

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MUSIC FOUNDATION

A PASSION FOR FINE MUSIC

NEWSLETTER No.25 - JUNE 2017

FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the Winter 2017 edition of the St Paul's Cathedral Music Foundation Newsletter. The first half of the year has been rich in wonderful music here at St Paul's: our Choir of Boys and Men not only led the weekly pattern of Evensong and Sunday worship at the Cathedral, but was privileged to sing at Government House and, on Pentecost Sunday, joined with the Choir of St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral in a shared celebration of Evensong for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

For more than a year, women and girls have formed an integral part of our music making: the Girls' Voices of the Cathedral Choir sing regular Evensongs and have in the past month sung at their first Sunday Choral Eucharist. They shared with the Boys and Men in leading the music making at the State Funeral for football legend Lou Richards and, in April, made up part of a Lowther Hall Choir to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York as part of an international choral festival. We are immensely proud of our choristers – boys and girls, women and men – and give thanks for their giftedness: their high calibre of music and their commitment to ensure that choral music at St Paul's can continue to flourish.

The Music Foundation is integral in underpinning this important aspect of the Cathedral's ministry. You, our donors, help the Cathedral Chapter meet the cost of our much-loved music program. Our music department is the flagship of our Cathedral worship and this year will cost \$475,000 to run. We believe that the worship of God through the beauty of holiness is worth every cent, and we thank you, the supporters of the Music Foundation, in enabling the Foundation to make a distribution of \$237,000 towards these costs. We are delighted that you help us raise half of the cost of our program.

Our vision is to strengthen and broaden the support of our Foundation to enable our donors to meet the entire costs of the program in the future.

In order to help us with our endeavour to create a fully donor supported music program at St Paul's, we have appointed Canon Leigh Mackay as the Cathedral's Director of Philanthropy. Leigh's contact details are included on page 4 of this newsletter. A large part of her role is to ensure that the work of the Music Foundation flourishes, and I would encourage you to let her have any suggestions or ideas that would improve the ways in which the Foundation works for you. I am delighted that Leigh has joined our team, and is making connections with donors old and new. She is currently in the process of putting together a program of donor events, including a special Evensong to hear both the boys' and the girls' voices in the beautiful setting of the Cathedral.

On behalf of those who worship here every day, I thank you for your generous support of the Cathedral's Music Foundation. Our worshippers always comment on how wonderful it is to hear our choirs lead music in praise of God in this wonderful building. I thank you for your part in enabling our music program to continue to flourish: your donation will enable us to secure the funding to help provide excellent musical training and education to a group of wonderfully talented boys and girls in future.

Thank you for your generosity!

Dean Andreas

The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe,
Dean of Melbourne





Photo: Rob Deutscher

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Philip Nicholls

2016 and 2017 are proving to be the busiest and most productive amongst the musicians of the Cathedral since I began work here in 2013. Since Easter 2016 engagement (number of musicians involved) has more than doubled with the addition of our Girls' Voices and Woman Lay Clerks, whilst costs have increased only slightly. I am grateful to the many volunteers who make music at the Cathedral on an almost daily basis, and also to the many parents of girls and boys who squeeze our needs into their already very busy schedules.

The Women Lay Clerks sing with the Men on Thursdays each week. The weekly service schedule presently includes the Girls' Voices each fortnight on a Wednesday, increasing to weekly services in term time from Wednesday 19 July. The Girls' Voices has sung one Sunday evening and one Sunday morning service so far, with the hope that these become fortnightly from Sunday 15 October. Exact details are published on our music list each week in advance: <https://cathedral.org.au/worship/music/weekly-music-lists/>

The Boys' Voices continue to produce music at the highest level, and recruitment acknowledgements amongst boys at Trinity Grammar School have increased since duties for new boys have dropped to 3 commitments per week. This ensures that being a member of the Cathedral Choir is an important part of their overall education and weekly timetable, rather than their focus.

For the most part, our research has shown that the Boys' and Girls' Voices are best rehearsed separately, and best performed separately. In practical terms, this is proving to be true. Since their first service in August 2016, the girls have combined with the boys only three times, and I predict that this frequency of choral combination will continue in future. The dynamics of the two ensembles are vastly different, and when combined, rehearsals need

to be focused on the music immediately at hand, leaving other matters (such as music theory and musicianship) for separate rehearsal time. The next combined service will most likely be the Christmas Carol Services, on 17 and 24 December, of which you will receive notification in a future newsletter.

Large State Services now provide great opportunities for coverage for and awareness of our choirs, rather than being almost impossible to organise at the required short notice, as in previous years. Our pool of choristers is now much larger, so a request to our two choir schools for choristers to be present at the recent State Funeral for Lou Richards MBE released a smaller but representative number, who joined with Men and Women Lay Clerks to provide a wonderful choir to lead congregational singing, and sing an anthem. What a wonderful opportunity for a student of school age, to be exposed to parliamentary, official, cultural, and sporting identities on a regular basis! They certainly value it deeply.

Along with an increase in engagement goes an increase in repertoire. I have devised a parallel repertoire for the Girls' Voices: for example, the Boys' Voices presently have the Gibbons Short Service in repertoire, so I program the Tallis Short Service for the Girls' Voices; the boys sing Stanford in B flat, and the girls sing Ireland in F; the boys sing Haydn's Little Organ Mass, whilst the girls sing his Missa Rorate Coeli Desuper. This kind of programming ensures that the girls receive the same high-level and breadth of musical education, but utilising parallel repertoire, which ensures increased interest from our congregations, and keeps the Lay Clerks very busy learning lots of new music!

Your support of our very busy music department is greatly valued. Given our increase of engagement, we would greatly welcome yours, whether an increase in giving is possible, or an increase in your attendance of our services, we value your stewardship of our musical traditions and futures.

THE ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MUSIC FOUNDATION

The purpose of St Paul's Cathedral Music Foundation is to provide financial assistance to enable the performance of sacred and secular music at or in association with St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne by choristers and musicians, with a particular focus on the Cathedral Choir and the Cathedral's T.C. Lewis Organ.

The Foundation's income from donations and bequests during 2016 was \$195,369. In its distributions for the year, the Foundation provided \$162,000 to St Paul's Cathedral for the Choir and music, (c. 33% of the Cathedral Chapter's music budget) from donations and income from its endowment. This included support for the Girl's Voices of the Cathedral Choir, introduced in 2016.

In 2017, with the support of its donors, the Music Foundation aims to increase its support to the Cathedral's Choir and music, through donations, sponsorships and bequests. Inevitably, it seems, the costs continue to rise. Donations to the Music Foundation are tax deductible. Donation forms are available in the Narthex and from the Cathedral website www.cathedral.org.au, or by contacting the Cathedral Secretary (9653 4305).

The donation form has information about making a bequest—all bequests, whether large or small, are added to the Music Foundation's endowment.

Thank you to all our donors for your continuing support of the music in the worshipping life of the Cathedral.

ON AIR AT 3MBS FM

Have you heard the Music Foundation mentioned as a program sponsor on 3MBS FM? Since February this year, the Foundation has been acknowledged as the sponsor of the program Choral Masterworks, which is broadcast for two hours from 8pm on Sunday evening each week. The Trustees of the Music Foundation considered that the radio station, and this program, was an excellent avenue for raising the profile of the Foundation in the music-loving community, as 3MBS is the classical music broadcaster based in Melbourne.

The introduction to the program includes the statement that "St Paul's Cathedral Music Foundation is a proud supporter of 3MBS and that the Foundation enables gifted choristers – boys, girls, women and men – to perform choral masterworks five days a week". Listeners are then invited to support the Foundation through the options available on the website.

The 3MBS monthly magazine and program guide, On Air, acknowledge the sponsorship as well as the station website.

Choral Masterworks features a wide range of sacred and secular works from across the centuries. Two major compositions by Handel have been featured, the oratorios *Israel in Egypt* and *Solomon*.

You are invited to enjoy the music featured in this program and to encourage your music loving friends to make the music a highlight of their weekend listening, and to support the work of St Paul's Cathedral Music Foundation.

On Pentecost Sunday, the Boys' and Men's voices of the Cathedral Choir sang a combined evening service with the Choir of St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral. Photo: Ming Zhou





Photo: Rob Deutscher (2016)

INTRODUCING THE CATHEDRAL'S DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

Keen to generate donations to the Music Foundation and encourage bequests, the Chapter has appointed Canon Leigh Mackay as the Director of Philanthropy.

Leigh, who has been on the Chapter for the past 10 years and was the Registrar of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne from 1995-2001, commenced her part-time role in January.

Leigh can be contacted at
lmackay2@stpaulscathedral.org.au

A DISTINGUISHED PRECURSOR

While women and girls have participated regularly in school and special services from the Cathedral's opening, Cathedral choristers, until last year, were exclusively male. With one exception.

On 20 August 1922, Dame Nellie Melba sang with the Choir at an international concert. Dr Ian Burk, in his biography of Dr A E Floyd, describes how this came about. At a dinner party at Government House, Floyd found himself sitting next to Melba—

In the middle of the meal, Melba suddenly said, "I should like to sing in your cathedral", and added rather coyly, "would that be proper?" To which I replied, "well, that wouldn't be in my jurisdiction". And she replied, "whose jurisdiction would it be in?" I replied "in the Archbishop's"; whereupon she promptly said, "I'll call him tomorrow". And call him she did, and the recital was immediately arranged.

Goodbye 'til next time
A critical Biography of A E Floyd (1877-1974)
by Ian Burk

Dame Nellie Melba (below) performed with the Cathedral Choir in 1922.



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MUSIC FOUNDATION

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