

Hastings Choristers

EXCERPTS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Musical Director:

ROBYN RYAN OAM

Pipe Organ:

HEATHER MOEN-BOYD

ANCA

AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL
CHORAL
ASSOCIATION

Saturday 14 December 2019 2.00 pm
Manning Uniting Church, Taree

Sunday 15 December 2019 2.00 pm
St Agnes Church, Port Macquarie



**HASTINGS
CHORISTERS**

'Sharing the joy of song'

HEATHER MOEN-BOYD

Heather studied at Sydney Conservatorium where she gained a Bachelor of Music, and also holds the AMusA, and Licentiate and Fellowship of Trinity College London diplomas. She has been organist of Scots Kirk Presbyterian Church, Mosman since 2006.

She is glad to be playing for Handel's Messiah once again with Hastings Choristers. Other recent Messiah performances have been with Hornsby Ecumenical Choir and Illawarra Choral Society. She has also just performed Charpentier's Midnight Mass with Mosman Symphony Choir and Orchestra.

As a member of the state branch committee of the Royal School of Church Music, Heather helped organise a major church music festival, *Sydneyn Spires*, held last July.

Heather plays piano for the Mirrabooka Singers, who entertain at aged care facilities. As well as a busy private teaching studio, Heather teaches piano at Georges River Grammar School and is an examiner with Australian and New Zealand Cultural Arts. She enjoys choral singing and is an alto with the Mater Chorale, who toured the UK in August.



CANTORUS

Sopranos:

Helen Gibson
Renée Hamers
Meredith Hinds
Evitta Issa
Fae Lister
Adele Miles
Carol Sorensen
Deirdre Sutherland
Sally Ward
Christine Wells

Altos:

Gail Barber
Linda Burn
Evelyn Chee
Margaret Donovan
Lorraine Garland
Libby Hopley
Elaine Kerr
Kathy Luck
Lois Martin
Gail Mendoza
Pat Mills
Penny Orchard
Katherine Peck
Jenny Reeve
Kathy Walesby
Clare Walker

Tenors:

Gillian Bennett
Paul Groeneveld
Guy Hingston
Charlotte Hummel
John Thompson
Hilja Siren

Basses:

Wayne Bowen
Duncan Grivas
Hedley Harwood
Michael Matthews
Glenn Moore
Laurie Orchard
Joris Vaskys
Brian Williams

DEDICATION

Hastings Choristers would like to dedicate this concert to the memory of Jenni Seanson, a treasured Life Member of our organisation, who sadly passed away last month.

Jenni joined Hastings Choristers in 1994 and quickly became invaluable due to her fine musicianship and her willingness to lend her hand to help out at every opportunity. She sang with both Cantorus and Cantabile, was our music librarian for many years, and organised our rehearsal venue at MacKillop College. Jenni was the first to arrive every Monday night and the last to leave, patiently waiting for us all to stop chatting so she could lock up. Everyone in our choir organisation feels the loss of Jenni acutely and her presence here today is palpable. She loved singing Baroque music, especially Messiah, and was looking forward to this concert.

Gracious, patient, kind and loyal, Jenni touched the lives of so many people in the local area and the Catholic community in particular. We pass on our sincere condolences to Jenni's husband George and her daughters Karli and Danielle and families.



MESSIAH, G.F. HANDEL, 1741

Sinfony (Overture)	<i>Heather Moen-Boyd, Organ</i>
And the glory of the Lord	<i>Chorus</i>
And He shall purify	<i>Chorus</i>
Behold, a virgin shall conceive	<i>Evelyn Chee, Recitative</i>
O thou that tellest ...	<i>Evelyn Chee, Chorus</i>
For unto us a child is born	<i>Chorus</i>
Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)	<i>Heather Moen-Boyd, Organ</i>
There were shepherds ...	<i>Deirdre Sutherland, Recitative</i>
Glory to God	<i>Chorus</i>
His yoke is easy	<i>Chorus</i>
Behold the Lamb of God	<i>Chorus</i>
Surely He hath borne our griefs	<i>Chorus</i>
And with his stripes we are healed	<i>Chorus</i>
All we like sheep	<i>Chorus</i>

INTERVAL

All they that see Him	<i>John Thompson, Recitative</i>
He trusted in God	<i>Chorus</i>
Lift up your heads, O ye gates	<i>Semi-chorus and Chorus</i>
Unto which of the angels	<i>John Thompson, Recitative</i>
Let all the angels	<i>Chorus</i>
The Lord gave the word	<i>Chorus</i>
Their sound is gone out	<i>Chorus</i>
Let us break their bonds asunder	<i>Chorus</i>
Hallelujah	<i>Chorus</i>
Since by man came death	<i>Semi-chorus and Chorus</i>
Then shall be brought to pass	<i>Evelyn Chee, Recitative</i>
O death, where is thy sting?	<i>Evelyn Chee, Paul Groeneveld, Duet</i>
But thanks be to God	<i>Chorus</i>
Worthy is the Lamb / Amen	<i>Chorus</i>

NOTE ON THE PROGRAM



George Frideric Handel was born on 23 February 1685 in Halle, Germany, and died on 14 April, 1759 in London. The sacred oratorio *Messiah* is without question one of the most popular works in the choral/orchestral repertoire today. In what has become an indispensable Christmas tradition, amateur and professional musicians everywhere perform this work as a seasonal entertainment, and are rewarded with the satisfaction of taking part in one of the great communal musical events. The text for *Messiah* was selected and compiled from the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible by Charles Jennens, an aristocrat and musician/poet of modest talent and exceptional ego. With *Messiah*, Jennens seems to have outdone himself in compiling a libretto with profound thematic coherence and an acute sensitivity to the inherent musical structure. With the finished libretto in his possession, Handel began setting it to music on August 22, 1741, and completed it 24 days later. *Messiah* carries an ennobling message to people of all faiths and credos, proclaiming “peace on earth, and goodwill towards men”— a message that continues to be timely and universal.

Luke Howard, UMS Choral Union, 2009

A word from Hastings Choristers MD...

With two beautiful Community choirs in our organisation, Cantorus and Cantabile, we've managed several fine concerts and lots of wonderful musical experiences in 2019. Hastings Choristers now winds up our singing year with probably the most performed and recorded sacred Oratorio ever, and we hope you love it.

In 2020 we celebrate our 30th birthday with a year of fabulous music and we hope you will be there to help us spread the joy. In **April** we are touring the Hastings area with free concerts...look out for one near you. At the end of **May** we will host talented violinist Ben Adler with a little help from our choirs, and on **29 August** we'll present our big birthday concert in the Glasshouse to celebrate this fantastic milestone. As if that wasn't enough, we will present Christmas Choral Kaleidoscope on **6 December**, featuring many beautiful choirs. What a blockbuster year for us and all you lovers of choral music! Diarise these dates now so you don't miss out.

We always welcome new singers and encourage you to come along for a week or two and try it out before you join. There is a short audition to check you intonation and voice type but it is not threatening at all. **Rehearsals start again on Monday 3 February at MacKillop College in Lochinvar place Port Macquarie from 6.30 - 8.30 pm.** For more information please phone 0407 007 993.

Meanwhile, do enjoy a blessed, safe and peaceful Christmas. May 2020 be healthy and fulfilling for you all.

Robyn Ryan OAM

Hastings Choristers

President - Kerryn Lawrence Musical Director - Robyn Ryan

Internet: <http://www.midcoast.com.au/~choristers> Email: hastingschoristers@gmail.com

Rehearsals - Monday evenings 6:30 - 8:30 during school terms at MacKillop College,
Lochinvar Place, Port Macquarie.

Special thanks to the staff and parishioners of St Agnes Church and Manning Uniting Church for helping us to bring this concert to you today. Huge thanks to **Lydia Wills**, our greatly treasured rehearsal accompanist, and to our soloists **Deirdre, Evelyn, John** and **Paul** who represent the enormous talent to be found in our local area and have kindly gone above and beyond for this concert.