

A scenic view of a lake with trees in the foreground and a bridge in the distance. The image is used as a background for the concert poster.

BRISBANE CONCERT CHOIR at St Andrew's

Debra Shearer-Dirié, Musical Director

LETTERS FROM HOME

Sunday 8 September 2013

The Cathedral of Saint Stephen, Brisbane



WELCOME FROM THE CHOIR



Welcome to this afternoon's concert. We are very happy that you have joined us to share in our beautiful program of music, charting a journey from Britain to Australia, and the stories in between.

It is always a joy for us to sing here in St Stephen's Cathedral, especially since so much of the English music in today's program was originally written for performance in such an acoustic.

We are also pleased to welcome the Brisbane Boys' College Collegians and their director, Mr Brett Holland, as guest choir for today's concert. This is the third of four concerts this year in which the Brisbane Concert Choir will collaborate with young musicians in Brisbane. Having once been given the opportunity myself to sing with the Brisbane Concert Choir while I was at school, I feel that there is incredible value in sharing our music with the younger generation.

The Choir is already in preparation for the final major concert of our 2013 season at which we will perform, in its entirety, Hector Berlioz's grand *L'enfance du Christ*, on 1 December.

Again, our thanks to you for joining us today, and we sincerely hope you enjoy this performance of truly moving music.

JAMES MCNICOL

Chairman

LETTERS FROM HOME

PROGRAMME of MUSIC

MAGNIFICAT FOR UNACCOMPANIED DOUBLE CHORUS (OP. 164)	C.V. Stanford
THERE IS SWEET MUSIC	Edward Elgar, words by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
THE EVENING PRIMROSE	Benjamin Britten, words by John Clare
THE BLUE BIRD	C.V. Stanford, words by Mary Coleridge
MY LOVE DWELT IN A NORTHERN LAND	Edward Elgar text from "Romance" by Andrew Lang
THREE AUSTRALIAN BUSH SONGS 1. Dawn 2. Birds 3. Sunset	Iain Grandage
SO DEEP	Robert Burns arr. James MacMillan
— INTERVAL —	
ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS	Arthur Sullivan
I VOW TO THEE MY COUNTRY	Gustav Holst arr. Guy Jansen text by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice
STEAL AWAY	trad. arr. Brazeal Dennard
LADIES OF BRISBANE	trad. arr. Brett Holland
AND SO IT GOES	Billy Joel arr. Kirby Shaw
COUNTRY GARDENS	Percy Grainger arr. David Tall
MORETON BAY	trad. arr. Mark O'Leary
I LOVE MY LOVE	Cornish folksong arr. Gustav Holst
PAST LIFE MELODIES	Sarah Hopkins
LAMENT FOR THE BOAT PEOPLE	Ruth McCall

Speaker, John Colwill



TEXTS

Music by Walter de la Mare

Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

(translation)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit
has rejoiced in God, my salvation.

For he has looked upon the lowliness of
his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth all
generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty has done great
things for me, and holy is His name.
And his mercy is from generation to
generation unto those that fear him.

He has showed strength with his arm:
He has scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He has put down the mighty from their
seat,

And he has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the needy with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has supported Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy.

As he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and
shall be for ever and ever. Amen.

Macoboy's Roses by Stirling Macoboy

**There is sweet music (Choric Song I from the
Lotos-eaters)** by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

There is sweet music here that softer falls
Than petals from blown roses on the
grass,
Or night dews on still waters between
walls
Of shadowy granite, in a gleaming pass;
Music that gentlier on the spirit lies,
Than tir'd eyelids upon tir'd eyes;
Music that brings sweet sleep down from
the blissful skies.
Here are cool mosses deep,
And thro' the moss the ivies creep,
And in the stream the long-leaved flowers
weep,
And from the craggy ledge the poppy
hangs in sleep.

Evening Primrose by John Clare

When once the sun sinks in the west,
And dewdrops pearl the evening's breast;
Almost as pale as moonbeams are,
Or its companionable star,
The evening primrose opes anew
Its delicate blossoms to the dew;
And, hermit-like, shunning the light,
Wastes its fair bloom upon the night;
Who, blindfold to its fond caresses,
Knows not the beauty he possesses;
Thus it blooms on while night is by;

LETTERS FROM HOME

When day looks out with open eye,
'Bashed at the gaze it cannot shun,
It faints and withers and is gone.

Lakeside (anon.)

The blue bird by Mary E. Coleridge

The lake lay blue below the hill,
O'er it, as I looked, there flew
Across the waters, cold and still,
A bird whose wings were palest blue.
The sky above was blue at last,
The sky beneath me blue in blue,
A moment, ere the bird had passed,
It caught his image as he flew.

Letter from Heloise to Abelard (12th C.)

Romance by Andrew Lang

My Love dwelt in a Northern land.
A dim tower in a forest green
Was his, and far away the sand
And gray wash of the waves were seen,
The woven forest boughs between:

And through the Northern summer night
The sunset slowly died away,
And herds of strange deer, silver-white,
Came gleaming through the forest gray,
And fled like ghosts before the day.

And oft that month, we watch'd the
moon
Wax great and white o'er wood and lawn,
And wane, with waning of the June,
Till, like a brand for battle drawn, she fell,

And flamed in a wild dawn.

I know not if the forest green
Still girdles round that castle gray,
I know not if the boughs between
The white deer vanish ere the day:
The grass above my love is green,
His heart is colder than the clay.

Birds by Henry Kingsley

Sunset by Jessie Miller

Dawn by Iain Grandage

Silence greets the glowing orb at dawn,
Lighting bush with misty innocence
Dry, harsh, hard, dark, sparse
This land that is lit by whisp'ring rays

Fire and gold
They dissolve the morning dew
Waking the birds, shaking the shadows
from their wings,
The day comes alive with calls and cries
from bleary throats
Bringing life and harmony unto this land.
This dry, harsh, hard, dark land.
This land that is lit by whisp'ring rays of
dawn.

Birds by Iain Grandage

Morning chorus, birds sing for us,
Welcome us in their own way to this day.

Currawongs all sing their song with
kookaburras and cicadas



Morning chorus, birds sing for us,
Welcome us to this new day.

Through the day they sing away, a cooing,
wooing, under rays of sun.

Caressing, feeding, resting in the shade of
trees they hide from heat

Of day they sing away, a cooing, wooing
under rays of sun.

Caressing, feeding, resting.

All these cries are part of our big birdsong

chorus, They sing for us,

Welcome us in their own way to this day.

Sunset by Iain Grandage

Sunset here the image is furnace molten
metal

The sky and glow that sinks in the pool of
the purple night

Summer beckons, the heat it threatens to
harm,

But the warmth of the day now sinks
away to sleepy stars.

Fashionable Wedding from a newspaper cutting book compiled by Erin O'Doherty

A Red, Red Rose by Robert Burns

O my Luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:

O my Luve's like the melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,

So deep in luve am I;

And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare-thee-weel, my only Luve!

And fare-thee-weel, a while!

And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.

Onward, Christian Soldiers by Sabine Baring-Gould

I Vow to thee my country by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly
things above,

Entire and whole and perfect, the service
of my love;

The love that asks no question, the love
that stands the test,

That lays upon the altar the dearest and
the best;

The love that never falters, the love that
pays the price,

The love that makes undaunted the final
sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of
long ago,

Most dear to them that love her, most
great to them that know;

We may not count her armies, we may not
see her King;

Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is
suffering;

And soul by soul and silently her shining
bounds increase,

LETTERS FROM HOME

And her ways are ways of gentleness, and
all her paths are peace.

Steal Away (trad. spiritual)

Ladies of Brisbane (trad.)

And So it Goes by Billy Joel

Letter by Edward Kelly, Jerilderie, 1879

Moreton Bay (trad.)

One Sunday morning as I went walking,
By Brisbane waters I chanced to stray;
I heard a convict his fate bewailing
As on the sunny river bank he lay:
I am a native of Erin's island
And banished now from my native shore,
They tore me from my aged parents
And from the maiden whom I do adore.

I've been a pris'ner at Port Macquarie,
At Norfolk Island and Emu Plains,
At Castle Hill and cursed Toongabbie,
At all those settlements I've worked in
chains
But of all places of condemnation
And penal stations of New South Wales,
To Moreton Bay I have found no equal,
Excessive tyranny each day prevails.

For three long years we were beastly
treated
And heavy irons on our legs we wore;
Our backs with flogging are cut to pieces

And often painted with our crimson gore.
And many a man from downright
starvation
Lies mould'ring now underneath the clay:
The Captain Logan he had us mangled
Upon the triangles of Moreton Bay.

Like the Egyptians and ancient Hebrews
We were oppressed under Logan's yoke.
Till a native black lying there in ambush
Did give our tyrant his mortal stroke.
My fellow pris'ners be all elated,
May all such monsters their death so find!
And when from bondage we're liberated
Our former sufferings shall fade from
mind

Comments of William Gregory, Lord Mayor
of London, c. 1450

I love my love (Cornish folksong)

Abroad as I was walking, one evening in
the spring,
I heard a maid in Bedlam so sweetly for to
sing;
Her chains she rattled with her hands, and
thus replied she:
"I love my love because I know my love
loves me!

O cruel were his parents who sent my love
to sea,
And cruel was the ship that bore my love
from me;
Yet I love his parents since they're his
although they've ruined me:
I love my love because I know my love
loves me!



With straw I'll weave a garland, I'll weave
it very fine;
With roses, lilies, daisies, I'll mix the
eglantine;
And I'll present it to my love when he
returns from sea.
For I love my love, because I know my love
loves me?"

Just as she sat there weeping, her love he
came on land.
Then hearing she was in Bedlam, he ran
straight out of hand.
He flew into her snow-white arms, and
thus replied he:
"I love my love, because I know my love
loves me."

She said: "My love don't frighten me; are
you my love or no?"
"O yes, my dearest Nancy, I am your love,
also
I am return'd to make amends for all your
injury;
I love my love because I know my love
loves me?"

So now these two are married, and happy
may they be
Like turtle doves together, in love and
unity.
All pretty maids with patience wait that
have got loves at sea;
I love my love because I know my love
loves me.

Personal stories of Ngarta and Jukuna (from
Personal stories of the Walmajarri exodus out
of the Great Sandy Desert and into European
Australia)

Letter from a refugee in an Australian
detention centre

Nicene Creed (extract)

Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem
peccatorum.
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum et
vitam venturi saeculi.

(translation)

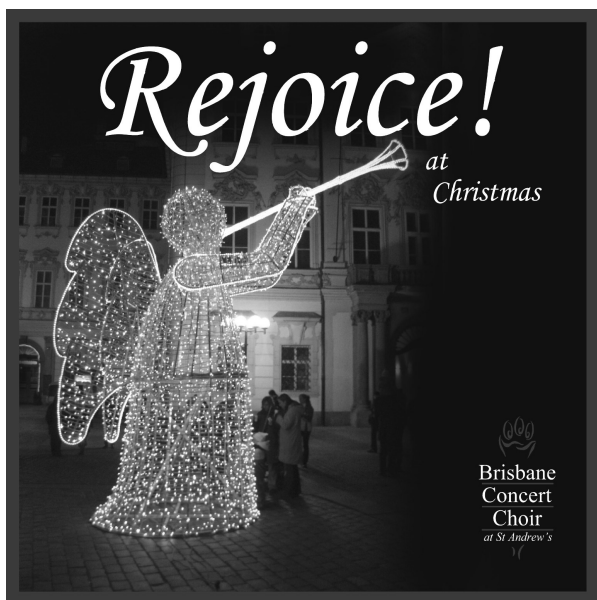
I believe in one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
I believe in the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Skye Boat Song (trad.)

Speed Bonnie boat like a bird on a wing,
'Onward' the sailors cry,
Carry the lad that was born to be king
Over the sea to Skye.

Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar,
Thunder claps rend the air.
Baffled our foes stand on our shore,
Follow they do not dare.

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



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or order online at

www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com



DEBRA SHEARER-DIRIÉ

Musical Director, Brisbane Concert Choir



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, which performs 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) Choralfest since she has returned to Australia in 2003.

Upon arriving in Brisbane mid 2003, she conducted the Queensland Young Conservatorium Chamber Choir. 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 program for older people in the community to join in song. She began leading this group 18 months ago.

Debra has lectured at the Queensland Conservatorium, The University of Queensland School of Music, and in 2013 will be teaching at the Australian Catholic University and serving as editor of the ANCA journal *Sing Out*, and on the National Council for ANCA. Debra is in demand as an adjudicator, clinician and conductor for festivals and eisteddfods throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

LETTERS FROM HOME

BRETT HOLLAND

Director, Brisbane Boys' College Collegians



Brett Holland is a well-known Bass in South East Queensland who has sung professionally as far north as Thursday Island and as Far South as Melbourne. He has sung with Opera Queensland, Opera Australia and performed as the solo Bass in many works up and down the East Coast. Some of Brett's 2013 engagements are the Role of Caiaphas for Opera Queensland, the solo Bass part for Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ and the Adjudicator of the Vocal Sections of the Townsville Eisteddfod. A significant number of Brett's students have sung with Opera Queensland and Opera Australia with a number going on to study voice locally and abroad. Brett is in great demand as a vocal teacher, guest choral clinician/technician and is currently Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at the Brisbane Boys' College.

THE COLLEGIANS

The Collegians is the premiere changed voice choir from the Brisbane Boys' College. They perform at a variety of concerts and services throughout Brisbane most notably the Annual Brisbane Anzac Dawn Service in Anzac Square. The boys are selected largely from grades ten to twelve. This afternoon their choral offering ties the themes of young men dealing with conflict, hardship, love, and most importantly love!



BRISBANE CONCERT 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.

LETTERS FROM HOME

SOPRANO

Susan Burrows-Prilick
Judy Cavanagh
Katherine Chan
Bronwyn Cox
Sarah Daly
Jane Deighton
Helen Fredericks
Jan Hungerford
Amy Jelacic
Stella Jenks
Janet McKeon
Suzana Milosevic
Elizabeth Yee

ALTO

Milly Blakeley
Christine Campbell
Amanda Dee
Sorcha Delaney
Amelia Fotheringham
Sue Gray
Kyla Hayden
Grete Hindsberger
Melissa Hutchinson
Nicki Jenkins
Barb Lamb
Barbara Levien
Barbara Maenhaut
Lynne Maurer
Joan Mooney

Jane Oliver

Ceri Takken
Kathy Teakle

TENOR

Simon Burgess
Ian Clarkson
Lourens Feuth
Brett Gordon
Paul Kennedy
Allen Kloeden
Shan Ma
Michael Scott
Stuart Szigeti

BASS

Turi Agostino
Robert Bray
Bruce Campbell
Michael Dalley
Ian Maurer
Mark McKeon
James McNicol
Timothy Reeves
Ross Salomon
Murray Smith
Chris Whight

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Debra Shearer-Dirié

REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST

John Woods

MANAGEMENT

Chairman
James McNicol

Secretary
Stella Jenks

Treasurer
Janet McKeon

Committee
Sorcha Delaney
Sue Gray
Melissa Hutchinson

Librarian
Melissa Hutchinson

SEASON 2013



MUSIC AT THE MANOR

Saturday 15 June, 4pm, St Andrew's Uniting Church

English High Tea with side servings of English music, from madrigals to musicals



GRAND OPERA CHORUSES 'FROM SCRATCH'

Saturday 13 July, St Andrew's Uniting Church

Rehearsal from 1.30pm, Performance at 7pm

Opera favourites from Verdi, Puccini, Bizet and others



LETTERS FROM HOME

Sunday 8 September, 3pm, The Cathedral of St Stephen

Stanford *Magnificat for Double Choir*
with the Brisbane Boys' College Choir



KIDS' CHRISTMAS CAPERS

Saturday 23 November, 2.30pm, St Andrew's Uniting Church

A concert specially for young people and families, full of jolly Christmas fun and activities.



L'ENFANCE DU CHRIST

Sunday 1 December, 6pm, St Andrew's Uniting Church

Hector Berlioz *L'enfance du Christ*

LETTERS FROM HOME

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



We welcome the Brisbane Boys' College Collegians and their director, Mr Brett Holland, as guest choir at this event.



We would like to thank the staff at the Cathedral of St Stephen for their assistance in staging this performance.



The Choir appreciates the ongoing generosity shown by St Andrew's Uniting Church and its congregation in providing a home for the Choir and allowing us to use their beautiful, heritage listed building.

Our thanks to John Colwill, our fabulous presenter. Many thanks also go to Judy Cavanagh and Lynne Maurer for their work on collecting the letters and readings.



Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's Inc.

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