

Chorale's Ukraine tribute by JIM FAGAN

Noosa Chorale singers were given an unusual tribute just before their performance of "Christmas Carols from Around the World" at The J last Saturday.

During the warm-up they were told by Tetyana Kovalchuk, volunteer and leader of the Ukrainian community on the Sunshine Coast, a video of the two songs sung in Ukrainian at the concert would be given to its embassy in Canberra to send to Ukraine to show people the Chorale singing in Noosa in support of their nation.

The first song was sung by the full choir - the much loved in Ukraine "Shchedryk" which is well known to many in its English version "Carol of the Bells."

The second song with its equally uplifting message of goodwill, "Shchedrivka", was performed by the 7-member ensemble Ariabella. The

arrangement was done by Olena Kruta who, as well as being a tenor in the choir, is also Ariabella's piano accompanist. The other members are Debra Schneider, Fran Wilson, Debbie Boyles, Susi Fox, Pamela Turnbull and Cal Webb.

Chorale president Donald Grant said that Tetyana spoke very warmly about the choir and was very thankful. "Each choir member was given an individually handwritten Christmas card."

The Chorale's performance of Christmas carols from around the world have brought a grin from even the grumpiest of Grinches.

As well as Ukrainian, the 50-strong choir sang in Spanish, German, Estonian, Tagalog (Philippines), Latin and English under the direction of conductor Kim Kirkman resplendent in a blow-up reindeer suit during the Peruvian song "El burrito sabanero".

It was a happy show with singers featuring as soloists, in duets and larger groups, even a poetry reading.

Also, there was some wonderful piano accompaniment from Janet Brewer as well as sing-along moments for the audience with well-loved favourites—all in the stunningly decorated theatre by soprano Bronwyn Innes and her team from the choir.

The Chorale's annual Christmas Cheer concert started in 2007 and is now in its 18th year. For many in Noosa it is the official start to the festive season and last weekend was one to remember.

CHOIR NOTE: The Chorale recommences its rehearsals in February in preparation for its May classical music event which will feature works by Vivaldi. For enquires about joining the Chorale and subscribing to its newsletter, Tune In, see details on the website: www.noosachorale.org



Conductor Kim Kirkman with Noosa Chorale (Photo: Ann Milland)

The Chorale in pictures—spinning around the world at Christmas

Photography: Ann Milland



Janet Brewer



Ariabella: (l to r) Fran Wilson, Debbie Boyles, Cal Webb, Debra Schneider, Pamela Turnbull, Susi Fox, Olena Kruta



Jonathan Anstock: Ballad of the Carpenter



Lorraine Bates: Santa Baby



Artistri: Fran Wilson, Debra Schneider (and pianist Pamela Turnbull not pictured): "Maria Wiegenlied"



Jeremy Martin: reading John McCutcheon poem while choir sings "Still Nacht" (Silent Night)



Belinda Griffiths and Paige Allen: "O Holy Night"



Conductor Kim Kirkman, with reindeer, conducts "El burrito sabanero"



Stunning decorations adorned The J Theatre, designed by Chorale soprano Bronwyn Innes aided by a team of helpers: Elizabeth Henley, Jenny Jackson, Marianne Seldon, Daphne Wayth, and Phil Elliot who welded a giant Christmas tree that was covered in fairy lights.



Bronwyn Innes (back left) with Mark Allen of The J Theatre, with some of Bronwyn's team of decorators (l to r) Elizabeth Henley, Jenny Jackson, and Marianne Seldon



(l to r) Lynn Alberry, Marlene Nolan, and Wendy Lowry



(l to r) Monica Lynch, John and Lynne Cameron



(l to r) Susan Kelly, Ian Wynn and Deb Harker



Tony Lund and Jenny Bull



Ann Blythe



Robyn Ferguson

Audience members at Christmas Cheer concert

Photos: Ann Milland

Captions: Jo Fagan

A big thank you to local organisations donating to our Christmas raffle

Alto Wilma Barnes and her helpers received and wrapped prizes generously donated by 24 local organisations to the Chorale’s raffle which was compered at the Christmas Cheer concert by tenor Mark Taylor. During the raffle, the logos of donating businesses were projected on a large screen to the side of the stage, and gasps of sheer delight and some considerable envy accompanied Mark’s descriptions of the prizes as the winners were called.

- ◆ Bunnings Warehouse Noosaville
- ◆ Sweet Story Noosa
- ◆ Noosa Ferry and Cruise Company
- ◆ Dan Murphy’s Noosaville
- ◆ City Cave Float and Wellness Centre
- ◆ Noosa Harbour Fish Market
- ◆ Seasons IGA Noosa Junction
- ◆ IGA Noosa Outlook
- ◆ MV Noosa Queen
- ◆ Woolworths Tewantin
- ◆ Woolworths Noosa Civic
- ◆ Woolworths Noosaville
- ◆ Live Life Pharmacy Tewantin
- ◆ Noosa Arts Theatre
- ◆ Café Vin Cino Noosa Marina
- ◆ Tewantin-Noosa RSL Club
- ◆ Noosa Beach Towels
- ◆ Beer-Wine-Spirits Tewantin
- ◆ Fifty Shades of Hair Tewantin
- ◆ Terry White Chemmart Tewantin
- ◆ Royal Mail Hotel Tewantin
- ◆ Industry Hair Tewantin
- ◆ Lucio’s Restaurant Noosa Marina
- ◆ Noosa Springs Golf and Spa Resort

Chorale takes Christmas spirit to Ozcare Noosa

The Chorale was delighted to be invited again to sing Christmas carols at Ozcare aged residential facility in Noosa Heads.

Conducted by Chorale Librarian Pam Sage, a band of some 24 of the Chorale's singers presented a collection

of favourite carols to the residents who sang or tapped along in the spirit of Christmas.

2026 Concert Dates

VIVA VIVALDI

Friday 22 May at 7pm

Saturday 23 May at 2pm

NOOSA JAZZ FESTIVAL OPENING

Friday 28 August at 7pm

Saturday 29 August at 2pm

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Friday 11 December at 7pm

Saturday 12 December at 2pm

*Wishing you a joyous and peaceful
Christmas and New Year*



-  www.noosachorale.org.au/concerts
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