games. Ian is Honorary Director of the Centre of Olympic Studies at the University of Queensland, with a distinguished career and international reputation in studies of the Olympic Movement.

Ian, with assistance from Chorale Soprano Jutta Rathgeber, who translated details from a German doctoral thesis by Elizabeth Schüssel about music of the Olympic Games (1896-1972), has identified music from each of the Summer and Winter Games from Athens 1896 to PyeongChang 2018 from which our selection was made.

Dawn Fraser (front centre) attends the choir’s mid-May rehearsal led by Adrian King (front left) with Janet Brewer (front right) accompanying.

Channel 7 also attended the rehearsal, recording interviews with Dawn and Adrian, and capturing part of the choir’s rehearsal to be broadcast in the next week or so.

Singers were delighted to be able to pose together for this group photo to try out their stage positions for the concert.

And every week of our rehearsal term, Ian has been treating the choir to a background briefing on each of the songs in the repertoire.

Without these timely insights, we would not have known, for instance, that the first time the “Hallelujah” chorus from Handel’s inimitable *Messiah* was played at the Olympic Games was 1936 at Berlin. This was at the behest of the Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, acknowledged as founder of the modern Olympic Games, who had lamented the lack of ‘culture’ in previous Olympic Games.

We’ve also learned that the global hit song “One Moment in Time” was written specifically for the 1988 Seoul Olympics. As Tufayel Ahmed described it in the 8 May 2015 edition of Newsweek, the song “conjured imagery of the competitive drive of the Games and the athletes’ desire to overcome obstacles with lyrics such as ‘You’re a winner for a lifetime, if you seize that one moment in time.’”

The “Tibi Omnes”, the second movement of Hector Berlioz’s grandiose *Te Deum* which was written to celebrate Napoleon Bonaparte, provided the massively stirring accompaniment to the spectacular lighting of the Olympic Cauldron by Cathy Freeman at the Opening Ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

And we’ve also picked up some fascinating personal asides as well from Ian. For example, we are now privy to the fact that our concert’s Ambassador, Dawn Fraser AC MBE OLY, is awakened each day by her alarm clock ringing out the melody of “Time to Say Goodbye”. The song was sung at the Closing Ceremony of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin Italy.



Chorale ‘Olympic historian’ Ian Jobling with Dawn Fraser AC MBE OLY, Ambassador to the ‘Spirit of Olympia’ concert

Our MC for the concerts, Frank Wilkie, will introduce each piece to give audience members some insights into their backgrounds.

Such a diverse repertoire for the concert will showcase the talented soloists and orchestra, and the inspired Chorale singers, all under the baton of Adrian King.

Together we will be reaching for the stars!



(above) COVID-safe rehearsals have been the order of the day as the choir rehearses for their “Spirit of Olympia” concert. Singers are spaced well apart from one another, and during one period of extra restrictions, were required to wear masks (but thankfully not during singing!)



## Chorale honoured to sing at Anzac Day ceremonies

Noosa Chorale singers were once again honoured to be invited to sing at the Anzac Day ceremonies this year, led by Music Director Adrian King and with piano accompaniment by Janet Brewer. At Verrierdale (below left) and Eumundi (below right).



## Retiring Secretary Cal hands over the reins ANGIE OAKLEY

If you'd like to understand how our choir works, and why it does so well, you will discover that it consists of many fine people with a plethora of quite dazzling talent to offer.

And there's a great deal to do (apart from singing beautifully): there's creating the musical repertoire for performances, organizing rehearsal schedules, managing the finances, organizing and promoting concerts, connecting and networking with the Noosa community, and the list goes on.

Drill down into all that work and you'll find a Secretary with tentacles stretching across it all. As Noosa Chorale's Management Committee welcomes Alto Rita Malik to her newly elected role of Secretary, it's timely to say thank you to Cal Webb who previously held the role since late 2013.

With quiet but unerring exactitude, Cal has spent the last 7 years helping with almost every aspect of managing the Chorale—from planning for the future with the committee, to administering membership, to editing our newsletter 'Tune In', to producing splendid graphic designs for our concert fliers and programmes, to securing grants, and designing and managing our website, and generally being on hand for all eventualities.

"Me?" she'll say with a self-deprecating shake of those dark curls and a wry grin. "Me? I haven't done that much. Look over there at someone else."

But as you step aside from your role as Chorale Secretary, we're looking at you, Cal. And what we find is a polymathic purveyor of excellence whose most comfortable position is in the background, working "under the radar".

I often have the pleasure of standing in front of this clear-voiced note-perfect

singer in the Altos, and assumed she has had a formal musical education. Not so. She doesn't read music but just has "a good ear".

She has embraced music and the choir out of love, and applied her natural musicality and all the skills she acquired, as a lifelong high-powered academic administrator, to making sure we have the best choir she can help it to be.



Cal celebrating after the 2018 "Showtime in Las Vegas" concert. Photo: Ann Milland

For Cal is all about the group. In her "previous life" as a leader in university teaching and learning development, she always aimed "to get the best out of everyone", believing, "we all have a part to play".

The main subject of her early academic career, based in her research in Applied Linguistics, revolved around academic language and literacy. Initially her work centred on teaching students to use language more effectively to shape and express complex thinking.

But over time, her work 'morphed' into supporting academic staff with more effective curriculum and teaching design. All this saw her establishing and leading a number of university centres of teaching

and learning in Sydney over several decades, followed by an equally stimulating decade of running her own consultancy without the joy of managing staff!

Her musical education did not come from schooling. Rather it was the constant music from the radio and the family gramophone that instilled in Cal a love of music. Her late father loved Jazz (Frank Sinatra was his firm favourite).

Her mother Fay, who continues to be a big fan of Noosa Chorale concerts, would reward the Darwin suburb where they lived with her rich soprano voice and whistling prowess, joining in with songs from the marvellous musicals of the day.

So when young teenager Cal was given a cache of records purchased by her dad at an auction (Buddy Holly, The Beatles, Dusty Springfield...), she was off!

She taught herself to play guitar (only enough to sing with), and when she came across a group of eclectic musos harmonising round a piano at University of Queensland in her undergraduate days, she knew she had found her tribe.

And music accompanied her from inner-city Sydney to the Blue Mountains where she and husband Michael raised their two sons. She joined the Penrith City Choir in western Sydney, and has been an enthusiastic audience member at musical performances both at home and, pre-Covid, abroad.

2013 brought the gift of Cal our way, as she and Michael moved home to their "new paradise" in the Noosa hinterland. Having researched choirs in the region beforehand, Cal made the choice to join Noosa Chorale because of its eclectic repertoire with a healthy smattering of

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classical choral, a highly respected and much loved Music Director, and the fact that most performances were grandly accompanied by a full orchestra.

It didn't take long before Cal became the integral part of the Chorale that she still is.

She absolutely loves the Chorale, loves to sing, and comes away from a Tuesday night rehearsal feeling refreshed and "full of joy", no matter how challenging the day itself might have been.

She loves the sense of community and the fact that we are all doing the best we can, and is convinced that it is working to a

performance as a whole group that gives us the occasion to which we can—and do—rise.

Cal's philosophy of life being not about having, but about giving, is pretty evident in how much she has given, and continues to do so, and we in the Noosa Chorale community are the grateful beneficiaries.

## Rita takes over as Chorale Secretary

ANGIE OAKLEY

Time to welcome Rita Malik to the role, and to thank her for stepping up. It's a big job—particularly for a relative newcomer to the Chorale, but Rita has never shied away from a challenge.

That was the reason she left her native Germany more than thirty years ago for adventure and for the kind of freedom to explore, and to have an expansive life on the land that Australia offered her and her husband.

And her courage has been rewarded. Coming from northern Germany "where it rains eleven months of the year", the freedom to live on the land and enjoy the sun and sea of our part of the world, have never ceased to astonish and delight her.

"We go swimming at Noosa beach and still feel wonder and joy that this is ours—something dreamed of from childhood."



Rita Malik

And it is passion that has brought her to the Chorale. She describes herself self deprecatingly as an "enthusiastic" singer with no formal musical education, but she has always loved music.

Her university years in Salzburg studying Psychology and Philosophy were surrounded by music, and performances from the best of world orchestras: "It was

glorious—there was music everywhere."

As well, under the traditional German school curriculum, all students have to learn to read music! So when, in 2019, she saw that the Chorale were singing the Verdi Requiem, she was ready.

And she has absolutely loved the singing: "It feels so natural, like breathing... and when it all comes together, it's glorious!"

Unsurprisingly, Cal has prepared Rita with the most comprehensive handover she has ever experienced: "It was fantastic - like being back at Uni."

And Rita, who really likes structure and good procedure, has embraced the role. Of course Cal is on hand when needed, so we have as smooth a transition as is possible – one that ensures the smooth running of our Chorale for many years to come.

## Surprise visit to rehearsal by the Woodlocks

Noosa Chorale singers were surprised and delighted to be visited by past members John (also past President) and Yvonne Woodlock at a recent rehearsal. Tune In asked them what they've been up to in the years since they left, and they sent us the following note:

*We moved to the Gold Coast to be near our two children's families. We see a lot of them now and we go regularly with them to the local theme parks, beaches and national parks.*

*When we moved, we knew very little about good areas in which to live. After spending weeks looking for a "perfect" established house to buy, without success, we decided to buy a block of land in Riverstone Crossing with 180-degree views of bushland with Scenic Rim mountains in the distance. Yvonne designed the "perfect" house for our lifestyle.*

*Singing wise, we joined the Gold Coast Choir who sang a similar repertoire to Noosa Chorale but performed with only a piano. It was the nearest option for us but a poor second to our many years' glorious experiences with the Chorale.*

*We also joined a U3A singing group for a while who sang only in unison with an inexperienced conductor.*

*On the Gold Coast there is no singing group who performs with an orchestra! How lucky you are on the Sunshine Coast.*

*We joined a local Probus Group where Yvonne became Social Secretary for 3 years and John became President. John joined the Gold Coast Greens branch and became its Secretary.*

*However, we miss Noosa which is the best place in the world to live!*



John Woodlock (right), Past President 2001-2013, with Jim Fagan (middle) and John Davies, Past President 2013-2017.



(from left) Pamela Turnbull, Margaret Haffenden, Yvonne Woodlock, and Noosa Chorale Patron Gail Spira

# Noosa Chorale's Jonathan "Cohen" in concert IAN JOBLING

It was standing room only on Saturday April 3 at the Majestic Theatre in Pomona when Noosa Chorale Bass Jonathan Anstock performed "The Spirit of Leonard Cohen: his story and his songs".

Complete with hat and charcoal-grey suit, the Cohen look-a-like Jonathan strolled on stage and from the moment he started his first of 17 songs, "Dance Me to the End of Love", he had the audience enthralled.

Jonathan sustained the character of Cohen throughout the two-hour performance, including mannerisms and voice.

Backing singers Sherelle Scott and Marianne Johnson, both Noosa Chorale singers, brought additional depth to the music; their "If It Be Your Will", and "Alexandra Leaving" were very special.

The versatility of musicians Janet Brewer (Noosa Chorale's much-loved accompanist) on keyboard, and Warren Brewer (bass guitar) was exceptional.

Arguably Leonard Cohen was more a songwriter than a singer, evident by the popularity of his many songs recorded by singers who outsold Cohen's renditions, for example, kd lang's cover of his "Hallelujah".



From left: Sherelle Scott, Marianne Johnson, Jonathan Anstock as Leonard Cohen, Janet Brewer (keyboard), and Warren Brewer (bass guitar) Photo: Emma Parer

Jonathan's narration throughout the entire concert provided background and context for the extensive repertoire. "Cohen's" reminiscences of his time on the island of Hydra with Charmian Clift and George Johnston were fascinating.

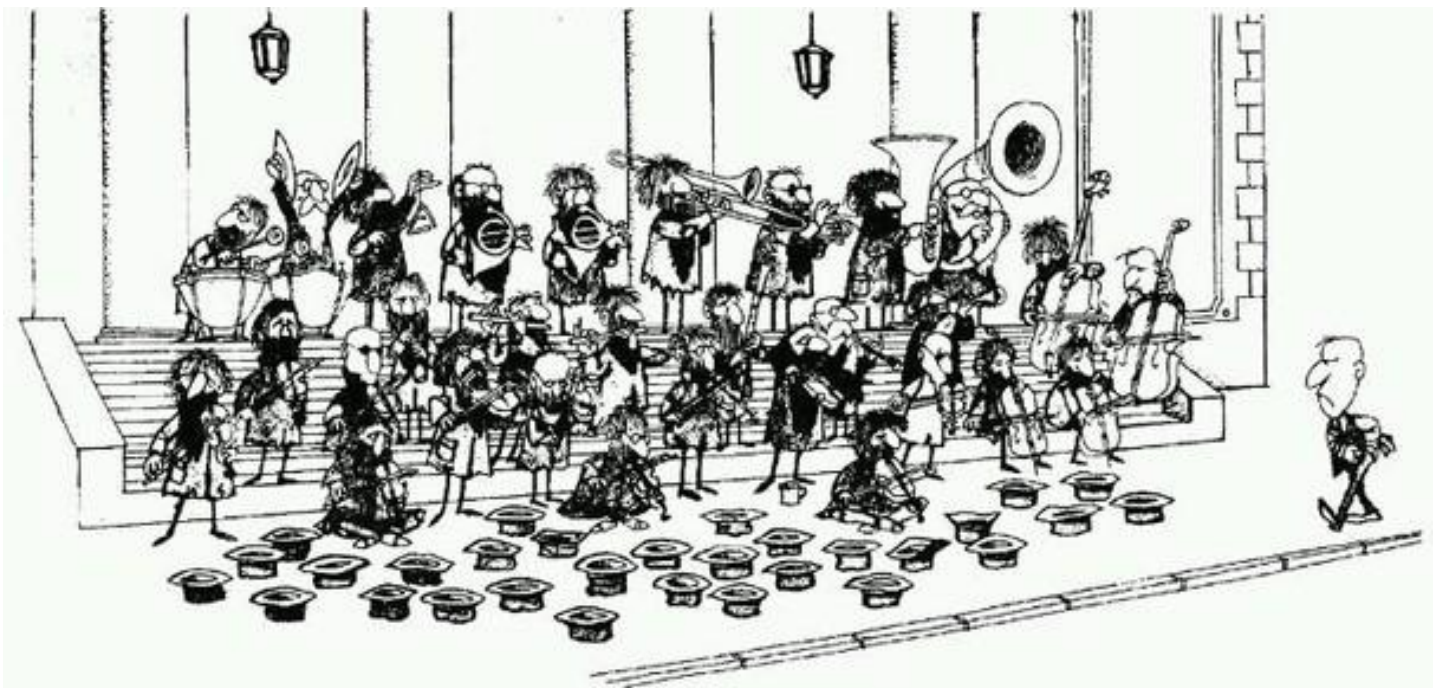
For those who knew little about this acclaimed Canadian songwriter's long and frequent bouts of depression, it helped explain much about the lyrics of Cohen's well-known and lesser-known songs. Anstock's rendition of "So Long Marianne" was very moving.

Repeat performances of "The Spirit of Leonard Cohen" will be on June 5 at Coolum Civic Centre, and June 25 & 26 at Noosa Arts Theatre. Proceeds from the concerts in Noosa will go the Katie Rose Cottage Hospice.

For further information:

[The Spirit of Leonard Cohen performed by Jonathan Anstock](#)

Email [inquire@leonardcohenspirit.com](mailto:inquire@leonardcohenspirit.com)



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