



November 2019

NOTES

The Newsletter of
The Royal School of Church Music
Waikato Branch



The RSCM Choir
directed by Nigel Williams
singing Stainer's *Crucifixion*

From the Chair

Here we are again in November- where has the year gone!

It certainly has been a busy and a very productive year of activities for our Branch, with a Sing-along before the AGM in Matamata, a Workshop in Tauranga, a Workshop on Reading Music in Matamata, and a Festival of church music in Matamata.



You will also see the photo and read the report of the presentation of a 'RSCM Special Service Award' to Virginia Gallagher in St Peter's Cathedral on 20th Oct. We thank Virginia for her sterling work and input to our Branch, which was acknowledged not only by RSCM Waikato, but also by RSCM NZ and RSCM UK.

In the process of contacting church musicians and choirs for the Festival on 2nd November, we now have Area Representatives in Mt Maunganui, Tauranga, Morrsville, Hamilton and Rotorua. We were delighted to have the choir of St Luke's Anglican Church Rotorua, conducted by Elizabeth Pilaar, participate in the Festival.

It was also good to hear from our Treasure that we have a new 'Personal member' in Taupō.

Next year we have some exciting activities already planned, starting with a Combined Waikato/Auckland Choral weekend in Auckland on 7th - 8th March, (see information below); the Presentation of Stainer's *Crucifixion* on Sunday 5th April in St Andrew's Cambridge (see the details in this newsletter); and an invitation to present Evensong in St Mark's Church Te Aroha in May, before our AGM (details circulated later, as available).

I conclude by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you at our activities in 2020.

David Brookes.

RSCM Waikato-Change of Secretary.

Due to family circumstances, and many commitments and responsibilities in the field of music, Vaughan Chetwynd has retired from his position of Secretary of our Branch.

Vaughan has formed a choir of 38 voices in Bethlehem, Tauranga, and has also taken on many leadership roles in the community.

We thank Vaughan for the energy and enthusiasm he has put into the role as Secretary, not only in taking minutes of our committee meetings, and keeping contact with the committee; but also in assisting in the organisation and promotion of our activities. In many of these, such as the 'Hymns and Songs old and new' Workshop in Matamata, and 'Come and Sing' recently in Tauranga, Vaughan has used his leadership and organisation qualities and skills.

Vaughan has agreed to continue on the committee of our Branch, and to be the RSCM Area Representative for Tauranga and the Bay of Plenty. I hope he is the first of many more Area Representatives we can appoint to keep in contact with the large area our Branch covers.

At our committee meeting on 5th September Merv Hunt was appointed as the Acting Secretary of our Branch and will therefore have a dual role as Secretary (Acting) and Treasurer. His contact details are as follows:

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Email: waikatosecretary@rscm.org.nz.

Presentation of RSCM award

Readers will recall from the July edition that RSCM UK has awarded a certificate of special service to Virginia Gallagher, who was for many years treasurer for this branch. Virginia had

asked that the certificate should be presented to her in the context of Choral Eucharist at St Peter's Cathedral. It took a while for the certificate to reach New Zealand, but once it had arrived, arrangements were made for the presentation to take place at the service on Sunday 20th October.

David Brookes, chairman of RSCM Waikato, spoke of the reasons for the award, stressing Virginia's long service as treasurer, particularly at the time of the Summer School held in



Hamilton, and all the complicated arrangements occasioned by that event.

In presenting the certificate to Virginia, the Dean of Waikato, Very Rev'd Phil Wilson, spoke of the longstanding and

important relationship between the local RSCM branch and St Peter's Cathedral and thanked Virginia for her involvement in that relationship.

Festival of Church choral music for All Saints' Day

All Saints' Matamata invited RSCM Waikato to join with them in celebrating their patronal festival. David Brookes reports on the event.

On Saturday 2nd November over 60 choristers from many towns in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, including a chorister from the UK gathered in All Saints' church Matamata to present a concert of choral church music.

This concert, organized by the Waikato Branch of the Royal School of Church Music, also celebrated through the medium of music the Patronal Festival of All Saints'. To be part of such a wonderfully balanced choir, or as a member of the audience was a thrilling and amazing experience.

From the opening dynamic Vivaldi *Gloria*, with organ accompaniment played with such dexterity and précised rhythm; to the final beautiful *Clare Benediction* composed by John Rutter, and with other well-known anthems by Tye, Stainer, Mozart, J.S.Bach, this concert had it all.



But that was not all. Four choirs presented a wide variety of church choral music, including the world premiere of a new composition *Kyrie Eleison* from a Mass composed by local musician, Eddie Dean,

presented by All Saints' choir, Matamata, with organist Graham Burdan. St Luke's choir Rotorua presented a modern worship song, *Nothing is lost in the breath of God* by Colin Gibson; the Venité choir Cambridge: *How brightly shines the morning star*, J.S. Bach, and *O Holy Jesu*, Palestrina; and St Matthew's choir Morrinsville sang the round, *Dona Nobis Pacem* followed by *Sanctus* from the *German Mass 2* by Schubert.

Choristers enjoyed wonderful hospitality and food after the 2hr rehearsal, and in the concluding afternoon tea after the concert. Many thanks to the catering people who kept the choir well 'fed and watered'.

Appreciation and thanks to the conductors, Rachael Griffiths- Hughes, Elizabeth Pilaar, Gordon Binnie, Anne Connolly-Munt and David Brookes; organists, Anne Cleaver, Roz Robinson, Graham Burdan and David Brookes; and MC, Wayne Petersen.

And finally, a few words of appreciation from one of the choristers- 'Thank you for a delightful afternoon of beautiful music, I can't wait for the next one.'

Branch activities next year

Planning for next year's activities is underway and at this stage we can advertise two important events. Notice of others to occur later in the year will be circulated in the March 2020 edition of *Notes* and/or as a separate mailing.

'Jubilate Deo' Choral Weekend

RSCM Auckland and Waikato have organised a weekend of Choral Music on 7th-8th March 2020 at St Mark's Remuera. For full information, please see the brochure enclosed with this mailing or sent separately to your email address.

***Crucifixion* performance for Holy Week**

After the success of the workshop and performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* in Tauranga recently, RSCM Waikato in conjunction with St Andrew's Church, Cambridge, will be presenting a performance of the same work at the beginning of Holy Week next year, on Palm Sunday, 5th April.

The performance will take place at 4.00p.m. in St Andrew's Church, and will be directed by Koli Jayatunge.

This is an invitation to all singers and choirs interested in taking part to register their interest by contacting the branch secretary, Merv Hunt, by email: agcity@gmail.com, or phone: 021 135 9904, preferably by 10th December.

This will be at once an all-comers and a rehearsed event, and singers are expected to familiarise themselves with the music (and if possible rehearse it in groups) in the weeks before the event, to attend a full workshop on Saturday, 21st March (potluck lunch), and to attend a rehearsal on Sunday afternoon just before the actual performance.

Choristers inspired at Workshop and Presentation.

Fifty choristers from Church and Civic choirs in the Waikato / Bay of Plenty area attended a RSCM Waikato workshop and presentation of Stainer's Oratorio 'Crucifixion' on Saturday 27th July, at the Wesley Church, Tauranga. Singing this music was a wonderful experience, conducted by Nigel Williams, and accompanied by organist Dr Rachael Griffiths-Hughes. Koli Jayatunge sang some of the tenor soloist sections leading into the choruses. Carol Chetwynd also presented a shortened spoken narration to join the various sections sung by choristers together.

Nigel commented on the skills of the composer, who set the text of the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus to music giving the words such impact and emotion. The work is often referred to as a meditation. This certainly was experienced when we sang the words 'Fling wide the gates' for the 'Procession to Calvary'; and 'Crucify' in the 'Appeal of the Crucified'.

One of the most familiar parts of the Oratorio is 'God so loved the world', often sung as an anthem in church services of worship. Nigel told us it was the first anthem he sang in a choir as a treble, and which he later accompanied as a young organist.

The bass next to me commented how different the sound created by church choirs is to a civic choir, of which he is a member. There could be several explanations for this, but I would say it is because church choirs sing with heart, soul, and a strong faith in God, not just the music.

During the interval, as Chairman of RSCM Waikato, I thanked the choristers for their participation in this choral activity, organised by Vaughan Chetwynd, Secretary of RSCM Waikato, and Wesley Church Tauranga. I mentioned that our Branch has for some time adopted an 'outreach' approach to our Branch activities, by asking what music/ activities people would like to be held in their area/ church, and that they host the event, with any assistance required, such as an organist/music etc.

I concluded by thanking all involved in the afternoon programme, including refreshments during the interval, and hoped to see people at our future activities.

David Brookes.

Sydney Inspires

Jeremy Whimster reports on the RSCM Winter School, held in Sydney:

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the RSCM Sydney Inspires winter school in July. This event was a massive undertaking compared with the Summer Schools with which we are all familiar. Instead of just inviting one overseas director, Ross Cobb, National President RSCM Australia and his team decided to hold the school in winter and to invite six overseas directors along with four Australian directors. The choral stream had four directors, Dr David Hill (St Matthew Passion), Dr Noël Tredinnick (Prom Praise), John Rutter CBE (Lessons and Carols recorded for Christmas Day broadcast) and Dr Barry Rose OBE (A Royal Evensong). We all had the opportunity to take part in these four events which provided an exceptionally varied repertoire. The first full day, Sunday 7th July, included Solemn Vespers in St Mary's Cathedral at 5.00p.m.

Unfortunately, I arrived in Sydney at 6.00p.m., as I had a family event at home the previous evening. The organ stream was led by Thomas Ospital, a brilliant 29-year-old Titulaire of the grand organ at Saint-Eustache Church in Paris and Harmony Tutor at the Paris Conservatoire along with Anne Marsden Thomas MBE, who is well known to all readers of the RSCM's *Church Music Quarterly*. They were joined by Dr June Nixon AM and Michael Fulcher, both from Melbourne. As well as the odd rehearsal to familiarise ourselves with the music for the above-mentioned performances, we were able to take part in workshops that included: Conducting, Renaissance Consort and the Mysteries of Gregorian Chant Revealed, Choral Vocal Techniques and Composition. The Australian Youth Choir were in attendance for the whole week and learnt all the St Matthew choruses to performance level in four days. There were also 35 children that added another dimension to the course. David Hill and Noël Tredinnick were kept busy rehearsing orchestras for their respective concerts in the Town Hall. The accommodation

was in St Paul's College at the Sydney University and they kept us well fed and watered. All in all, it was a most enjoyable week of music making and will be a very hard act for Brisbane to next July.

Jeremy Whimster

RSCM Waikato/ Matamata Christmas Choir.

Workshop- Reading Music.

Saturday 7th September.

A keen and enthusiastic group of twelve choristers from various choirs attended a very stimulating and informative workshop – Reading Music, in All Saints' Church Hall, Matamata.

Dr Rachael Griffiths- Hughes, Lecturer in Music History and Musicianship, University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music, presented the workshop, which opened with singing exercises for the development of pitch and agility, recognising intervals, with the emphasis on pitch and key signatures, using tonic solfa.

Rachael also gave us some very interesting information about the history of music notation, and how the first music notation was written. The workshop then continued to look at rhythm - the length and value of notes, with more exercises for all to sing. Rachael explained the treble and bass clef signs, the note names in each clef, and different key signatures.

We then applied this information to the carol: 'Sing for Joy' by Alan Smith, which has different note values and no regular beats in each bar, giving a very catchy tune. Another carol studied was 'Rise up Shepherd, and Follow', a traditional carol that gave the opportunity to practise pitch, note values and the rhythms of this carol.

At the conclusion of this workshop we all enjoyed refreshments, and social interaction. Members of the Matamata Christmas Choir expressed a desire to have a similar workshop presented to the whole choir during their rehearsal evening next year, for all the choir to benefit.

David Brookes.

A new experience

It is of course the role of RSCM to support, encourage, even resource the use of music as a part to worship.

The branch has been engaged in this activity for a long time, gathering choirs and singers together to worship, to support each other, to bring music to churches which by themselves cannot maintain musical enhancement as they would like, and so on. However, individual members also fulfil the same function. David Brookes writes of what was for him a new, but at the same time familiar experience:

During my now many years as a church organist, I have never played the organ for a Mass in a Roman Catholic Church. A friend of mine, who sings in All Saints' Matamata Anglican Church choir, and is a member of the Church of the Holy Angels Catholic Church, asked me to play for their Sunday Mass, as their regular organist was away.

The organ in the church is a two-manual Croft pipe organ, similar to the organ in All Saints' Church, so there was no problem finding my way around!

The sung parts of the service were led by a Cantor, my friend Ben, who did an excellent job of leading the congregational songs, and was Cantor for Psalm 103, with a congregational Response between the verses. The liturgy was very similar to the NZ Anglican Liturgy, with the Gospel Acclamation, Sanctus and Benedictus, Memorial Acclamation, Amen and Agnus Dei sung to the setting 'Mass of Mary, Queen of Peace'. The four songs- 'Gather Your People', 'Take our bread', 'Do this in remembrance of me', and 'Take the word of God with you' were sung with enthusiasm, with very appropriate words. I played 'Ave Maria' Schubert as a Prelude, and 'Choral song in C' by S.S.Wesley as a Postlude.

I found this experience to be stimulating in several ways:

- Firstly, the use of a setting of the Mass for congregational participation, simple but effective, and easy to sing;
- Secondly, the Psalm was set to a Plainsong Chant in the verses, with the Response sung by the congregation, again easy to ‘pick-up’ and sing;
- Two of the songs were new to me, ‘Gather Your people’ - very appropriate for the start of the service, and ‘God be with you’, a fitting conclusion the service.

In conclusion, I quote what my friend said to me - We all worship the same God, perhaps in different ways.

David Brookes

Worship that SINGS

A training day for all who are involved in any way in leading worship. Topics covered will include: Worship 101 (the very basics); Creative traditional worship (The Prayer Book beyond page 404); Creative contemporary worship (Getting to grips with the 21st Century)

Venue: All Saints Anglican Church, Matamata
Date: 16 November 2019
Time: 09h00 - 15h00
Lunch: Please bring a plate to share
RSVP: Contact Andrew by 13 Nov at
Allsaintsmatamata@gmail.com

It is our chief end to glorify God and enjoy Him forever



Cantata Vespers at St Peter's Cathedral

Cantata vespers services all occur at 5.00p.m. at St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton, on the third Saturday of the month. Since they are religious services, there is no admission charge, but there is a retiring collection towards the organ fund.

16th November: *Mache dich mein Geist bereit* BWV115 by J.S. Bach (Flute, oboe, horn, violoncello piccolo, strings, SATB soloists, chorus)

Advent and Christmas Services and Events

Hamilton:

St Peter's Cathedral

Sunday 1st December

Advent Carol Service – 6.00p.m.

Sunday 22nd December

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 6.00p.m.

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Carol singing, 9.00p.m.

Midnight Mass, 11.00p.m.

Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day

Choral Eucharist, 9.45a.m.

Taranaki

Taranaki Interim Cathedral and other Taranaki venues

Sunday 1st December

Advent Carol Service - 5.00p.m.

Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Wednesday 4th December

Hymn Lecture - "Hark! the herald angels sing" - 11.30a.m.
Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Sunday 15th December

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - 4.00p.m.
The Cathedral Choir
St Barnabas' Church, Opunake

Monday 16th December

Christmas Organ Recital - 11.30a.m.
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Stratford

Wednesday 18th December

Christmas Organ Recital - 11.30a.m.
Wesley Methodist Church, Hāwera

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - 7.30p.m.
The Cathedral Choir
Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Thursday 19th December

Christmas Organ Recital - 1.00p.m.
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, New Plymouth

Saturday 21st December

Christmas Organ Recital - 2.00p.m.
Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Picnic Carols on the Lawn - 5.00p.m.
Great Taranaki Steam Band
Vicarage Lawn at Taranaki Cathedral

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Children's Liturgy - 5.00p.m.
Carols - 11.00p.m.
Midnight Mass - 11.30p.m.
Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day

Holy Communion & Carols - 8.00a.m.

Family Eucharist - 10.00a.m.

Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Napier

The Waiapu Cathedral of St John the Evangelist

Sunday 1st December

A service of readings, hymns and carols for Advent – 8.00p.m.

Sunday 22nd December

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – 7.00p.m.

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass - 11.15p.m.

Tuesday 25th December, Christmas Day

Eucharist with carols – 8.00a.m.

Festive Eucharist with Cathedral Choir - 10.00a.m.

Matamata

Matamata Christmas Choir's Concerts

All Saints' Church, Matamata.

Thursday 29th, Friday 30th Nov., Saturday 1st Dec., all at 7.30p.m.

Sunday 2nd Dec. at 1.30p.m.

Admission by donation at the door.

Conductor: Mary Heberley.

Guest choir: St Joseph's School choir.

Guest soloist: Jazz Vidamo.

Guest musicians: Matamata Country and Western Club.

Cambridge

Saturday 7th December – 2.00p.m.

A programme of Christmas music with readings in the as part of the Cambridge Christmas Festival, Venité Choir - 2.00p.m.
Cambridge Town Hall.

Sunday 15th December

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - 7.00p.m.
St. Andrew's Church.

Editor's column

Many sincerest thanks as always to contributors to this edition of *Notes*, especially our chairman, David Brookes. The function of this newsletter is not only to give members and friends notice of the branch's future activities but also to report on and celebrate what we as a branch and as individuals have been doing in pursuit of the aims of RSCM.

I want to publish the first edition of 2020 at a date which will not only allow the inclusion of a report on the Auckland weekend workshop in March and more detail on our programme for the coming year, but also to provide information about choral services and other musical events for Holy Week and Easter.

That edition will be my last, as I have indicated that I will not be making myself available for re-election to the committee at the AGM, so a new editor will take over from July.

Deadline for material for inclusion in the March issue: 15th March 2020.

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RSCM (NZ) Website <http://rscmnz.org.nz>
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A Happy and Blessed Christmas
as we celebrate the birth
of our Lord in worship and music