

## 2008 Concert Season

**25 April 2008**

The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace (Karl Jenkins)

With the Sinfonia of St Andrew's.

**July**

Handel's Messiah

With the Sinfonia of St Andrew's.

**August**

'From Scratch' Brahms's German Requiem

With the Sinfonia of St Andrew's.

**November**

An a cappella concert in preparation for

**December**

Advent Festival performances in Prague and Vienna.

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

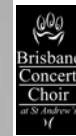
[www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com](http://www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com)

**Brisbane Concert Choir**

Phone (07) 3369 4866

[chairman@brisbaneconcertchoir.com](mailto:chairman@brisbaneconcertchoir.com)

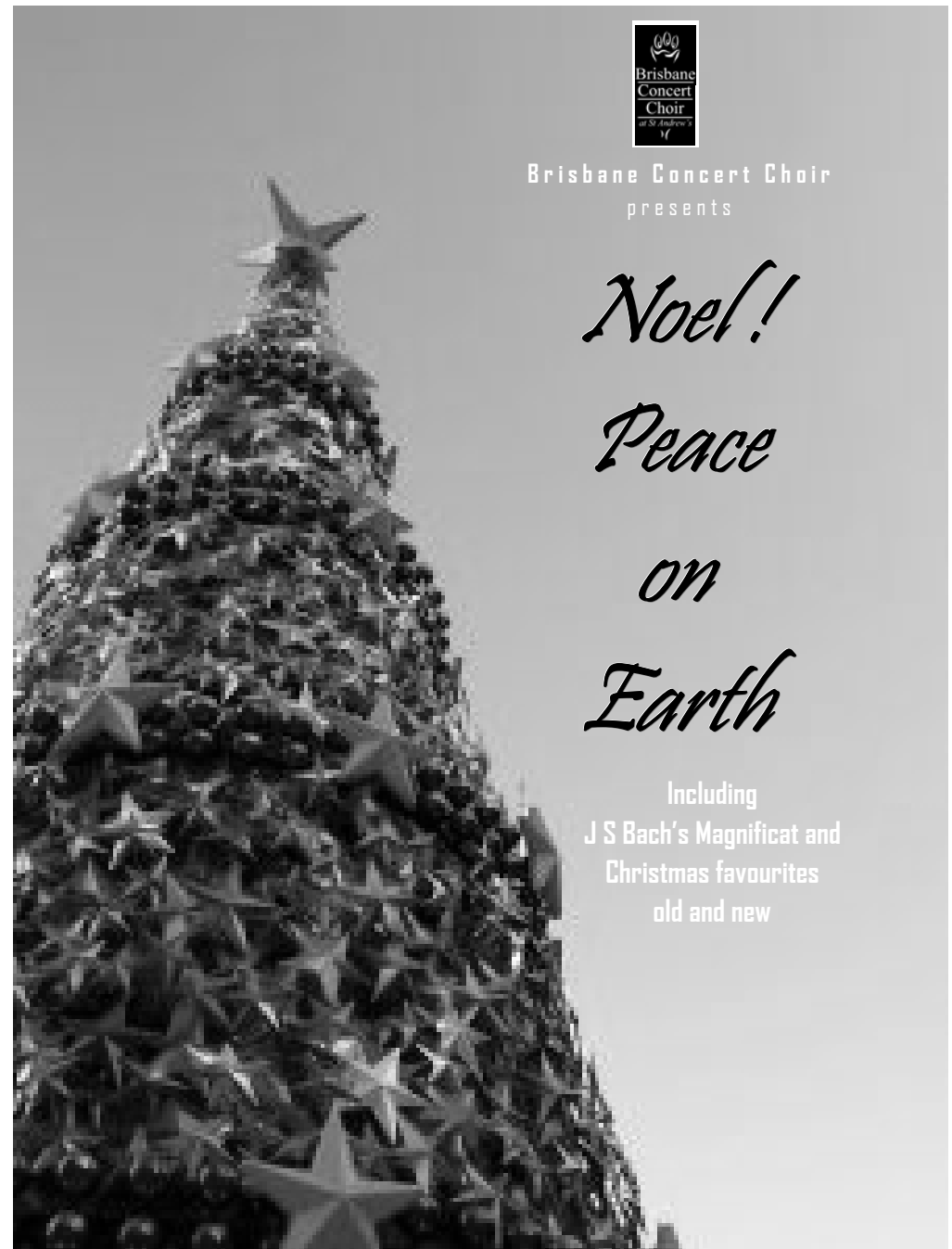
[www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com](http://www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com)



Brisbane Concert Choir  
presents

# Noel! Peace on Earth

Including  
J S Bach's Magnificat and  
Christmas favourites  
old and new



with the Sinfonia of St Andrew's

Sunday, 2 December, 2007

St Andrew's Uniting Church, Brisbane

## A word from our Chairman

Welcome to this our last concert at St Andrew's for 2007, and thank you for sharing our musical journey. If you are new to our audience and would like to know when our concerts and other musical events are on, please take a moment at interval to complete the form in your program and place it in the box in the foyer, or post it to us.

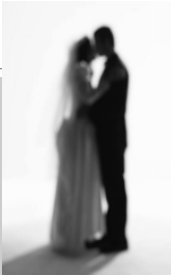
This concert marks the end of a very full year for the Choir, which included a performance with orchestra of *The Armed Man – A Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins, Beethoven's *Mass in C* as our *Come and Sing 'from scratch'* event, revisiting the delightful acoustic of Lismore's St Carthage's Cathedral in August to help celebrate their centenary, and an *cappella* concert in St Stephen's Cathedral as part of Cathedral's Week. We have also begun recording our next CD, with a planned release in mid-2008. To round out 2007, as always, you can hear us carolling at Toowong Village from 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Looking forwards, we have a very busy schedule for next year. The first concert is a repeat performance, by public demand, of *The Armed Man – A Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins on Anzac Day. In the spirit of Christmas in July, we will be presenting Handel's *Messiah* in July. Although we have sung a few choruses from this work, this will be the first time we have presented the complete oratorio. Brahms's *German Requiem* (in German) is the challenge we have selected for our 'from scratch' performers in August. Music, rehearsal CDs and pronunciation guides will be available in plenty of time. We will finish the year with an *cappella* concert, currently planned for November to allow time for a proposed European tour to perform at advent music festivals in Vienna and Prague in early December. We are always happy to raise funds for our choir by doing what we do best – singing. We provide music for weddings and other functions, not just at St Andrew's, but at many other venues around Brisbane. We would love to hear from you.



Ian Maurer  
Chairman - Brisbane Concert Choir

## 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)

## 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.

## Fancy yourself a singer?

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.



## 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.

**Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King** *Moses Hogan (1957-2003)*

**O Come All Ye Faithful** *(AUDIENCE PLEASE JOIN US)*

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!*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God, Begotten, not created:  
*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!*

**We Wish you a Merry Christmas** *Traditional West country carol arranged by  
Arthur Warrell (1883-1939)*

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

**A word from St Andrew's Church**

I am always intrigued by the expectations of people who attend Advent / Christmas Concerts.

After the concert one hears it in the comments of the audience statements like there was no opportunity for us to participate, "or" I didn't know any of the pieces which were sung, "or" there should be no audience participation at concerts – the person next to me shouldn't sing!! No doubt you've heard these comments and more.

Today's concert offers us a great mix of the ancient and new, the familiar and perhaps for some of us the unfamiliar and the opportunity to listen and also participate – a healthy mix in my mind.

While our personal requirements are important, in the end my prayer for us all as we participate in this evening's concert is that we will have a greater sense of the sacredness of the season of Advent and Christmas and of a God who comes to all humanity.

May God bless you and those whom you love throughout these Holy Seasons.

Reverend Ray Herrmann  
Minister - St Andrew's Uniting Church



## Musical Director

### Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié



Dr. Debra Shearer-Dirié, completed her Undergraduate degree at the University of Western Australia. She holds a Diploma of Kodály Education from the Kodály Institute, Kecskemét, Hungary, a Master of Music Education degree and Doctorate of Music in Choral Conducting degree from Indiana University, USA. While at Indiana University she was director of the Indiana University Children's Choir and assistant director to Paul Hillier with the Pro Arte Singers. 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. Dr. Shearer-Dirié has presented at the National Conference of the American Choral Director's Association in New York 2003, and at the Australian National Choral Association conference in 2004. In 2005, she was appointed Musical Director of the Brisbane Concert Choir and in 2006, founded the Vox Pacifica Chamber Choir which has just returned from a very successful tour of Tasmania including several well-received performances at the National ANCA conference. Dr. Shearer-Dirié lectures in the School of Music at The University of Queensland and has recently served as guest editor of the Australian National Choral Associations Journal Publication. She is currently serving on the Queensland State ANCA committee and travels nationally as an adjudicator, conductor, educator and clinician.

## Choir Management

|                  |                  |                                |                     |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Chairman</b>  | Ian Maurer       | <b>Musical Director</b>        | Debra Shearer-Dirié |
| <b>Secretary</b> | Nicki Jenkins    | <b>Accompanist</b>             | John Woods          |
| <b>Treasurer</b> | Tricia Pezet     | <b>Librarian</b>               | Mary Gough          |
| <b>Committee</b> | Jenelle Grant    | <b>St Andrew's<br/>Liaison</b> | Steven Nisbet       |
|                  | Stella Jenks     | <b>Patron</b>                  | Guy Jansen          |
|                  | Caitlin McMorrow |                                |                     |
|                  | Heather Wearne   |                                |                     |

Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing

### ***Away in the Manger***

Away in a manger,  
No crib for His 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,  
'Til 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

***(AUDIENCE PLEASE JOIN US)***

Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
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.

***The Shepherd's Farewell (from L'enfance du Christ, Op. 25)***  
**Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)**

***Good King Wenceslas***

**(AUDIENCE PLEASE JOIN US)**

Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter fuel

"Hither, page, and stand by me  
If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him dine  
When we bear him thither."  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather

"Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how,  
I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, my good page

## 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. The choir has recorded performances for broadcast on ABC-TV and 4MBS Classic-FM, and 2008 is shaping up to be a busy year with plans to release another CD and tour Vienna and Prague.

***Sopranos***

Lindsay Blacow  
Melissa Britnell  
Liz Denning  
Helen Fredericks  
Mary Gough  
Alexandra Greene  
Andrea Hall Brown  
Jan Hungerford  
Stella Jenks  
Anna Kloeden  
Stephanie Lloyd  
Sarah McBratney  
Janet McKeon  
Caitlin McMorro  
Suzana Milosevic  
Judy Neal  
Elizabeth Pratt  
Lucinda Thomson  
Helle Wagner  
Margaret Ward

***Altos***

Milly Blakeley  
Christine Campbell  
Cathy Dean  
Sue Gray  
Kyla Hayden  
Melissa Hutchinson  
Nicki Jenkins  
Barbara Lamb  
Lynne Maurer  
Joan Mooney  
Tricia Pezet  
Rebecca Russell  
Ceri Takken  
Heather Wearne

***Tenors***

Ian Clarkson  
Cameron Hall  
John Holmes  
Allen Kloeden

***Basses***

Malcolm Alexander  
Robert Bray  
Andrew Campbell  
Bruce Campbell  
Michael Dalley  
Geoff Hines  
Ian Maurer  
Robin Maurer  
Tom McIntosh  
Mark McKeon  
Timothy Reeves  
Ross Salomon  
Michael Scott

## 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:*

Chen Yang - Leader  
Lucy Bignall  
Marie Spiller  
Sherryn Toomey  
Fred O'Grady  
Elisha Harrison

### *2nd Violins:*

Celine Crellin  
Bronwyn Gibbs  
Lisa Blumen  
Bob Hepple

### *Violas:*

Anna Jack  
Katy Khafagi  
Timothy Tate

### *Cellos:*

Deborah Davis  
Meg Robson  
Ngaio Toombes

### *Double Bass:*

Lorna Sherwin

### *Flutes:*

Deborah Cox  
Kristine Healy

### *Oboes:*

Natasha Kalous  
Maggie Moncrieff

### *Clarinets:*

Graham Evans  
Hilary Martin

### *Bassoon:*

Trevor Williamson

### *Trumpets:*

Sam Nester  
David Rattu  
Justin Thring

### *Trombones:*

Paul Lam  
Rogan Clancy  
Ashley Gittins

### *Timpani:*

Jane MacKerras

### *Organ:*

Steven Nisbet

## Interval

### *Veni, veni Emmanuel Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-star, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads to Thee,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come to lead us Adonai,  
Who to the tribes on height of Sinai  
In ancient times did'st give the Law,  
In cloud, and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

### *Joy to the World*

**(AUDIENCE PLEASE JOIN US)**

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:

## Programme

### **Angelus ad Pastores Giovanni Gabrieli (c.1557-1612)**

The angel says to the shepherds:  
I bring you tidings of great joy.  
For unto you is born today the Saviour of the World. Alleluia.

### **O Magnum Mysterium Giovanni Gabrieli**

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord.  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy  
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

### **Salvator Noster Giovanni Gabrieli**

Today our Saviour is most wondrously born.  
Let us all rejoice, may the holy one delight exceedingly  
who draws near the reward of victory.  
Let the sinner rejoice, because he is invited to forgiveness;  
let the gentile be given life, for he is invited to live: Alleluia.

### **Magnificat in D, BWV 243 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

#### 1 *Magnificat*

My soul magnifies the Lord.

#### 2 *Et exsultavit spiritus meus Soprano Aria*

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour.

#### 3 *Quia respexit humilitatem Soprano Aria*

For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:

#### 4 *Omnnes generationes*

For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

#### 5 *Quia fecit mihi magna Bass Aria*

For he who is mighty has done great things to me; and holy is his name.

#### 6 *Et misericordia Alto, tenor duet*

And his mercy is on them who fear him from generation to generation.

#### 7 *Fecit potentiam*

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud,  
even the arrogant of heart.

#### 8 *Deposuit potentes Tenor Aria*

He has deposed the mighty from their seats, and exalted the humble.

#### 9 *Esurientes implevit bonis Alto Aria*

The hungry he has filled with good things.

And the rich he has sent empty away.

#### 10 *Suscepit Israel Trio*

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

#### 11 *Sicut locutus est*

As it was spoken to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed for ever.

#### 12 *Gloria Patri*

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

As it was in the beginning, is now,

And ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

## Vocal Soloists

### **Soprano — Melinda van der Meulen**

Melinda van der Meulen studied at the Queensland Conservatorium, the Australian National Academy of Music, Melbourne and by scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.

Melinda's student performances included, among others, the title role of Handel's *Semele* and Jasmine in the Australian premiere of Andrew Schultz's *Going Into Shadows*. While studying, Melinda received many awards including the Sir Mostyn Hanger Scholarship, and has subsequently been a finalist in a number of Australia's most prestigious singing competitions.

After graduation in 2004, she studied under David Harper in London. 2005 and 2006 saw Melinda singing principal roles with Pavilion Opera, London, and the English Touring Opera. In Australia, Melinda has performed as a soloist on the concert platform with some of the nation's leading orchestras in Sydney and Brisbane, and enjoys performing as soloist with many choral and orchestral ensembles in south-east Queensland.

### **Mezzo Soprano — Elizabeth Lewis**

In 2007, Elizabeth has performed the role of the *Pastore* and was the understudy to *Messengeria* and *Proserpina*, in the Queensland Music Festival's production of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, performed at the Masonic temple. She was also the understudy to the role of *Orpheus* in the Conservatorium Opera School's production of Gluck's *Orpheus ed Euridice*. Other roles in her repertoire include *Le pâtre* from Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges: Fantaisie lyrique en deux parties*, *Katisha* from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* and *Katie Brown* in Fain's *Calamity Jane*.

This year Elizabeth also competed in the South East Aria and Concerto Competition, where she won the Encouragement Award. Other achievements include the Elizabeth Muir Scholarship and Runner up in the Margaret Nixon Prize.

Elizabeth is looking forward to singing with the Brisbane Concert Choir for the first time and hopes you enjoy the concert.

### **Alto — Nicki Jenkins**

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.

### Tenor — Ian Clarkson

Ian Clarkson has been making music in Brisbane for many years, though music plays second fiddle to his profession as an architect. Ian has sung minor professional opera roles, at other times singing solo roles in choral works such as The Messiah and the passions and cantatas of Bach. Singing in a variety of choirs and accompanying other singers have been among Ian's other musical interests. While a student, Ian trained as an organist, and for a time played for mid-week services at St Andrew's Uniting Church. He has played at the Toowong Uniting Church for many years. By day, Ian presently works in a large architectural firm.

### Bass — Robin Maurer

Robin studied classical voice at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Performance. He is now studying Occupational Therapy.

Singing, and particularly choral music, has played an important part of Rob's family for many generations. As a young lad he performed regularly as a treble soloist and over the years has sung in choral groups such as St Peter's Chorale, the Qld Con Chamber Choir, Canticum, and the National Youth Choir of Australia (NYCA). Rob is currently an active member of the St Andrew's Sanctuary Choir and the Brisbane Chamber Choir. Robin has been a member of the Brisbane Concert Choir bass section since 1998.



### Christmas Hamper Raffle

Make your Christmas extra special (and extra easy). Get your tickets for your chance to win our Hamper raffle full of goodies for Christmas. Tickets will be on sale before the concert and at interval. The raffle will be drawn at the conclusion of tonight's concert... so don't miss out!

## Programme Notes

Our programme this evening begins with three of Giovanni Gabrieli's Christmas Motets – *Angelus ad Pastores*, *O Magnum Mysterium*, and *Salvator Noster*. All three pieces are composed for more than one choir in a style which is referred to as *cori spezzati*, or separated choirs. *Angelus ad Pastores* (The angel says to the shepherds) is written for 12-part choir. Our interpretation this evening will unite the choir with a small group of musicians which consist of a female singer accompanied by three trombones (sackbutts, ancestor to the modern trombone, in Gabrieli's time). The opening phrase creates the excitement of the Angels message to the shepherds. Each section of text is interrupted by short "alleluias" exclaiming the joy of the arrival of the New Born King.

Gabrieli's *O Magnum Mysterium* illustrates the composer's perfection in harmonic writing. The sopranos begin with a single note out of which emerges the shimmer of "the great mystery." The two choirs converse with each other on this well known and magnificent text highlighting each phrase with a different musical colour according to its meaning. *Salvator Noster*, written for 15-parts, opens in a majestic style declaiming "Today our Saviour is most wondrously born." The constant change in the metrical quality of the music illustrates the composer's mastership in writing for voices. The addition of trumpets in the final section of this piece contribute to its triumphant nature.

The Magnificat is one of the great Latin hymns of the Catholic Church and has inspired some of music's finest sacred writing. Johann Sebastian Bach's Magnificat in D major, BWV 243, is perhaps the most well-known setting. Composed for a choir of five voices and orchestra, the text is the canticle of Mary, mother of Jesus as recounted by Luke the Evangelist. Bach's original version was composed in E flat major in 1723 for the Christmas Vespers in Leipzig. The version performed this evening is in D major and had its premiere at the Thomaskirche, Leipzig in 1733. The work is divided into twelve parts which can be grouped into three large movements, each beginning with an aria and completed by the choir in a fugal-like chorus.

I believe that whenever a large crowd of people come together, as we have tonight, they should sing. We invite you to join us, in the second half of the programme, in singing some of our favourite Christmas songs. These will be interspersed with some particular choral favourites of mine.

I became first acquainted with Zoltán Kodály's *Veni, veni Emmanuel* when I studied at the Kodály Institute in Kecskemét, Hungary. Based on the chant of the title, the meandering chant-like opening line of each verse is passed through the voices giving birth to an exuberant "gande" or "rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." Berlioz's *The Shepherds' Farewell* from *L'Enfance du Christ* creates a pastoral mood with the woodwind motif in the opening bars. The simple melodic lines of the chorus set up the cradling hands to shelter the Prince of Peace. The final piece of tonight's programme performed by the chorus is one of Moses Hogan's *Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King* which makes use of the well-known spiritual *Go Tell it on the Mountain*.

My best wishes to you and your families over this holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in 2008 for our very exciting season.

Debra Shearer-Dirić  
Musical Director - Brisbane Concert Choir