

BRISBANE CONCERT CHOIR

at St Andrew's

with the

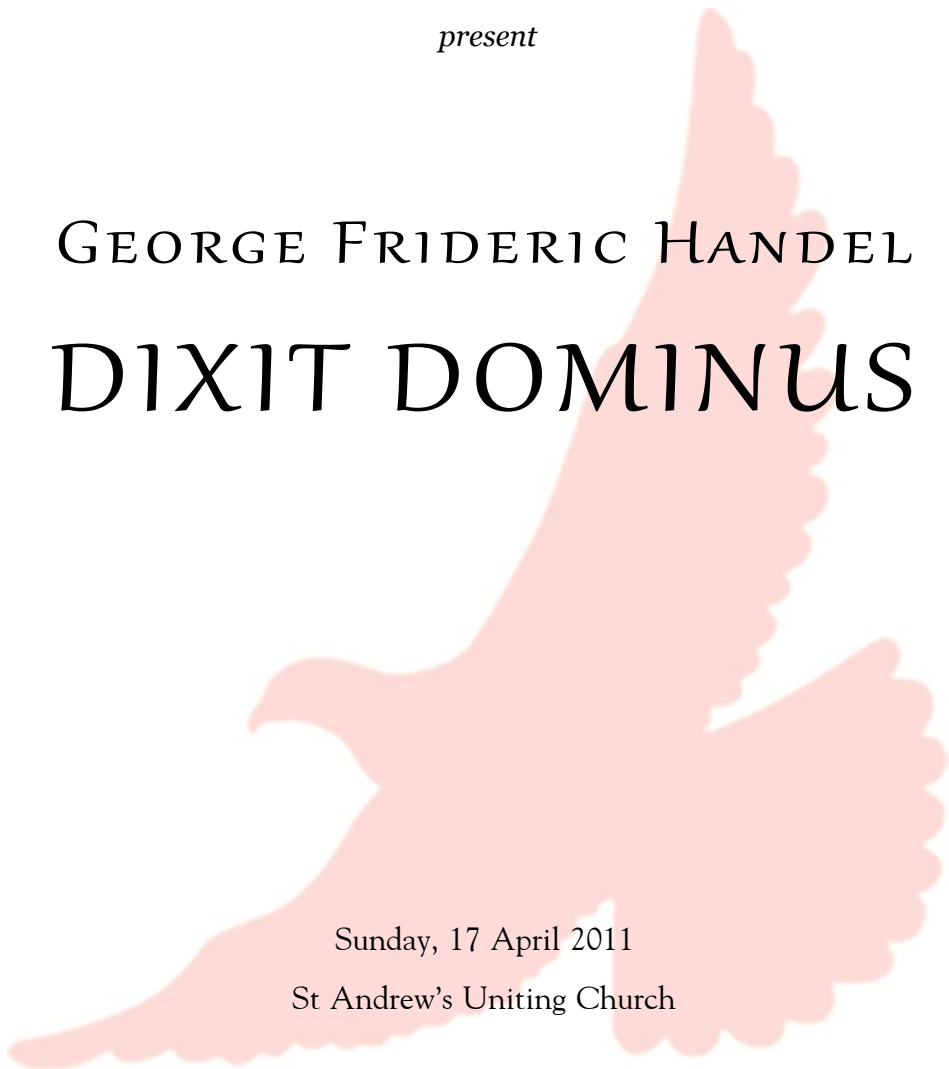
SINFONIA OF ST ANDREW'S

present

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL
DIXIT DOMINUS

Sunday, 17 April 2011

St Andrew's Uniting Church





GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

DIXIT DOMINUS

Welcome from St Andrew's Uniting Church



Welcome to the opening concert by the Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's as they perform Handel's dramatic setting of Psalm 110 together with a number of his other sacred and secular works. It is a tribute to the choir that they have been able to offer this magnificent programme. St Andrew's Uniting Church is proud of our long association with the choir and its tradition of musical excellence.

NICK TATE

Chairman, St Andrew's Church Council

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 this our first concert for 2011 containing a varied cross-section of works by Handel. *Dixit Dominus* is a dazzling musical gem written for five soloists, choir and orchestra; a challenging but rewarding piece for the performers. The other selections chosen from Handel's vast repertoire nicely complement the title piece. We hope that you enjoy this smorgasbord of Handel's music.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to our Italian tour in September this year. Starting in Milan and finishing in Rome, we will take in as many of the delights of northern Italy as we can manage in two weeks. Exact details of performances on tour are still being worked out, but we will definitely be doing a great deal of singing along the way, some shared with local groups.

We have two major fundraisers planned

for the year, the first to enable us get everyone on tour, and the second to assist us to minimise ticket prices for our regular concerts. *Caffè Bella Melodia* is an afternoon tea with light entertainment, all with an Italian flavour. It promises to be good fun for all. *The Armed Man* 'from scratch' is this year's Come and Sing offering. We hope that it will be as well received as last year's *Carmina Burana*. You are invited to sing or to be in the audience. More details can be found towards the back of this programme.

Other highlights for the year will be an appearance on Channel Seven's Great South East program next Sunday 24th April, and the release of our long-awaited Christmas CD later in the year. You can always find more information on our new-look website, which will be gradually upgraded over the coming months.



IAN MAURER

Chairman

Brisbane Concert Choir



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

DIXIT DOMINUS

The Lord said unto my Lord...

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759) was born in Germany in the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach. His early musical training was in private, as his father strictly forbade him to meddle with any musical instrument. He managed to get a small clavichord which he hid in a room at the top of the house. He very quickly became a skilful performer on the harpsichord and pipe organ. On a visit to a relative of Handel's, George Frideric's playing on the keyboard attracted the attention of Duke Johann Adolf I of Weissenfels.

Handel's father finally agreed to allow Handel to have lessons in musical composition and keyboard technique. In 1698, Handel played for Frederick I of Prussia and in 1701 Georg Philipp Telemann went to Halle to listen to the important young man. During the first decade of the 1700s, Handel held positions of organist at cathedrals in Germany and made his first visit to Italy in 1706. It was in 1707, at the age of 22, that Handel wrote the

first work to be performed in today's concert, *Dixit Dominus*, HWV 232. Handel separates the text of Psalm 109 (Vulgate) into nine movements. Handel carefully distributes the use of the chorus as the pillars of this work (similar to Bach in his cantatas of this time) and also has the chorus act as contributors to the drama of the text of the Psalm (as we see in oratorios and operas that came later in Handel's career and beyond). From the opening orchestral bars, Handel creates a rhythmic drive through the juxtaposition of chorus and soloists, which is repeated many times, yet never becomes monotonous. The second and third movements are for alto and soprano solo – *Virgam virtutis tuae* (The Lord shall send the rod of thy power out of Zion) and *Tecum principium* (In the day of thy power). The second movement, with its sparse continuo accompaniment, is contrasted by the third movement, which uses a flowing motif in the violins to propel the musical line forward in a humble way.

The dramatic chords which open the



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

DIXIT DOMINUS

as the soprano line continues to move into its uppermost range.

To end the first half of today's programme, Laura Coutts and Monique Latemore will sing two stunning arias from Handel's *Rinaldo* (composed in 1711) and *Xerxes* (first performed in 1738). *Rinaldo* was Handel's first Italian opera specifically composed for the London stage. *Lascia ch'io pianga* is sung by Almirena, the daughter of Goffredo. Goffredo has promised Almirena's hand to the knight Rinaldo. However, after much trickery it seems unlikely that this will happen. The aria *Ombra mai fù*, which opens the first Act of *Xerxes* (*Seerse*), is perhaps one of Handel's most popular arias. In a garden, with a summer house on one side, Xerxes addresses affectionate praise to the shade of a plane tree.

The second half of our programme begins with the opening of Act 3 of Handel's oratorio *Solomon* (composed in 1748), the very famous *Sinfonia* known as "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba". The Queen of Sheba enters Solomon's (her husband's) palace. His reputation as the wisest of the wise among rulers (after settling a dispute between two women about a child who

one claimed to have been stolen), convinced the Queen to take the dangerous long journey through the Arabian desert. Now she stands before him and Solomon receives her with great friendliness and asks his singers and musicians to play sweet music. The Queen is overwhelmed. With moving words they praise God, together with the priest.

Our final work today is the *Utrecht Jubilate*, composed to celebrate the Treaty of Utrecht, which established the Peace of Utrecht in 1713, ending the War of the Spanish Succession (this had been fought from 1701-13 to ensure that Spain and France did not become a superpower under one monarch and spoil the balance of power in Europe). Handel followed the models of Henry Purcell's 1694 *Te Deum* and *Jubilate*. Divided into seven sections, Handel again uses the chorus as the pillars for the structure of this work, and the orchestral accompaniment for each section perfectly complements the flow and meaning of the text.

DEBRA SHEARER-DIRIÉ
Musical Director

PROFILES

DR DEBRA SHEARER-DIRIÉ MUSICAL DIRECTOR



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 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 most recently, her third Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) conference in July this year.

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 lectures in the School of Music at the University of Queensland and is currently serving as editor of the ANCA journal *Sing Out*, and on the national ANCA committee. She is in demand as an adjudicator, clinician and conductor for festivals and eisteddfods throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

JOHN WOODS KEYBOARD

John was born in Stirling, Scotland and studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow, and the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Prior to joining the staff of the Queensland Conservatorium he worked for the RNCM, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and Granada Television. He has accompanied singers and instrumentalists throughout the UK, Europe and Australia, on the concert platform and in radio and television broadcasts, and has also accompanied the master classes of several distinguished musicians including Dame Joan Sutherland, Dame Janet Baker and Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf.



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MONIQUE LATEMORE SOPRANO

Monique has lived and breathed music from an early age. After starting private singing lessons in Primary School and continuing with extensive musical studies at High School, Monique was accepted into the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, where she completed a Bachelor of Music in Advanced Performance, and last year a Graduate Certificate in Performance. During her time at the conservatorium, Monique has performed roles including 'La Speranza' in *L'Orfeo* (Monteverdi), 'Amor' in *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Gluck), 'Marina' in *School for Fathers* (Wolf-Ferrari), 'Michel' in *Saul* (Handel) and 'Third Spirit' in *Cendrillon* (Massenet). As part of the Conservatorium's Opera Class Scenes, Monique performed excerpts from *Der Freischütz* (Weber) & *Don Giovanni* (Mozart) in the role of Ännchen and Zerlina respectively. Monique has performed previously with the Brisbane Concert choir as soprano soloist in works including *The Seasons* (Haydn) and *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Vaughan Williams). She has sung 'Second Fairy' in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mendelssohn) with Southern Cross Soloists, and has recently performed the *Poems from the Chinese* (Betty Beath) as part of the Conservatorium's Encounters Festival.

Last year, Monique was awarded joint winner of the Elizabeth Muir Memorial Postgraduate Prize at the Qld Conservatorium and selected as a reserve semi-finalist and performer in masterclasses for the Mietta Song Recital Award. Monique was also awarded first place in several sections in the Brisbane Eisteddfod, including the Operatic Aria Final. In January, Monique was awarded a scholarship to participate in the Sound Thinking Summer School Performance Workshop and also performed as a soloist and ensemble member in *Opera by Candlelight* held in Canberra for both the opening and encore concert. As well as completing her Masters in Music Studies degree this year, Monique has performed as soprano soloist in John Adam's work *Grand Pianola Music* with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in March, and next month will perform Mozart's *Great Mass* with the Brisbane Chorale. Later this year, Monique will perform the role of Lauretta in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* as part of the Conservatorium's major opera production.

NICOLIE JENKINS ALTO

Nicki works as a dentist and has always enjoyed singing. She was awarded AMusA in 2002 and completed a Graduate Certificate in Music Studies at the Queensland Conservatorium in 2003.



LAURA COUTTS SOPRANO

Born in 1988, Laura Coutts hails from Brisbane Australia. Classically trained in voice at the Queensland Conservatorium, Laura started her musical journey at the tender age of 8 when she joined the Queensland Children's Choir. From age 12 she took private singing lessons and competed in numerous competitions and completed numerous AMEB singing exams. Laura was awarded the Pine Rivers Shire Bursary, and the Elizabeth Muir Scholarship and Linda Edith Allen Prize, both from the Queensland Conservatorium. Along the way, she has had leading roles in operas and musicals: Pat Nixon in *Nixon in China*, Merab in *Saul*, Cobweb in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Anna in *The King and I* and Maria in *West Side Story*.

In 2008, she was asked to perform with belladiva, a pop-opera sextet, and is continuing to perform with them for various corporate and private functions, festivals and stage shows.



LUKE STOKER BASS

Luke studied at the University of Queensland, graduating with a Bachelor of Music (2009), and is currently completing a Master of Music degree at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. Luke studied voice with Joseph Ward OBE, and currently studies with Margaret Schindler. His roles have included the Prime Minister in *Cendrillon* (Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University) and Totengräber in *Der Rose Pilgerfahrt* (Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University), as well as performances in Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, the Fauré and Mozart *Requiems* and Vaughan-Williams' *Songs of Travel*. Luke is soon to appear in the chorus of *The Girl of the Golden West* (Opera Queensland), as Hymen in *The Fairy Queen* and Simone in *Gianni Schicchi* (Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University).

Luke appears courtesy of Opera Queensland's Young Artist Program.

YOUNG
Artist
PROGRAM

JACK PARAKH-MORGAN TENOR

Jack manages to combine solo work around South-east Queensland with Opera Queensland Chorus duties and Brisbane Concert Choir performances. After almost a lifetime of experience and enjoyment in music, he still takes immense pleasure in being part of this celebration.



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DIXIT DOMINUS

PROGRAMME

DIXIT DOMINUS (HWV 232)

Psalm 110 (Vulgate 109)

RINALDO (HWV 7)

Lascia ch'io pianga — Laura Coutts

XERXES (HWV 40)

Frondi tenere — Monique Latemore

Ombra mai fù

INTERVAL

SOLOMON (HWV 67)

Orchestra *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*

Recitative *From Arabia's spicy shores* (Queen of Sheba)

Aria *Every sight these eyes behold* (Queen of Sheba)

Recitative *Sweep, sweep the string* (Solomon)

Aria & Chorus *Music, spread thy voice around*

Chorus *Praise the Lord*

'UTRECHT' JUBILATE DEO (HWV 279)

Psalm 100

TEXT

DIXIT DOMINUS

1 CHORUS

*Dixit Dominus Domino meo:
Sede a dextris meis,
Donec ponam inimicos tuos
Scabellum pedum tuorum.*

The Lord said unto my Lord:
Sit thou on my right hand,
until I make thine enemies
thy foot-stool.

2 ARIA (ALTO)

*Virgam potentiae tuae
Emittet Dominus ex Sion:
Dominare in medio inimicum tuorum.*

The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength
out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine
enemies.

3 ARIA (SOPRANO)

*Tecum principatus in die virtutis tuae
In splendoribus sanctorum:
Ex utero ante Luciferum genui te.*

In the day of thy power shall the people offer
thee free-will offerings with an holy worship.
The dew of thy birth is of the womb of the
morning.

4 CHORUS

*Juravit Dominus,
Et non poenitebit eum:*

The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent:

5 CHORUS

*Tu es sacerdos in aeternum
Secundum ordinem Melchisedech.*

Thou art a priest for ever after the order of
Melchizedech.

6 SOLOISTS AND CHORUS

*Dominus a dextris tuis
Confregit in die irae suae reges.*

The Lord at thy right hand shall strike
through kings in the day of his wrath.



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

DIXIT DOMINUS

7 SOLOISTS AND CHORUS

*Judicabit in nationibus:
Implebit ruinas,
Conquassabit capita in terra
multorum.*

He shall judge among the heathen:
he shall fill the places with the dead bodies:
and smite in sunder the heads over diverse
countries.

8 SOPRANO AND CHORUS

*De torrente in via bibet
Propterea exaltabit caput.*

He shall drink of the brook in the way,
therefore shall he lift up his head.

9 CHORUS

*Gloria Patri et Filio
Et spiritui Sancto
Sicut erat in principium
Et nunc et semper
Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

LASCIA CH'IO PIANGA

*Lascia ch'io pianga mia cruda sorte,
E che sospiri la libertà!*

Leave me to weep over my cruel fate,
and let me sigh for liberty!

*Il duolo infranga queste ritorte,
De' miei martiri sol per pietà.*

May the sorrow break the bonds
of my anguish, if only for pity's sake.

FRONDI TENERE E BELLE / OMBRA MAI FÙ

*Frondi tenere e belle
del mio platano amato
per voi risplenda il fato.
Tuoni, lampi, e procelle
non v'oltraggino mai la cara pace,
nè giunga a profanarvi austro rapace.*

*Ombra mai fù
di vegetabile,
cara ed amabile,
soave più.*

Tender and beautiful fronds
of my beloved plane tree,
let Fate smile upon you.
May thunder, lightning, and storms
never bother your dear peace,
nor may you be profaned by blowing winds.

A shade there never was,
of any plant,
dearer and more lovely,
or more sweet.

'UTRECHT' JUBILATE DEO

1. Chorus *O be Joyful in the Lord*
2. Chorus *Serve the Lord with gladness*
3. Soloists *Be ye sure that the Lord, he is God*
4. Chorus *O go your way into his gates*
5. Trio *For the Lord is gracious*
6. Chorus *Glory be to the Father*
7. Chorus *As it was in the beginning*

After the concert

*Please join us for supper in the hall
below the Church.*

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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)
Lucy Bignall
Marie Spiller
Elisha Harrison

2ND VIOLIN

Joan Lazaroff
Maree Williamson
Mathew Gillet
Carmen Hooper

VIOLA

Anna Jack
Byron Mengel
Leone McNaught

CELLO

Ngaio Toombes
Grace Kim

DOUBLE BASS

Nicole Spargo

OBOE

Natasha Kalous
Andrew Stower

BASSOON

Trevor Williamson

TRUMPET

Geoff Spiller
Nathan Shilling

MANAGEMENT

General Manager
Graham Evans

Orchestral Manager
Maree Williamson

Librarian

Kaye Harrison



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

DIXIT DOMINUS

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. The choir has recorded performances for broadcast on ABC-TV and 4MBS Classic-FM. 2008 saw the release of a new CD, *Radiance*, and a first European tour to Prague, Salzburg and Vienna. The choir will tour to Italy in September 2011.

SOPRANO

Susan Burrows
Katherine Chan
Liz Denning
Helen Fredericks
Mary Gough
Andrea Hall Brown
Jan Hungerford
Stella Jenks
Fiona McKeon
Janet McKeon
Caitlin McMorro
Suzana Milosevic
Sarvenaz Monfaredi
Judy Neal
Stephanie Rodgers
Lucinda Thomson

TENOR

Simon Burgess
Ian Clarkson
John Holmes
Allen Kloeden
Jack Parakh-Morgan
Michael Scott

ALTO

Milly Blakeley
Christine Campbell
Amanda Dee
Sorcha Delaney
Sue Gray
Kyla Hayden
Melissa Hutchinson
Nicolie Jenkins
Barbara Lamb
Lynne Maurer
Barbara Maenhaut
Joan Mooney
Tricia Pezet
Ceri Takken
Kathy Teakle

BASS

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

MUSICAL**DIRECTOR**

Debra Shearer-Dirié

**REHEARSAL
ACCOMPANIST**

John Woods

PATRON

Guy Jansen

MANAGEMENT*Chairman*

Ian Maurer

Secretary

Stella Jenks

Treasurer

Lourens Feuth

Committee

Christine Campbell
Sue Gray
Janet McKeon
Caitlin McMorro
Jim McNicol
Stephanie Rodgers

Librarian

Mary Gough

St Andrew's Liaison

Steven Nisbet



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

SEASON 2011

2011 Concert Series

Caffé Bella Melodia

an afternoon of Italian food, fun and song

3.00 pm, Saturday, 4 June, 2011

Come and Sing 'from Scratch'

Karl Jenkins: *The Armed Man*

1.15/7.00 pm, Saturday, 16 July, 2011

Italy Tour Farewell Concert

3.00 pm, Sunday, 4 September, 2011

Traditional Christmas Concert

6.00 pm, Sunday, 4 December, 2011

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We acknowledge the huge debt of gratitude we owe to St Andrew's Uniting Church for continuing to provide a home for our choir in their beautiful, heritage-listed building.




Gambling

Community Benefit Fund

Queensland Government

The Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund which proudly funded the purchase of specialised black choir folders, together with additional music books for our library.



Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's

Phone (07) 3369 4866

chairman@brisbaneconcertchoir.com

www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com