



# Sotto Voce

Murray Conservatorium Choir

News of Choirs and Choral activity of the Albury Wodonga and North East Region.

## 'A Joyful Noyse'

Christmas Concert series will include **Vivaldi: 'Gloria,' John Ross, 'A Gaelic Christmas' and Carols**



**John Ross**, Murray Conservatorium Choir, Founding Musical Director

## In this Issue

- Gloria
- Consort A Capella
- A Gaelic Christmas
- Sponsorship
- Listen out for

## 'Gloria' .... Indeed, 'A Joyful Noyse'

The Christmas Concert series '**A Joyful Noyse**' will include presentation of **Antonio Vivaldi 'Gloria'** accompanied by the '**Moodemere Quartet and Friends.**'

The choral repertoire found in the 'western music canon' is predominantly music the originated in the various iterations of the Christian Church. 'Choral Gems' opened with the medieval plainsong '**Pater noster**' through to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, C.V. Stanford, '**Justorum animae**' and **Beati quorum**' and the de Severac, '**Tantum ergo.**'

Texts are in Latin... a noble language largely, if not totally unintelligible to modern Australians.

How this has come about is beyond the scope of this note.

It is self-evidently apparent, however, that much of the greatest music over the last millennium has been written in service of the church for liturgical purposes, sometimes commissioned specifically, sometimes, just as a point of reference.

Immediately coming to mind are the Byrd, 4-part Mass (our last concert), Bach, B minor Mass, Mozart, C minor Mass, or the Haydn D minor Nelson Mass (he did write 14 of them)

It is sobering to think that Bach's B minor Mass was never presented in his lifetime and was liturgically impossible because of its scale and complexity.

Similarly, Beethoven took the text of the Mass as a brief for his C major Mass and the later, 'Missa Solemnis' both sublime but are liturgically impossible works.

Gloria in excelsis Deo (the Gloria) originated sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> C and become the second part of the set mass text. Gloria, also known as the Great Doxology also exists independently and the Vivaldi 'Gloria' is one of the best known.

Some choir members may recall us presenting the Poulenc 'Gloria' with Vernon Handley and the MSO in Albury back in the last century!

'Gloria' clearly has a long and venerable pedigree, but what does it mean? Perhaps we assume that the meaning of these ancient Latin texts is familiar?

Here is a translation

*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam,*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise You, we bless You, we adore You, we glorify You, we give You thanks for Your great glory,

*Domine Deus, Rex caelestis [coelestis], Deus Pater omnipotens.*

Lord God, heavenly King, O God Almighty Father.

*Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;*

Lord Jesus Christ, Only-Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

*qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.*

You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

For You alone are the Holy One, you alone the Lord, you alone the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

As we learn the notes and internalise the music, it is helpful to consider the meaning of the text.

'Gloria' is both a celebration and a reflection and I believe, has much to offer regardless of our individual religious or spiritual belief.

## A Gaelic Christmas – John Ross

The Christmas Concert series will also include Founding Musical Director, John Ross's delightful 'A Gaelic Christmas Carol. It is a rare and great privilege to be able to prepare the work of a living composer of John's stature

Here's a link to a sample of the music

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/a-gaelic-christmas-digital-sheet-music/20660163>

Look for the 'Listen' icon to hear a preview of the music.

## A Cappella (without accompaniment)

The Conservatorium Vocal Consort is presenting an afternoon recital on Sunday 28 at Murray Gardens Retirement Village.

The Consort as most Conchoir members know, is the group that irritatingly blocks access to the rehearsal room on Mondays.

It is a formal Class offered by the Conservatorium and has evolved out of a Madrigal Singing Class that David Carolane initiated following his retirement from the ConChoir directorship.

Subsequently, under the leadership of Mike Halsey, Hugh Fullerton, and then Jeff Mosher, the group has grown in number. This has enabled the presentation of more ambitious and extensive a capella choral music.

Now under Pippa's direction, the Consort will present a program of familiar and not well-known short works.

The Consort presently comprises about 12 to 14 singers. The choral texture is consequently much lighter and on a good day, much clearer than is often possible in a larger ensemble. This presents some challenges.

Frequently, sections can be 2 or 3 voices only and not infrequently, an individual singer comprises the whole section. This can offer the conductor real flexibility in the presentation of a piece... and can be a lot of fun.

The recital next Sunday is an outreach to the residents of Murray Gardens but is also open to anyone with an interest in music. You will be most welcome.

## Sponsorship

### Have you considered becoming a sponsor or supporter of the Murray Con Choir?

The mission of the choir is to broaden the musical horizons of the community and to share the delight of choral music with the community. To this end we aim to present programs that are exciting and engaging, encompassing a wide variety and styles of music from around the world.



## The Best of A Cappella

Pieces we love and think you will too!

2:30pm Sunday 28 October

at Murray Gardens  
36 Mountford Cres, East Albury

Entry free

Select works by  
Byrd, Amner, Tallis  
Bruckner, Elgar, Saint-Saens  
Traditional Scottish  
and a few 'golden oldie' Jazz songs



The members of the choir gain enormous pleasure through the music they are learning and performing and the camaraderie in the choir. Many of our singers have been members for decades. The benefits to the wellbeing of individuals, and to community cohesion, of music and of choral singing in particular have been well documented.

Sponsorship is the lifeblood of any major performing group.

The costs of maintaining a high standard of performance across a demanding repertoire are substantial, and the choir relies not only on the support of local audiences, but also of our Sponsors and Supporters to help with these ever-increasing costs.

You can become a Supporter of the choir for as little as \$50 per year.

As a Sponsor or Supporter, you would be contributing to the continued success and development of the choir. You will be kept informed about the choir's activities and your support will be acknowledged in our concert programs. Most importantly, you will be a partner in our contribution to the cultural, artistic and educational future of our region, and, in a very real sense to the enrichment of the community.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor or Supporter of the choir, please contact our President, Michele Roberts [micheler47@westnet.com.au](mailto:micheler47@westnet.com.au)

In future issues of Sotto Voce, we will meet some of the sponsors and learn more about what the sponsorship relationship means to them.

## Listen out for this

A reminder of Musical Events to listen out for in the next months

Contact the Editor Doug Westland with details for inclusion in this diary.

| <b>OCTOBER</b>                              |   |
|---|---|
| 23 October 2018                             | <b>Tuesday Lunchtime Recital</b> 1.10pm St Matthew's Church<br>Thomas Summerfield, Organ  |
| Sunday, 28 October                          | <b>Voice Consort 'The Best of A Capella' Recital,</b><br>2.30 pm Murray Gardens Retirement 36 Mountford Cres. East Albury   |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>                             |   |
| 6 November 2018                             | <b>Tuesday Lunchtime Recital</b> 1.10pm St Matthew's Church<br>Malcolm Halford, Organ   |
| Friday 9 November, 2018                     | <b>Beechworth Singers Celtic Concert.</b><br>Traditional Celtic Music for the Beechworth Celtic Festival<br>Beechworth Town Hall  |
| Friday 16 November to<br>Sunday 18 November | <b>Albury Chamber Music Festival</b> Go to the website for details<br><a href="https://www.alburychambermusicfestival.com.au/">https://www.alburychambermusicfestival.com.au/</a> |
| 20 November 2018                            | <b>Tuesday Lunchtime Recital</b> 1.10pm St Matthew's Church<br>James Flores, Organ  |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>                             |   |
| Sunday 2 December                           | <b>Carols by the Creek</b><br>11am to 4pm Pfeiffer's Winery, 167 Distillery Rd. Wahgunyah   |
| Tuesday 4 December                          | <b>Voice Consort '9 Lessons and Carols'</b> Holy Trinity, Yackandandah<br>St Paul's Chiltern  |
| Monday 10 December                          |   |
| Friday 7 December                           | <b>Murray Conservatorium Choir 'A Joyful Noyse'</b><br>Zion Lutheran Walla<br>St Matthews Albury<br>St John's Wodonga   |
| Saturday 8 December                         |   |
| Sunday 19 December                          |   |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Friday 21 December | <b>Beechworth Singers</b> and <b>Women in Harmony</b><br>Britten. 'Ceremony of Carols' and Christmas Music<br>Beechworth Town Hall |
|--------------------|--|

## Murray Conservatorium Choir

*Mailing Address:*

P.O. Box 234 Albury  
N.S.W. 2640 Australia

**President:**

Michele Roberts  
0439 694 711  
micheler47@westnet.com.au

**Sotto Voce Editor**

Doug Westland  
0418867433  
dkwestland@gmail.com

