

Serendipity
the choir

Music Director - Kerith Fowles OAM
presents

*A Holly, Jolly
Christmas*



**BOWRAL UNITING
CHURCH HALL**

Saturday 30 Nov - 4:00 pm

**BUNDANOON
MEMORIAL
HALL**

Friday 6 Dec - 7:30pm

Saturday 7 Dec - 4:00pm



THE PROGRAMME

- Halle, Hallelujah trad. Caribbean arr. Perry
- Children, Go Where I Send Thee trad. arr. Schram
- The Little Drummer Boy words & music:
Davis, Onorati & Simeone
arr. Raney
- Sing, Sing Noel trad. French arr. Burrows
- Fum, Fum Fantasia trad. arr. Fettke & Grassi
(with: Deck the Halls)
- Ain'a That Good News Everywhere arr. Curry
Soloists:
Fran Bosly-Craft, Cathy Hughes, Jan King
- O Holy Night Cappeau/Adam arr. Nichols
- African Noel trad. African arr. Johnson
- Mary Had a Baby Spiritual

INTERVAL with REFRESHMENT





THE PROGRAMME *cont.*

Ukrainian Alleluia Courtney

Angels We Have Heard on High trad. French arr. Chase

In the Bleak Mid-Winter Rossetti/Holst

I Saw Three Ships trad. English arr. Leavitt

Rise and Shine Jolly

O Little Town of Bethlehem Brooks/Redner

Semi Chorus:
Georgie Hurba, Karen Granger, Michele Nobbs, Sue Reid

Pat-a-Pan Salsa trad. Burgundian arr. Franke & Grassi

A Holly, Jolly Christmas Marks/arr. Gilpin





PROGRAMME NOTES

Hello and welcome to *Serendipity: the choir's* Christmas concert! "Hallelujah!", you say – and we have that covered with not one, but two works based on the word "Hallelujah". The first is the kind of "hallelujah" you'd expect – a cheery, upbeat number that originated from the Caribbean called *Halle, Hallelujah* arranged by Dave and Jean Perry. The second is not the kind of "hallelujah" you would expect – a more introspective work by Craig Courtney called *Ukrainian Alleluia*, written in 2007 as a response to the many sufferings of the Ukrainian people over the past century. We are sure you will find its eight-part, introspective nature quite moving.

More along the lines of the traditional Christmas Cheer is a quartet of modern workings of traditional carols. *Sing, Sing Noel!* arranged by Mark Burrows, takes the old French carol "Noël Nouvelet" and turns it into a syncopated celebration. *Necessity, they say, is the mother of strange bedfellows* (or something like that) and Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi took the Catalan carol "Fum, Fum, Fum" and the Welsh carol "Deck the Halls" and mashed them into *Fum, Fum Fantasia*. And you know what? – it works! From slightly north of Catalonia comes a reworking of the Burgundian carol "Pat-A-Pan". Retaining a Spanish feel, it has morphed into *Pat-A-Pan Salsa* – get your dancing shoes on for this one! And the final work in the quartet, by the appropriately named Todd Jolly, is *Rise And Shine*. Using a text more often associated with "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings" from Handel's *Messiah*, it has been described by its composer as "a new spiritual". A jolly piece – in more than one way!

Arrangements of traditional spirituals have not been forgotten either and this concert has no fewer than three! The first, *Children Go Where I Send Thee* arranged by Ruth Schramm, uses the traditional "call and response" nature of many spirituals; the call and response differentiated by unison calls and harmony responses. Also in call and response form is *Ain'a That Good News* – the twist in this arrangement by Craig Curry being that it incorporates



“Go Tell It On The Mountain” for variety. The final spiritual is Malcolm Sargent’s arrangement of *Mary Had A Baby*. Pay attention to this one, for the train will have indeed “done gone” by the end. Not a spiritual, but going to the roots of the spiritual, is *African Noel*, which shares the vigour and syncopated rhythms of its better-known spiritual siblings.

Traditional Christmas carols are also not forgotten in this concert and we present five, most in new guises. *O Little Town Of Bethlehem* takes the alternative American tune by Lewis Redner which is associated with Bishop Brooks’ words in a simple arrangement by Julie Ann Ballard. Hovering over the melody, in an appropriately angelic descant, is a gentle “Sing noel” refrain that gives the carol an extra dimension. The second, *O Holy Night* by Adolphe Adam, is here arranged for chorus by Richard A. Nichols – why should soloists have all the fun with this Christmas favourite? *Angels We Have Heard On High* is well known for its long, melismatic “Gloria” (who can forget how Alice from *The Vicar of Dibley* treated that?!) This arrangement, by David Chase, transforms the carol into a piece of light, cheerful beauty. Christina Rossetti’s poem *In The Bleak Midwinter* has long been a favourite with not one, but two stunning settings of the text turned into carols of outstanding beauty. While Gustav Holst’s setting is simpler than that by Harold Darke, it captures well the stillness and wonder of that first Christmas night. The final carol is *I Saw Three Ships*, the traditional English tune being set rather cheerfully by John Leavitt. What has never been explained, however, is why three ships are needed for two people and (at least in this version) why Joseph was whistling on board a ship. Answers to that on a postcard, please.

Finally come two songs that are obviously about Christmas, yet are difficult to classify. To the writer, the first, *The Little Drummer Boy*, is proof of the saintliness of Mary. What other mother, nursing a newborn, would smile sweetly at some urchin thumping a drum and waking the baby? Most, I fear would tell the little drummer boy to “sling his hook”, but not Mary. Proof? I think so! Finally, *A Holly Jolly Christmas* bids all a joyful Christmas. And on that note, what could be better than that Christmas wish from **Serendipity: the Choir** to you?!

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THE PERFORMERS

Kerith Fowles OAM	Conductor
Ann Clipsham	Pianist & Percussionist
Louise Cassidy	Percussionist
Georgia Lick	Flautist *

SINGERS

Amelia O'Dubhain	Heather Bone
Andrea Skrt	Ian O'Farrell
Ann Clipsham	Jan King
Bert de Hosson	Jane Irwin
Brian Goodes	Jean de Hosson
Cathy Hughes	Jo de Ligt
David Kelly	Karen Granger
Desley O'Farrell	Lorelei Tait
Emma Llewelyn	Louise Cassidy
Eric Conley	Michele Nobbs
Fiona Petterson	Min Aistrophe
Fran Bosly-Craft	Richard Bosly-Craft
Georgie Hurba	Rose Conley
Graeme Whisker	Sue Reid
Greg Oehm	* Bundanoon



Christmas Quiz

1. Name two carols which have the number 3 in their titles
2. Why is 'holly' important at Christmas?
3. Whose baby do we celebrate at Christmas?
4. Which is correct: (a) 'O starry Night' (b) 'O cloudy night' (c) 'O holy night'?
5. Which Middle Eastern town features in many carols?
6. To rouse lazy children we say
7. Which is the correct spelling: (a) hallelujah (b) halleluia (c) alleluia?
8. Name two heavenly bodies that are closely associated with Christmas.
9. Serendipity: the choir will sing carols from:
 - (a) Albania, Africa, Asia (choose one)
 - (b) United States, Ukraine, Uruguay (choose one)
10. The news about the birth of Jesus is called: (a) strange (b) good (c) fake.
11. Instrumentalists often accompany Christmas singing; which does Serendipity have?
 - (a) triangle (b) drum (c) tambourine

Answers will be revealed during the Concert.

YOUR 2020 DIARY DATES



Saturday 2nd May
Saturday 9th May

Bowral Uniting Church Hall
Bundanoon Memorial Hall

3.00pm
3.00pm