



BRISBANE CONCERT CHOIR at St Andrew's

Debra Shearer-Dirié, Musical Director

with the

SINFONIA OF ST ANDREW'S

Ceremony *of* Carols

Sunday, 2 December 2012

St Andrew's Uniting Church

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of fire or other emergency, walk promptly to the rear of the building and exit through the glass doors. Do not congregate in the café area, but continue walking up the footpath to ensure that the exits are not blocked.

Assemble across the road outside the Suncorp building until advised by a responsible person that it is safe to re-enter the building.

Only if access to the main glass-door exit is blocked should you attempt to leave via the door to the right of the stage.

WELCOME FROM THE CHOIR



Welcome to our Christmas concert which rounds off another busy year for the Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's. We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Church in providing rehearsal and concert space and particular thanks to Jenny Ponting in the Church Office for her assistance. We would also like to thank everyone who has come to the choir's events in 2012.

As one year comes to a close, we are already looking forward to an exciting 2013 which we anticipate will include: Handel's *Messiah* for Easter for our first concert of the year; an cappella concert in August; and Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* next December. In between these key performances, we have plans for a "From Scratch" incorporating Grand Opera Choruses to celebrate Verdi's 200th "birthday" and another of the popular "cafe" style musical events in June.

The Choir is also looking to perform outside of Brisbane, performing the *Messiah* on the Gold Coast; taking a long weekend for performances in southern Queensland or northern New South Wales in the second half of the year, and a tour to the Baltic region in the first half of 2014.

You can keep up with "What's On" through our website, or by joining our mailing list for notification of events by contacting us at choir@brisbaneconcertchoir.com or calling 3300 1932.

We hope you enjoy today's offering — and look out for us carolling at The Barracks in Paddington and Toowong Shopping Village in the coming weeks. If you are looking for a CD of Christmas music for a present or for your own enjoyment, our CD *Rejoice* is available today for purchase.

We wish you and yours a safe and enjoyable festive season and look forward to seeing you again in 2013.

JANET McKEON
Chairperson

Ceremony of Carols

Ceremony of Carols

Christmas time again? How does it come around so fast?

We are delighted to have Lucy Reeves, harpist, join us this evening. The first piece Lucy will feature in is Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, Op. 28. Originally written for treble voices and harp, the piece was composed in 1942 while Britten was at sea. The work opens and ends with the choir processing to the plainsong chant *Hodie Christus natus est*. The entire work is framed by this chant and at the completion of the Medieval texts, which Britten took great delight in setting, the same chant is sung as the singers recess.

The first song is *Wolkum Yole* – "Welcome be thou, heavenly king born in one morning - for whom we sing." The voices sing a bright welcome

invitation to all with vibrant chords. The combination of the plucked harp chords and the simple chordal setting of the voices provides a cleansing of the ears that leads us to the warmth and peacefulness of the next movement. *There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu*. It is the female voices that allow the melody to gently rise and fall as a question which is answered in unison voice with the words *Alleluia, res miranda* (miraculous thing), *pares forma* (equal in kind). The text brings Jesus into the world in a miraculous way.

After the cool beauty of *There is no rose* we hear a single line soprano melody in *That yongë child when it gan weep - with song she lulled him asleep*. This is a gentle lullaby which leads us into *Balulalow*, Mary's love song to the infant Jesus.

*The voices sing
plaintively as the music
shivers with the
building intensity...*

The joy cannot be contained and bursts out in *As dew in Aprille* with the words "I sing of a maiden that is makèles: King of all kings to her son she ches." The middle section of this movement is magically set with the melody passed gently from one voice part to the next, as if the mother might be gently playing with the baby, before we rejoice once again at the end of this movement.

This little Babe stands as a turning point in this work as Britten moves from mostly major sounding movements to those in a minor key. Perhaps the joy of Jesus' birth has now been taken over by the reality of his life and what will unfold. This movement begins quite simply in unison but as it progresses, becomes more complex with the overlay of voices.

There follows an interlude for solo harp leading into a second half which has undergone a distinct change of mood - concern rather than celebration: "Behold a silly tender babe, in freezing



winter night, in homely manger trembling lies, alas a piteous sight." The voices sing plaintively as the music shivers with the building intensity of this movement.

Things warm up again for the *Spring Carol*. No longer are we downcast but joyful and ready to thank God in the

Ceremony of Carols

final song *Deo gracias*, which details the Fall of Adam – “all for an apple - but if he had not taken the apple there would have been no need for Our Lady to be the heavenly Queen - so blessed was the time the apple was taken and we thank God for it.”

Throughout the rest of this evening’s programme the Shepherds feature rather well – *The Shepherds Sing* by Bob Chilcott, and Hector Berlioz’s *The Shepherds’ Farewell*. We will sing another Medieval text in Terry’s *Myn Lyking* and the ladies will sing *Kolyadki*, Carol of the Russian Children.

We go also to Tchaikovsky’s well-known *Nutcracker Suite*. The story of the Nutcracker, by E. T. A. Hoffman, begins when Clara is given a Nutcracker at her parents’ Christmas party. Clara’s brother snatches the Nutcracker from her and breaks it, leaving Clara

heartbroken. Clara creeps downstairs after everyone has gone to bed to witness the drama that is about to unravel. Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s score leads us on a trip around the world as we visit the music of the Arabian desert, of China and of the Trepak dance in Russia.

A Christmas concert could not be complete without the wonderful sound of *your* voices. We also have some very special things for the younger audience members which will include a sleigh ride. Please join us in our audience carols and we look forward to seeing you for a chat and supper in the hall downstairs after the concert.

DEBRA SHEARER-DIRIÉ
Musical Director



MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié



Originally from Perth, Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié maintains an active career as a choral conductor, music educator, clinician and scholar. She holds a Master of Music Education degree and Doctor of Music Education degree in Choral Conducting from Indiana University. During her time there she directed the Indiana University Children's and Youth Choir, was assistant director to maestro Paul Hillier with the Pro Arte Singers, and Director of the International Vocal Ensemble at Indiana University for two years. From 2000 to 2001, she conducted the Northwest Girlchoir in Seattle, a 400-voice organization of young women who perform frequently with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

Debra has received numerous invitations to present at national conferences both abroad and in Australia, including the National Conference of the American Choral Director's Association in New York in 2003, and has been invited to present at each Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) Choralifest since she has returned to Australia in 2003.

Upon arriving in Brisbane mid 2003, she conducted the Queensland Young Conservatorium Chamber Choir through diverse repertoire which led to an

invitation to perform at the ANCA conference in 2004. In 2005, she was appointed Musical Director of Brisbane Concert Choir, and in 2006 founded Vox Pacifica Chamber Choir. In 2009 she founded Fusion, a semi-professional adult a capella ensemble. She continually searches for opportunities to collaborate with other musical groups, composers, dancers, visual artists and cultural groups. Debra's most recent vocal ensemble is Vintage Voices, a programme for older people in the community to join in song. She began leading this group 18 months ago.

Debra is currently serving as editor of the ANCA journal *Sing Out*, and on the National Council for ANCA. She is in demand as an adjudicator, clinician and conductor for festivals and eisteddfods throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.



Ceremony of Carols

PROGRAMME

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS	Benjamin Britten arr. Julius Harrison
THE SHEPHERDS SING Mary Temple-Smith, sop.; Lucy Greeves, harp; Malcolm Liddell, trumpet	Bob Chilcott
THE THREE KINGS Jim McNicol, bass	Peter Cornelius arr. Ivor Atkins
KOLYADKI	Trad Russian arr. Linda Spevacek-Avery
OH HOLY NIGHT Katherine Chan, soprano	Adolphe Adam
ADVENT CHORALE PRELUDE — 'SLEEPERS WAKE, THE WATCHMAN CALLS' Steven Nisbet, organ	J S Bach
MYN LIKING	R R Terry
DING DONG (AUDIENCE SING)	Trad arr. David Willcocks
— INTERVAL —	
VENI, VENI EMMANUEL	Trad arr. Zoltán Kodály
THE NUTCRACKER (selections)	P I Tchaikovsky
AWAY IN A MANGER (CHILDREN SING)	Melody by W J Kirkpatrick
JOY TO THE WORLD (AUDIENCE SING)	Lowell Mason arr. John Rutter Words by Isaac Watts
THE SHEPHERDS' FAREWELL	Hector Berlioz
JOYS SEVEN	Trad arr. Stephen Cleobury
SLEIGH RIDE	Leroy Anderson Words by Mitchell Parish
THE FIRST NOWELL (AUDIENCE SING)	Trad arr. David Willcocks
A MERRY CHRISTMAS	Trad arr. Arthur Warrell

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

1. Procession

Today Christ is born;
Today the Saviour has appeared;
Today the angels sing in the land,
The archangels rejoice;
Today the righteous rejoice, saying,
Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia!

2. Welcome Yule

Welcome, Welcome,
Welcome to You, our heavenly King.
Welcome Yule!
Welcome, you, born one morning,
Welcome, for You, shall we sing!

Welcome, to you, Steven and John,
Welcome all innocent children,
Welcome, Thomas, the martyred one,
Welcome, good new year,
Welcome Twelfth Day, both in fear
Welcome Saints left and dear.

Candlemas, Queen of bliss,
Welcome both to more and less.
Welcome are you that are here,
Welcome all and make good cheer.
Welcome all another year.

3. There is no rose

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bore Jesu. Alleluia.

For in this rose were contained
Heaven and earth in little space,

A marvellous thing.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Equal in nature

The angels sang to the shepherds:
Glory to God in the highest.
Let us rejoice.

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.
Let us pass over.

Alleluia, marvellous thing,
equal in nature, let us rejoice,
let us pass over.

4a. That Young Child

That young child,
When it began to weep,
With song she lulled him asleep:
That was so sweet a melody
It surpassed all minstrelsy.

The nightingale sang also:
Her song is hoarse and nought thereto:
Whoever listens to its song
And leaves the first –
Then he does wrong.

4b. Balulalow

O my dear heart, young Jesu sweet,
Prepare your cradle in my spirit,
And I shall rock you to my heart,
And never more from you depart.

Ceremony of Carols

But I shall praise you ever-more
With sweet songs of your glory;
The knees of my heart shall I bow,
And sing that right Balulalow.

5. As dew in April

I sing of a maiden that is matchless:
King of all kings to her son she chose.
He came so still, there his mother was,
Like dew in April that falls on the grass.
He came so still to his mother's bower,
As dew in April that falls on the flower.
He came so still, there his mother lay,
As dew in April that falls on the leaves.
Mother and maiden – there was never
one but she:
Well may such a lady be God's mother.

6. This little Babe

This little Babe so few days old,
Has come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell quakes at his presence,
Though he himself shakes from cold;
For in this weak, unarmed guise
The gates of hell he will surprise

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are baby's cries,
His arrows, looks from weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns – Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh is his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystacks his stakes;
From shepherds he makes his muster;
And thus, being sure to wound his foe,

The angels' trumpets sound the alarm.

My soul, join you with Christ in fight;
Stick to the tents that he has pitched.
Within his crib is the safest protection;
This little Babe will be your guard.
If you will foil your foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

7. Interlude (Harp Solo)

8. In freezing winter night

Behold, a helpless tender babe,
In freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies.
Alas, a piteous sight!

The inns are full; no man will yield
This little pilgrim bed.
But he is forced to shroud his head
With ignorant beasts in a crib

This stable is a Prince's court,
This crib his chair of State;
The beasts are parcel of his pomp,
The wooden dish his plate.

The persons in that poor attire
His royal liveries wear;
The Prince himself is come from heav-
en;
This pomp is prized there.

With joy approach, O Christian being,
Do homage to thy King,
And highly praise his humble pomp,
Which he from Heaven doth bring.

9. Spring carol

Pleasure it is to hear, certainly,

The birds sing, the deer in the dale,
The sheep in the valley,
The corn springing.

God's purveyance for sustenance,
It is for man. Then we always are
To give him praise, and thank him then.

11. Deo Gracias

Thanks be to God!
Adam lay bound-up,
Bound in a bind,
For four thousand winters.
He thought it not too long.
Thanks be to God.

And it was all for an apple
that he took,
As clerics find written in their books.

Thanks be to God!

Had the apple never been taken,
Our Lady would never have been a
heavenly queen.

Blessed be the time
the apple was taken.
Therefore we may sing:
Thanks be to God!

11. Recession

Today the Saviour appears
Today the angels sing on earth;
The archangels rejoice.
Today the righteous exult, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

LADIES: Ding dong! merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with Angel singing.

ALL: *REFRAIN*
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

MEN: E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen.

ALL: *REFRAIN*

LADIES: Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
MEN: May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

ALL: *REFRAIN*



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AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the World! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

REFRAIN

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:

REFRAIN

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:

REFRAIN

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

*After the concert, please join us for
supper in the hall below the Church.*

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THE CHOIR



The Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's is an auditioned adult mixed voice choir. Formed in 1996 by Dr Guy Jansen, the Choir has established an excellent reputation for its performances of diverse repertoire ranging from a cappella pieces to full symphonic works. Performances have included appearances with The Queensland Orchestra, Queensland Pops Orchestra and in prestigious festivals such as Brisbane Cathedrals Week and the 4MBS Festival of Classics. The Choir toured the North Island of New Zealand in 1999 and in June 2002, following the release of its first CD, *Journey*, the Choir embarked on a very successful tour to north Queensland. 2008 saw the release of a second CD, *Radiance*, and a first European tour which visited Prague, Salzburg and Vienna. The Choir toured to Italy in September 2011, where it was very well received and in December of that year, the Choir released a CD of music for the festive season, entitled *Rejoice!* The Choir has recorded performances for broadcast on ABC-TV and 4MBS Classic-FM.

SOPRANO

Susan Burrows Prilick
Katherine Chan
Bronwyn Cox
Crystal Chessell
Tegan Cruwys
Helen Fredericks
Mary Gough
Andrea Hall-Brown
Anne Hunt
Jan Hungerford
Stella Jenks
Janet McKeon
Suzana Milosevic
Judy Neal
Amanda Powell
Mary Temple-Smith
Lucinda Thomson

TENOR

Simon Burgess
Ian Clarkson
Lourens Feuth
John Holmes
Paul Kennedy
Allen Kloeden
Michael Scott
Stuart Szigeti

ALTO

Milly Blakeley
Christine Campbell
Sorcha Delaney
Sue Gray
Grete Hinderberger
Melissa Hutchinson
Nicki Jenkins
Barb Lamb
Lynne Maurer
Joan Mooney
Jane Oliver
Ceri Takken
Kathy Teakle

BASS

Turi Agostino
Malcolm Alexander
Robert Bray
Bruce Campbell
Geoff Hines
Ian Maurer
Mark McKeon
Jim McNicol
Timothy Reeves
Ross Salomon
Murray Smith
Chris Whight

MUSICAL

DIRECTOR

Debra Shearer-Dirié

REHEARSAL

ACCOMPANIST

John Woods

MANAGEMENT

Chairperson

Janet McKeon

Secretary

Stella Jenks

Treasurer

Lourens Feuth

Committee

Christine Campbell

Sue Gray

James McNicol

Michael Scott

Librarian

Melissa Hutchinson



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THE SINFONIA OF ST ANDREW'S

The Sinfonia of St Andrew's was formed in 1995 for a performance of Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* conducted by Mansel Jones. Since then it has promoted its own orchestral concerts as well as appearing regularly with the Brisbane Concert Choir. The orchestra is an interesting mix of professional players, who perform regularly for the Queensland Orchestra and Queensland Pops Orchestra alongside students from the Conservatorium, University of Queensland and Queensland Youth Orchestra.

1ST VIOLIN

Chen Yang (Leader)
Matthew Gillet
Kuang Chan
Jenny Vandenberg
Ben Aitkens

2ND VIOLIN

Lucy Bignall
Maree Williamson
Leslie Levy
Lucy Sullivan

VIOLA

Anna Jack
Timothy Tate
Kieren Welch

CELLO

Lynne Backstrom
Ngaio Toombes
Meg Robson

DOUBLE BASS

Murray Gay

FLUTE

Deborah Cox
Sophie Manoharan

OBOE

Ronald Webb
Robin Rowell

CLARINET

Graham Evans
Sarah Carr

BASSOON

Trevor Williamson
Anne Hoare

FRENCH HORN

Andrew Kopitke
Ashley Skyring

TRUMPET

Malcolm Liddell
Tim Opstelton

TIMPANI

Ross Dovey

PERCUSSION

Brett Carvolth

HARP

Lucy Reeves

ORGAN

Steven Nisbet*

*A sparkling selection of
music for the festive season!*



Rejoice!
at
Christmas

**Brisbane
Concert
Choir**
at St Andrew's

available today

or order online at

www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com

A decorative border of light grey snowflakes runs across the top of the page.

Ceremony of Carols

CONCERT SEASON **2013**

Preview

Handel – *Messiah*

Tuesday 26 March, Brisbane
Thursday 28 March, Gold Coast

‘Dettingen’ *Te Deum*

Cathedrals Week
Saturday 18 May, 4pm

Afternoon Café & Song

Saturday 15 June

**Come and Sing ‘from Scratch’
*Grand Opera Choruses***

Saturday 13 July

A Capella Concert

Sunday 25 August

Kids’ Christmas Concert

Saturday 23 November

Berlioz – *L’enfance du Christ*

Sunday 1 December, 6pm

Look out for our 2013 Season Brochure in the mail early next year, with full details of our season of events.
(Be sure to let us know your postal address!)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Choir would like to thank St Andrew's Uniting Church and its congregation for their ongoing generosity in providing a home for the Choir and allowing us to use this beautiful, heritage listed building as our main concert venue. It is greatly appreciated.



Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's Inc.

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