



Serendipity
The Choir

A Musical Milestone

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERENDIPITY

Music Director - Kerith Fowles

Saturday 2nd December 4pm
Bowral Uniting Church Hall

Friday 8th December, 6pm
Saturday 9th December, 4pm
Bundanoon Memorial Hall

REMINISCENCES

Ten years is certainly something to celebrate, even when it means that we, the people of **Serendipity:the choir** (and our audience members), are all ten years older! And wiser? During that time Serendipity, as well as presenting concert series on a bi-annual basis, has had considerable impact within the Bundanoon community and beyond. It is still not uncommon, upon admitting to being a resident of Bundanoon, to hear the response: "Oh, you have that wonderful choir there!"

We have sung in retirement villages, churches, halls, private homes and gardens, the street, a theatre (yes, there is one in the Highlands), paddocks, cathedrals and school auditoriums; on ovals, stages, risers and packing cases; in rain, on mud, in searing heat and freezing cold; to packed halls and almost empty venues (happily a rare event!); to young and old and everything between.

In the local community we were there for the launch of Bundy On Tap, and several times supported the RSL for Anzac Day remembrances. Three times we have been a pop-up choir for the Fling. Twice we have attempted to support Carols By Candlelight (which became Carols By Downpour). We have travelled to Wagga Wagga, Goulburn, Kiama, Sydney, Crookwell, Bargo, Kangaroo Valley and New Zealand. We have tried to support Bundanoon's Winterfest (in the early days Ann and Kerith braved ghastly weather to busk in the main street – people actually gave money so that we could go home to a warm ourselves!). We have sung for the Council's Community Grants presentation, and been present at a wedding and several memorial services for former Serendipians. And we all starred in a professional video made for us by local film-maker Beryl Seckington and her son Robert.

And in all this we have been proud to say that we are based in Bundanoon and live in many different areas of the Southern Highlands. It is the joy of music that binds us together into the incredible entity known as "a choir". Serendipity, the choir.

10th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM NOTES

Welcome to the tenth anniversary concert of **Serendipity: the choir**. For those of us who've been members since the first practice, it's hard to believe so much time has passed! The full list of our repertoire contains many happy memories, and we have voted to present for you a selection of the choir's favourites from a decade of music-making. Some pieces that were voted in were greeted with fond remembrance; some with a raised eyebrow; some with a muttered, "Who wanted THIS?" One item made it to the list after a certain member (yes, it was the writer!) threatened a full-on, throw-himself-on-the-floor tantrum. Luckily for all concerned, it was chosen. [Phew!]

From our very first concert comes "Shenandoah", arguably the most famous American folk song. This beautiful setting by Spevacek was deservedly a choir favourite and makes a welcome return (for which the writer was thankful!). To span the gamut of our offerings we also bring back "Earth Song" by Frank Ticheli from the most recent 2017 concerts. We're sure you'll again enjoy its thought-provoking words and rich harmony.

Negro Spirituals have always been popular with the choristers and our audiences. Of the many wonderful arrangements we have sung we chose "Deep River", with its lush eight-part harmony. John Rutter's works are regular favourites too; "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind" – from *When Icicles Hang* – is one of his most highly regarded settings of Shakespeare's words. Items from musicals also go down well, and two pieces originally from musicals made it into our list. *Les Misérables* is hard to forget, and so was the arrangement we performed of the climactic solo "Bring Him Home". Sondheim, that master of the modern musical, was not forgotten either; the dark and brooding "Ballad of Sweeney Todd" from the eponymous musical was another popular choice.

It is probably fair to say that any concert by **Serendipity: the choir** is marked by eclecticism. Popular music sits cheek by jowl with fine classical offerings. On the popular side of the program today there's "Oh Happy Day" (itself a pastiche of the Martha and the Vandellas hit "Dancing in the Streets", the chorus "Oh Happy Day" and Beethoven's "Ode to Joy") and the Queen

blockbuster "Bohemian Rhapsody". This became special for introducing our esteemed Director to the brilliance of Freddie Mercury, Brian May et al., a Damascus Road conversion! On the classical side, Fauré's "Cantique de Jean Racine", arguably the most sublime choral work ever written, proved a "must include". Similarly, the beauty of Samuel Barber's "Sure on this Shining Night" shone through strongly in the ballot. And somewhere in the middle are those songs from the American Songbook, classics in their own right but not *classical*. "Autumn Leaves", in an almost heart-breaking arrangement by Andrew Carter, makes a justifiable return. "Java Jive" too was a strong choristers' pick, as made popular more recently by The Manhattan Transfer. Choir favourite? Talk it, boy!

One of our much-missed former members, Hugh Mackay, saw the pieces we performed from memory as "Kerith's plan to keep the choir's brains pliable". Pieces in foreign languages surely form part of the same regime. Over the years we have sung in many languages, Japanese, Mongolian and Catalan being among the more unusual. Today our concert has several pieces in "LOTE", from the old French madrigal "Le Chant des Oiseaux" by Janequin to Canteloube's "Le Baylère" in a French dialect and the Israeli folk song "Ose Shalom" in Hebrew. How's that for brain plasticity?

Serendipity: the choir is privileged to have had composers write especially for us, and equally privileged to have two fine resident musical arrangers. Of the many works we have prepared over the years, "He Was Beautiful" [popularised in the movie *The Deer Hunter* and by Cleo Laine, and arranged by our own Kerith Fowles] came through strongly in our ballot – despite some in the choir dubbing it "He WAS beautiful"...

Being such a strong and flexible choir, we have no excuse to shy away from performing works of a festive nature. Two such pieces made the cut – "Fanfare and March on *Gloria*" by Patti Drenman has been a choir favourite, and what can one say about Handel's *Zadok the Priest*? If royalty have included it at every coronation since 1727, who are we to argue? Christmas has not been forgotten either, and Pearsall's double choir arrangement of the Lutheran carol "In Dulci Jubilo" is a seasonal way to round out our programme of choral favourites. Ten years down – here's to the next ten! ♪

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THE PROGRAMME

		FROM CONCERT IN
Fanfare & March	trad. Latin / Drennan	DEC 16
Shenandoah	American folk, arr. Spevacek	MAY 13
Le Baylère	trad. French, arr. Richards	MAY 16
Ose Shalom	trad. Hebrew, arr. Leavitt <i>Sofa</i> : Louise Cassidy	DEC 11
The Ballad of Sweeney Todd	Sondheim, arr. Beck	MAY 14
Le Chant des Oiseaux	Janequin	MAY 11
Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind	Shakespeare / Rutter	MAY 08
Sure on this Shining Night	Agee / Barber	DEC 11
He Was Beautiful (Cavatina)	Laine / Myers, arr. Fowles	DEC 09
Zadok the Priest	1 Kings 1:38-40 / Handel	DEC 13
– INTERVAL WITH REFRESHMENTS –		
In Dulci Jubilo	15c. German / Pearsall	DEC 10
Bring Him Home <i>(Les Misérables)</i>	Kretzmer & Boubil / Schonberg, arr. Brymer	MAY 09
Java Jive	Drake / Oakland, arr. Shaw	MAY 11
Deep River	American folk / arr. Luboff	DEC 08
Cantique de Jean Racine	Racine / Fauré	DEC 14
Earth Song	Ticheli	JUN 17
Bohemian Rhapsody	Mercury, arr. Brymer	DEC 15
Autumn Leaves	Mercer & Parsons / Kosma, arr. Carter	MAY 15
O Happy Day medley <i>(Sister Act 2)</i>	Hawkins (?) / arr. Schmutz	MAY 10



PATRON – Richard Gill OAM

THE PERFORMERS

Kerith Fowles *CONDUCTOR*

Ann Clipsham *PIANIST*

SINGERS

Andrea Skrt	Graeme Whisker [♠]	Karen Granger
Bert de Hosson ^{♠♠}	Graham Warner [♠]	Lorelei Tait
Brian Goodes ^{♠♠}	Greg Oehm ^{♠♠}	Louise Cassidy [♠]
Cathy Hughes	Ian O'Farrell ^{♠♠}	Meg Herbert
Desley O'Farrell [♠]	Ian Perkins	Michele Nobbs
Emma Llewelyn	Jan King	Richard Bosly-Craft [♠]
Eric Conley	Jane Irwin [♠]	Rob Dunstan [♠]
Fiona Petterson	Jean de Hosson [♠]	Rose Conley [♠]
Fran Bosly-Craft [♠]	Jean Long ^{♠♠}	Sue Reid [♠]
Georgie Hurba ^{♠♠}	Jo de Ligt [♠]	
Gill Dunstan	Judy Coverdale	

[♠] Ensemble "Le Chant des Oiseaux"

^{♠♠} "In Dulci Jubilo" soloists

RETURNING SERENDIPIANS

Alec McQueen [♠]	Laura Wilson [♠]	Rhonda Jefferson [♠]
Jan McPhail [♠]	Maree Byrne [♠]	Sandra Menteith [♠]
Kate Perkins [♠]	Margaret West [♠]	Tony Coyle [♠]

[♠] *singing*

[♠] *listening*