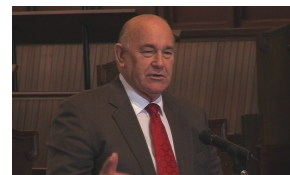


# *The Royal School of Church Music*

## *Wellington Branch Newsletter – December 2010*



### ***From the Chair:***

Advent is upon us – and the Festival of Christmas has come around more quickly this year than it did last year! In all our busy-ness and preparation of music for these seasons it may be appropriate to remember *where* the Christ child was born? He was “born in western Asia and sought refuge in northern Africa”. Not only do liturgical practices in our country rarely reflect the cultures in which the gospel took root, but we often seem to ignore the kinds of music that the majority of other Christians worldwide use in their worship of our Triune God.

Thinking of all the saints from other cultures and what they might be singing, I thought also of the “great cloud of witnesses” mentioned in Hebrews 12, namely, all the saints from all generations. There’s a theological basis here for the worshiping Church to be open to all the worthy voices in ages past, and in cultures present. In the light of this does the false dichotomy between ‘traditional’ and ‘contemporary’ start to fall away?

At the present time I find myself engulfed in a fascinating openness in church music styles. Last Sunday evening the Choir of St John’s in the City combined with The Choir of St Mary of the Angels in plainsong and Victoria’s expressive four-part hymn *Conditor alme siderum* (1581) and Schnabel’s *Transeamus usque Bethlehem* in an excellent arrangement by Maxwell Fernie – in his spidery handwriting.

One week earlier, St John’s had experienced a first-rate contemporary worship song: *Lord have mercy* (Merkel, 2000). It comprised three solo verses and a short, dignified refrain arranged in three parts, which the congregation picked up immediately. This modern act of confession brought together, in one harmonious whole, the contemporary music group, piano, choir, pipe organ, and many of the musical tastes in our community of faith – without too much fuss and bother.

Next week we offer *This is the record of John*: Orlando Gibbons, followed a week later by the American folk carol *I wonder as I wander* in the midst of an All Age Service that introduces a recent *Prepare ye the way of the Lord* in popular style. A week later: the beautiful classic Stanford’s *Magnificat in G*. All this within the space of a few weeks - and without time to think of what might be on *Praise Be*, *Hymns on Sunday Morning*, or religious TV!

The RSCM Summer School in Hamilton will no doubt promote continuing discussions on how we go about choosing music for inclusion in corporate worship and whether, as Lionel Dakers said, there ought to

be “fair shares for all”. Is it also important to be able to worship with saints of the past and with saints of differing cultural traditions?

Have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season. I hope to see you at either the Summer School or at the attractive Wellington RSCM activities next year.

May our gracious God richly bless us all

*Guy*



### **Winter Choir School 2011**

**Dates: Monday July 25 to Saturday July 30.**

**Venue: St Matthew’s School, Masterton.**

*Roy Tankersley, co-ordinator of the Winter Choir School planning writes:*

The 2011 Winter Choir School will be held @ St Matthews School, Masterton during the second week of the holidays between terms 2 and 3 from Monday July 25th to Saturday July 30th.

Directing Winter Choir School for the next three years will be Peter de Blois from Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland, Paul Ellis from Christchurch, Chairman of RSCMNZ and Roy Tankersley, committee member from Palmerston North. The Director of WCS2011 will be advised as soon as possible.

We are very pleased that Krystyna Wishnowsky will again to be the School's Registrar and Administrator for 2011.

**Start planning and fundraising to come, and bring your friends!**

### **All Saints Church Celebrates 125 Years.**     *Roy Tankersley writes:*

On All Saints Day the choirs of the Anglican Parish of All Saints in Palmerston North celebrated 125 years. This wonderful milestone was celebrated with past and present choir members gathering early afternoon to rehearse for the Choral Eucharist followed by cutting of the cake, reminiscences from the decades, and a lavish afternoon tea. I was invited to sing in the choir and was honoured to do so. The service was splendid with Bishop Brian Carrell, former vicar of All saints preaching and presiding. The choir numbered about 50 singers and RSCM service medals were presented by Alison Stewart (Branch Chaplain) and myself during the service prior to the Eucharist. The choir sang a setting by Martin How and the Anthem was a work from New Zealand composer David Hamilton, commissioned by All Saints choir a few years back. The music was conducted brilliantly by the present Director of music, Jenny Boyack, with Alison Stewart, former Director of Music, putting the Croft organ through its paces with magnificent accompaniment.

## ***Summer School 2011.***

It's still not too late to register for the Summer School in Hamilton from 9 to 17 January 2011. we are looking forward to some exciting musical experiences led by Director Timothy Noon from the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, UK, including some good services and a big Hymn Festival with organ and brass accompaniment. Lindsay Gray, the Director RSCM International is planning to be there and this will be a good opportunity to her how the world wide organisation functions and to ask questions or receive suggestions for our own Branches. We encourage participants to register for the whole week, but if this is not possible it is worth enquiring about one or two days. Contact Trevor Gibbs, Email: [tgibbs@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tgibbs@xtra.co.nz) You may also get an application from Trevor, or download it from the website – <http://rscmnz.awardspace.com> – or contact me, Alison Pitts, Email: [ampitts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ampitts@xtra.co.nz) or telephone 04 2375031.

It would be good to see everyone there, and specially more young people.

## ***Situations Vacant.***

**St Mark's Church, Basin Reserve** has a vacancy for an organist - for their 9.30 am Sunday service with possibly some weekday services from time to time - Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday etc. An honorarium of \$75 per service is paid.

Anybody interested is invited to apply to St Mark's Anglican Parish, 13 Dufferin St, Wellington 6021 or to [st.marks1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:st.marks1@xtra.co.nz)

**Chapel of the Transfiguration** at St Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka (STC) is looking for an organist from January 2011, possibly for up to two years. There is a long established choral tradition of a high standard, and applicants would need to be suitably qualified with a strong interest in choral and organ music. If you would appreciate the challenge and experience of working in a tropical climate in a beautiful country, please contact Professor Peter Godfrey in the first instance.

Email: [pdhq@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pdhq@xtra.co.nz)

## ***New Music for Evensong.***

Professional musician and composer Gordon Lawson, a long time friend of the late John Wesley Barker, has written a setting of the evening canticles in his memory - "The Nelson Service" These have now been published in the US and he is seeking to bring this publication to the attention of musicians in New Zealand who might be interested to buy them.

The publisher's details are: Kenwood Abbey (Mr Randall M Egan)  
2024 Kenwood Parkway,  
Minneapolis, MN 55405-2302  
United States of America.  
Email: [eganmusic@earthlink.net](mailto:eganmusic@earthlink.net)

## ***RSCMNZ Foundation.***

The Foundation for the Royal School of Church Music New Zealand was established some years ago for the purpose of furthering the work of the RSCM in New Zealand, and particularly for offering financial assistance for the education and training of church musicians. It is not yet in a position to start offering assistance, and the Council wishes to bring it to the attention of members and to seek donations for this purpose. Donations of \$5.00 or more are tax deductible, and cheques should be written to RSCMNZ Foundation and sent to PO Box 10110, Phillipstown, Christchurch 8145.

## *Dates for your Diary 2011.*



### **Annual General Meeting:**

**Date:** Sunday 13 March 2011

**Time:** 2.30pm

**Venue:** Loaves and Fishes, the Anglican Cathedral of St Paul.

We recall the very pleasant of attending solemn Vespers at Sacred Heart Cathedral after the AGM earlier this year. In 2011 we shall have the opportunity of staying for sung Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral, with the choir conducted by Director of Music, Michael Fulcher. Please come and support your Branch, and have your say on its activities.



### **Annual Branch Dinner:**

**Date:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**Venue:** St Andrew's Parish Centre, Steyne Avenue, Plimmerton.

**Time:** 7p.m.

**Guest Speaker: Rodney Macann.**

Rodney is:

- \* Leader of the NZ Baptist Church,
- \* International opera star, and
- \* former Senior Minister at Central Baptist Church where he introduced many contemporary worship songs to the congregation.
- \* There is a rumour that he may delight us with a spiritual at the end of his Dinner Address.

We have had two very successful dinners at St Andrew's, and are looking forward to this next one. The venue is central for people from both Wellington and the Kapiti Coast, with a frequent train service and adequate parking nearby. We look forward to a congenial evening.

***Watch for more information in the New Year.***

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### **Branch Directory.**

**PO Box 6303, Te Aro, Wellington.**

**Chair:** Dr Guy Jansen;

phone: (04) 904 0012 Email: [gijansen2003@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gijansen2003@yahoo.com.au)

**Secretary:** Rachel-Mary Perry (minutes secretary)

**Treasurer :** Jeff Lee, Phone: (04) 388 8804. Email: [leehouse@xtra.co.nz](mailto:leehouse@xtra.co.nz)

**Chaplain:** Alison Stewart Email: [a.stewart@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.stewart@xtra.co.nz)

**Committee Members,** Robert O'Hagan, Alison Pitts,

Stephen Rowley, Michael Stewart, Roy Tankersley, Helen Robertshawe

**National Librarian: position vacant at present.**

