

## 2006 Concert Season

### May

4MBS Festival of Classics — Mozart

Sunday, 21 May 2006

With the Sinfonia of St Andrew's.

### July

"From Scratch" Gounod Messe Solennelle

Saturday, 15 July, 2006

With the Sinfonia of St Andrew's.

### September

Brahms, Bartok, Barber and others

Sunday, 17 September, 2006

### December

The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace by Karl Jenkins

Sunday, 3 December, 2005

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Phone 3369 4866 for further details or to be placed on our mailing list.

[www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com.au](http://www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com.au)



Brisbane  
Concert  
Choir

at St Andrew's



Benjamin Britten's

# Saint Nicolas

## A Cantata for Christmas

followed by  
Christmas favourites  
old and new



with the  
**Sinfonia of St Andrew's and  
the Brisbane Youth Chorale**

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

Phone (07) 3369 4866

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Sunday, 4 December 2005  
St Andrew's Uniting Church, Brisbane

## A word from our Chairman

Welcome to this our last concert for 2005. This year has been a particularly busy and exciting time for the Choir. During rehearsal and performance of *Purcell & Pizzal* in May, the wildly successful *Nelson Mass* 'from scratch' in July, St Andrew's Centenary Concert in August, and an enjoyable "Big Sing" weekend away in Kingaroy in September, we have been guided and inspired by our new permanent Musical Director Debra Shearer-Dirié. We look forward to a musically challenging and rewarding future with her. I encourage you to make a note of our 2006 concert dates listed in your programme, starting with our Mozart concert in May as part of the 4MBS Festival of Classics.

This concert marks the final appearance of Bronwyn Brown, who has accompanied the choir since its inception in 1996, and Graeme Brown, founding chairman and fellow member of the bass line. We thank them for their outstanding contributions to the Choir and wish them well in their new life south of the border.



Ian Maurer  
Chairman - Brisbane Concert Choir

## A word from St Andrew's Church

Welcome once again to the annual Christmas Concert of the Brisbane Concert Choir and Sinfonia of St Andrew's.

During Advent we prepare ourselves to greet Christmas Day with all its greatness and more often than not during this time we look for the things with which we are familiar.

Tonight's concert not only gives us the familiar but also some items that we may not have heard before - comfort and surprises.

As we participate by listening and singing I hope we are inspired and uplifted by the words and music.

May this Holy Season be a time of great joy and hope for us all.

Reverend Ray Herrmann  
Minister - St Andrew's Uniting Church

### We Wish you a Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas..... and a happy New Year.

*Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;*

*We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

Now bring us some figgy pudding..... and bring some out here.

*Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;*

*We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

For we all like figgy pudding.....so bring some out here

*Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;*

*We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

And we won't go till we've got some.....so bring some out here

*Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;*

*We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. A happy New Year*

*We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

### Special Thanks

To all of those who have helped us to make this evening run smoothly, a big thank you for your support and assistance. We couldn't do it without you and truly appreciate your help.

### 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. Please note that these doors open inwards.

## A Child's Prayer

**James Macmillan**

(b 1959)

Dedicated to the dead of the Dunblane tragedy of March 1996, this piece was first performed in Westminster Abbey the following July. The setting is the more poignant for the scoring of two solo treble parts throughout, which are accompanied by slow-moving chords sung by the remainder of the choir. Despite the tragic circumstances of the time, much is made of the word 'joy' which builds to such an intense climax that there is inevitably a lingering feeling of optimism and peace.

## What Sweeter Music

**John Rutter**

(b 1945)

### AUDIENCE:

#### **O Come, All ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him Born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither, Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Yeah, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

**After the Concert**  
**Please Join Us for Supper**  
**in the Hall below the Church**

## Musical Director

**Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié**



Dr. Debra Shearer-Dirié, originally from Perth, Western Australia, is Musical Director of the Brisbane Concert Choir at St. Andrew's. After completing her Undergraduate degree at the University of Western Australia she ventured to Hungary and completed a Diploma of Kodály Education at the Kodály Institute in Kecskemét, Hungary. In the short time Dr. Shearer-Dirié returned to Perth, she was invited to teach at several national workshops. She holds a Master of Music Education degree and Doctorate of Music in Choral Conducting degree from Indiana University in the United

States. During her time at Indiana University she was director of the Indiana University Children's and Youth Choir; assistant director to Paul Hillier with the Pro Arte Singers; and director of the International Vocal Ensemble at Indiana University for two consecutive years. From 2000-2001, she was selected as Artistic Director of the Northwest Girlchoir in Seattle, a 400-voice ensemble which performed frequently with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, directed by Gerard Schwarz. After completing her dissertation, Dr. Shearer-Dirié was invited to present at the National Conference of the American Choral Director's Association in New York 2003, and at the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) conference in 2004.

Upon arriving in Brisbane mid-2003, she conducted the Young Conservatorium Chamber Choir through diverse repertoire which lead to an invitation to perform at the ANCA National conference in 2004. In 2006, she will continue her sessional work at the University of Queensland supervising the Master's Choral Conductors. Dr. Shearer-Dirié travels nationally adjudicating and conducting and continues to be in contact with her colleagues internationally.

## Choir Management

Chairman	Ian Maurer	Musical Director	Debra Shearer-Dirie
Secretary	Nicki Jenkins	Accompanist	Bronwyn Brown
Treasurer	Robert Bray	Librarian	Mary Gough
Committee	Ian Clarkson	St Andrew's Liaison	Steven Nisbet
	Bronwyn Cox	Patron	Guy Jansen
	Melissa Britnell		
	Louise Strasser		

## Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's

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. 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.

### *Sopranos*

Lindsay Blacow  
Melissa Britnell  
Doreen Coveney  
Bronwyn Cox  
Helen Fredericks  
Mary Gough  
Andrea Hall Brown  
Mele Horner  
Jan Hungerford  
Stella Jenks  
Jenny Landsberg  
Suzana Milosevic  
Wendy Rolls  
Lucinda Thomson  
Ruby Westlake

### *Altos*

Christine Campbell  
Nicki Jenkins  
Barbara Lamb  
Lynne Maurer  
Andrea Morris-Campbell  
Tricia Pezet  
Rebecca Russell  
Margaret Ward

### *Tenors*

Ian Clarkson  
John Holmes  
Allen Kloeden  
Jack Parakh-Morgan

### *Basses*

Robert Bray  
Graeme Brown  
Bruce Campbell  
Gary Fachse  
John Ferrett  
David Maurer  
Ian Maurer  
Robin Maurer  
Tom McIntosh  
Michael Scott

## Brisbane Youth Chorale

*Conductor – Stephanie Eaton*

Renae Battle  
Katherine Bill  
Laura Cartright  
Heidi Chan  
Connor D'Netto ×  
Georgia Davey  
Sarada Denduluri  
Christina Formenton  
Flynn Hall  
Rhiannon Hoy  
Saskia Van Iperen

Yu Meng Jin  
Annabelle Kent  
Rachel Lewindan  
Casey McCollow  
Nicola McGrath  
Riya Makan  
Vidya Makan  
Gabriella Meredith  
Bernadette Miller-Greenman  
David Mitchell  
Liana Phillips

Daniel Paxton × †  
Siobhan Reiter  
Fouzia Russell-Boumzar  
Lachlan St. Godard ×  
Charlotte Sait  
Kristen Scott  
Johanna Shand  
Elizabeth Smalley  
Harriet Weedman  
Jiwon Youn

× Three Pickled Boys (Movement VII, St Nicolas)  
† Young St Nicolas (Movement II, St Nicolas)

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

### **Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright;  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds first saw the sight:  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiance beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.*

But when to Bethlehem they came whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christ-mas all others doth deface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**Shiloh**

**Noel! Christmas Eve 1913**

Viola—Anna Jack

**AUDIENCE:**

**Hark! The herald angels sing**

Hark! The herald-angels sing Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
*Hark! The herald-angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! The herald-angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.*

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man know more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.  
*Hark! The herald-angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.*

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming**

**AUDIENCE:**

**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.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns:  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.

**William Billings**  
(1746-1800)

**Kenneth Jennings**

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**Michael Praetorius**  
(1571-1621)

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**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 Violins:**

Theo Lazaroff (Leader)  
Maree Williamson  
Roy Glossop  
Celine Crellin  
Lucy Bignall  
Nerida Oostenbroek

**2nd Violins:**

Cathy Roberts  
Armelle Jeanne  
Matthew Gillet  
Therese OBrien  
Jeanine Oostenbroek

**Violas:**

Anna Jack  
Katie Khafagi  
Jo Yarham  
Tara Houghton

**Cellos:**

Deborah Davis  
Chris Patrick  
Ngaio Toombes

**Double Bass:**

Lorna Sherwin

**Timpani:**

Jane MacKerras

**Percussion:**

Petina Winch

**Piano:**

Bronwyn Brown  
John Woods

**Organ:**

Steven Nisbet

**Guest Soloist Tenor – Gregory Massingham**

A graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium, tenor Gregory Massingham is one of Australia's most experienced singers. Following postgraduate study at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama and with the distinguished tenor Sir Peter Pears, Mr Massingham returned to Australia to take up a position at the Conservatorium, where he is now Head of Opera.

In addition to his academic commitments, Mr Massingham maintains a busy performance schedule chiefly as a concert artist. In particular, his interpretation of the works of Benjamin Britten have been highly acclaimed. He appears regularly as tenor soloist with all the major orchestras and Choral Societies in the country and has performed under such distinguished conductors as Sir David Willcocks, Sir Charles Mackerras, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Gunther Schuller, Bruno Weil and Jane Glover.

Recent performances have included Handels' *Messiah* for Sydney Philharmonia, the premiere of Vincent Plush's *Gauguin in Paradise* at the Brisbane Writers' Festival, Monteverdi's *Vespers* in Auckland, Bach's *Johannes Passion* in Wellington and a semi-staged performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in Brisbane. At the 2005 Sydney Festival he again performed Brett Dean's *Winter Songs*, this time with the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet.

A large number of legends centre around Saint Nicolas, Bishop of Myra during the fourth century, and the original "Father Christmas". This cantata was written in 1948 for the centenary celebrations of Lancing College, Sussex.

**I. Introduction** Saint Nicolas appears as a vision to a congregation. Their eyes are blinded by his holiness and splendour but they long to see "the man within the Saint." "Strip off your glory, Nicolas," they cry, "and speak to us." He bids them preserve the living Faith: they pray for help and strength to do so.

**II. The Birth of Nicolas** Nicolas "leaps from his mother's womb" and sings "God be glorified." He is baptised and legend spreads across the country. Neighbours cry "Nicolas will be a Saint."

**III. Nicolas devotes himself to God** Nicolas describes leaving home after his parents deaths and the shock of discovering the miseries of mankind. He begs God calm him and grant him "sweet humility" in the task ahead.

**IV. He journeys to Palestine** The voyage. Sailors jeer at Nicolas who prophesied a tempest far ahead. When it erupts in fury the sailors panic (the children in the gallery echo the wailing of the wind) and fall on their knees as Nicolas prays for the storm to cease. Calm returns and deeply moved he weeps for the love of God.

**V. Nicolas comes to Myra and is chosen Bishop** Nicolas prays that with God's grace he will defend the faithful and comfort those in need. The ceremony making him bishop continues with the chorus beginning "Serve the faith and spurn his enemies." Finally chorus and congregation sing the hymn "All people that on earth do dwell." (Please join us.)

Congregation

All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with  
O en - ter then His gates do with praise, Ap - proach with joy His  
For why? the Lord our God is good: His mer - cy is for  
cheer - ful voice: Him serve with fear, His praise forth  
courts un - to; Praise, laud and bless His name al -  
e - ver, sure; His truth at all times firm - ly

tell, Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice. A - - - - men.  
ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.  
stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.

**VI. Nicolas from Prison**

Nicolas lies in prison in the times of persecution by the Romans in Asia Minor during the fourth century. He sees this as a punishment for the Christian's sins and implores them to turn to God.

**VII. Nicolas and the Pickled Boys**

Famine-stricken refugees struggle to find food. The gallery chorus is heard mourning for three little boys who are lost. They have been killed and pickled to be sold to the hungry as meat. Nicolas called the three boys back to life. All sing "Alleluia" at the sight of the miracle.

**VIII. His piety and marvellous works**

Nicolas has been bishop for forty years. The chorus remembers his courage, his kindness and the many occasions he has saved them

**IX. The Death of Nicolas**

Saint Nicolas is close to death and is "faint with love for Him who waits above." A triumphant "Amen" signals the yielding of his soul to God. The cantata ends with chorus and congregation singing the hymn, "God moves in a mysterious way" (Please join us.)

Congregation

God moves in a my - ste - rious way His won - ders to per - form;  
Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines Of ne - ver fail - ing skill  
Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cou - rage take, The clouds ye so much dread

He plants his foot-steps in the sea, And rides u - pon the storm. A - men!  
He trea - sures up his bright de - signs, And works his so - vereign will.  
Are big with mer - cy, and shall break In bless - ings on your head.

**Intermission**

**Interested in singing with us?**  
The Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's welcomes new members. For further information about our audition process, please phone Lynne Maurer on 3369 4866.

**A Special Touch**  
Brisbane Concert Choir performs regularly for weddings at the heritage-listed St Andrew's Uniting Church, as well as many other venues around Brisbane. With a large selection of wedding music available we can suggest repertoire which will blend perfectly with your wedding plans. To find out more call 3369 4866, email [chairman@brisbaneconcertchoir.com](mailto:chairman@brisbaneconcertchoir.com) or check out our website at [www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com](http://www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com)