



July 2014

NOTES

The Newsletter of
The Royal School of Church Music
Waikato Branch



RSCM choir on Music Sunday at St Peter's, Hamilton

Chairwoman's report to the AGM

Over the past twelve months our branch committee has again organised a selection of events to encourage, inspire and enthuse our membership.



On RSCM Music Sunday, a large choir made up of RSCM members from around the region, including a carful from Rotorua, sang a festival Evensong at St Peter's Cathedral. This was a wonderful joyful occasion, concluding with a rousing chorus of 'The Heavens are telling' from Haydn's *Creation*.

Our September choral festival was hosted by St Peter's, Mt. Maunganui in 2013 and we were very heartened to see such a fantastic turn out of church choirs from the Bay of Plenty. There were seven choirs represented all together, and each sang some of their favourite repertoire, before we all joined together to learn 'Sicut cervus' by Palestrina and John Donne's 'At the round earth's imagined corners' set by Archer. This year's festival will be held in St Andrew's, Cambridge – an attempt to find a middle ground for choirs from both the Bay and Hamilton. What a powerful statement about the health of choral church music we could make if we could get twelve or so church choirs together in one venue. It will also be the event at which the winning choral work written for our competition will be premiered.

This afternoon's workshop on psalm singing hopefully uncovered some new avenues for singing the psalm in our services. I am very proud of our committee for presenting a different style of setting each, researching it and teaching us how to sing them. This is what we need our branch to be about – collective wisdom and experience ensuring that we keep the traditions of church music visible and being performed.

We have had quite a large committee for most of the year, but have recently had some changes. Canon Andrew Hedge will not be seeking re-election to the committee as he is taking greater responsibility on the Diocese. I thank Andrew for his unique perspective as one of the clergy, and his work for the branch, particularly with the clergy singing workshop last year. Hazel Wolff has also had to resign from the committee as her business takes up more of her time. I am grateful to Hazel for her quiet, but crucial, behind the scenes work at RSCM events and her work for us on the committee.

We were all saddened by the death of Michael McDonald just after Christmas last year. Michael, as you all know, was a huge contributor to the Waikato branch of RSCM, most visibly in the publication of NOTES, and in the upkeep of the national website. Michael never missed an event or meeting, and was very careful to document everything with photos for publication. He will be greatly missed.

On your behalf, I would like to thank our committee for their tireless work: Secretary Rhonda, who keeps us all on track, and keeps us connected with national events; Treasurer Virginia, who keeps an expert eye on finances and always has an eye out for opportunities; Ray, who has very kindly taken over the publication of NOTES, and has already put his stamp on it; Mark Eyre, who has such excellent creative ideas and has become our 'Youth' worker!; Paula with her vast knowledge of church music, and the RSCM personalities and her excellent organizational skills; Sr Colleen, who is an excellent musician with a lifetime's experience of church music; Chaliun Poppy, who represents the Bay of Plenty and provides his experience from working in other countries.

Rachael Griffiths-Hughes

Waikato Branch RSCM Annual General Meeting

The branch AGM was held this year at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Grey St, Hamilton, on 3rd May at 2-00p.m.

As readers will know, the AGM was preceded by a short workshop on psalm singing. From the earliest times of Christianity, the psalms have been a central part of worship; St Paul exhorts the Ephesians (5:19) and Colossians (3:16) to sing psalms along with hymns as part of communal liturgy. Coincidentally, or rather, as if to anticipate our workshop, the March issue of *Church Music Quarterly* featured five articles on different aspects of the psalms, covering history, modern adaptations, how to read Coverdale's translation (BCP), and their timeless significance in worship.

At our workshop, four styles of psalm singing were talked about and illustrated: plainsong, Anglican chant, responsorial psalms and metrical settings as hymns, as found in the Presbyterian hymnary.



Sr Colleen directs a responsorial psalm at the psalm workshop

AGM Minutes

Present: Rachael Griffiths-Hughes (Chair), Virginia Gallagher, Rhonda Gibbison, Fred Marshall, Vaughan Chetwynd, Jeremy Whimster, Jill Bergin, Colleen Morey, Guyon Wells, Bob Armstrong, Ray Harlow, Paula Spiers, Josina Ellis, Rumiko Donald, Jennifer Edwards.

Apologies: Mark Eyre, Kath Barnsley, Patricia Raynor, Peter Lord Cowell.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 4May 2013 were accepted as circulated. Fred Marshall.

Matters arising: Nil

Chairperson's Report: Rachael Griffiths-Hughes presented her report (see above).

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Gallagher presented her report (see below), showing a healthy financial situation for the Branch, and because our present membership structure covers the majority of our expenses, **she moved that subscriptions remain the same as last year.** Virginia Gallagher/Fred Marshall.

Fred Marshall questioned the uses to which the National Membership Levy is put, and the meeting was reminded that a web master was paid.

Membership categories include 'Noters' who subscribe to our newsletter, which is supplied on line free for those who prefer that format.

Guyon Wells RSCM Fellowship Report: The Chairperson informed the meeting that Trevor Gibbs is now Treasurer of the Fellowship, and in his absence, she assured the meeting that the Fellowship is happy to be supportive of the Branch.

Election of Officers:

Officers for the 2014/15 year are:

Chairperson: Rachael Griffiths-Hughes

Secretary: Rhonda Gibbison

Treasurer: Virginia Gallagher

Special Adviser: Francis Cowan

NOTES Editor: Ray Harlow

Chaplain: Rev Peter Lord Cowell

General Committee: Paula Spiers, Mark Eyre, Chaliun Poppy, Vaughan Chetwynd and Colleen Morey.

Retiring committee members Hazel Wolff and Andrew Hedge were thanked for their work and Michael McDonald was respectfully remembered.

Constitution: this issue is now resolved and the branch will sign up to the RSCMNZ template.

General Business: Paula Spiers moved ‘**that we establish a young persons’ committee**’ [YPC] Virginia Gallagher seconded the motion. Paula listed eight recommendations for consideration:

- We inaugurate the committee in 2014
- Age for members be 15-23
- Restricted to members of an RSCM choir
- Waikato Branch will expect and encourage participation in at least one full meeting per year. [All costs of attendance will be covered by RSCM and ‘Notes’ will be sent to members.]
- YPC expected to participate in full RSCM events.
- YPC will be encouraged to form local groups, e.g. Bay of Plenty, Hamilton, and Taranaki and to meet regularly but not necessarily frequently.
- YPC to encourage and support younger RSCM members.
- YPC to bring ideas for events and support by RSCM.

After a short discussion Paula moved ‘**that this suggestion be taken to the committee for action**’. This met with general approval.

The meeting closed at 4-08p.m.

Financial report for the 2013-4 year

	<i>2014</i>	<i>2013</i>
	<i>\$\$</i>	<i>\$\$</i>
INCOME		
Subscriptions - Choirs, Personal, Friends and Noters	1927	1992
G R Wells Trust	203	312
Workshops and Events	0	1349

Interest - Current account	43	49
Interest - Term deposit	192	181
TOTAL INCOME	2365	3883
<u>LESS EXPENSES</u>		
Audit fee	138	138
Bank fees on Telegraphic Transfers	61	54
Postage	6	120
General expenses	0	30
Expenses - AGM	36	20
Publications (Notes)	199	241
Workshops and Choral events	0	1939
Donations made	50	0
G R Wells Trust	203	312
RSCM UK Levy	1263	1223
RSCM NZ Levy	115	135
TOTAL CASH EXPENSES	2071	4212
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	294	-329
NET SURPLUS (LOSS) FOR YEAR	294	-329

**Balance Sheet
for the period ended 28 February
2014**

	<i>2014</i>	<i>2013</i>
	<i>\$\$</i>	<i>\$\$</i>
EQUITY	10249	9955
CURRENT ASSETS		
ANZ Bank cheque account	2897	9555
ANZ Bank Serious Saver	7352	
NET ASSETS	10249	9555

RSCM Waikato Evensong on 22nd June, Music Sunday, at St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton

We gathered in the cathedral at 2.30pm to rehearse for the 5pm service, led by the Revd Peter Lord Cowell, Chaplain to our branch. The Cathedral Choir plus choristers from four other church choirs and a few individual members. some 40 singers in total, enjoyed working with four conductors and four organists. It was a wonderful experience for those unaccustomed to SATB choral singing, and for organists it gave the opportunity to play the big pipe organ.

We sang 'I was Glad' by Parry, the anthem 'Blessed be God the Father' by Wesley, a setting in D by Brewer of the canticles and the traditional responses and Psalm 46 to an Anglican chant so loved by the congregation. Two well known hymns and organ voluntary completed the musical offering.

The sermon given by our Chaplain, 'Thank God for Music' (which readers can find at the RSCM NZ website on our branch's pages) did indeed thank God although it came with a reminder that music must not get in the way of worship. 'Our music is an offering in which we strive to give glory to God and that glory is rendered whether the pews are full or empty.' The previous week the feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated and the words from the Eucharistic liturgy were quoted: 'Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we worship God in songs of everlasting praise.' Our music should encourage people to join us in worship, to come to our churches.

Paula Spiers



St Peter's Cathedral Shop

Some new stock at the Cathedral Bookshop which may be of interest to readers. See the previous issue of *Notes* for a list of older stock still available:

Books:

Sing Glory: hymns psalms songs for a new century

The Anglican Psalter

The ultimate carol book

Mass of the pilgrim church J. Foley

CDs:

Miserere religious choral music from the choirs of Westminster Cathedral and King's College

Friar Alessandro voice from Assisi

Angels and saints at Ephesus

Bruckner's *Mass in E minor* and motets

Ikon Russian church music

Elgar: *Great is The Lord* performed by the Choir of Westminster Abbey

Byrd: *The Great Service* also performed by the Choir of Westminster Abbey

(As well as many CDs of non-religious music)

A reminder that if you would like to join the mailing list for the bookshop's newsletter, or communicate with the shop for any purpose, please write to: shop@stpeter.org.nz, or phone the Cathedral office during shop hours (10-00 – 3-00, M to F) on 07 839 4683

RSCM Australia Summer School **'A Super Summer School Smorgasbord'** **Brisbane**

Saturday 3rd – Saturday 10th January 2015

Director: Andrew Reid, Director of RSCM (England) and Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral.

Features include:

- Children's choir
- Youth choir
- Chamber choir
- Festival of Great Hymns
- Clergy conference

For details please see the website at rscmaustralia.org.au.
 You can register your interest in attending by writing to
ssinfo@rscmaustralia.org.au

Member Profile Survey

Please pass a copy of this survey to anybody who has an interest in Choral music, whether or not they are members of the RSCM. Your committee would like to gather more information about the nature of our membership, so in the next few editions of NOTES, we will be asking members to respond to some questions. Your responses will help us plan better events and provide more help and guidance to our membership on matters concerning RSCM music.

Return your survey by post, or email, or phone Vaughan and he will take your answers over the phone. (Details below)

So here are the first few questions.....

We would like to update your contact details

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

How do you receive NOTES

Via the website _____ Post _____ Passed to me from somebody else _____

Library Copy _____

Other _____

Do you pass a copy of NOTES to anybody else? YES / NO

If yes, approx. how many people _____

Are you a member of a Church Choir YES/NO

If yes...

Is the choir a member of the RSCM YES / NO

Please give us the name and town of the

Church _____

How many people in your choir? _____

How many voices do you have Sop _____ Also _____

Tenor _____ Bass _____

Do you sing any anthems or canticles? No _____

Sometimes _____ Regularly _____

Are you a member of a School or Community Choir YES/NO

If yes...

Is the choir a member of the RSCM YES / NO

Please give us the name and town of the school/community
choir _____

How many people in your choir? _____

How many voices do you have Sop _____ Also _____

Tenor _____ Bass _____

Do you sing any anthems or canticles? No _____

Sometimes _____ Regularly _____

Have you visited the RSCM website... YES / NO

if yes, how did you use the website.....

.... for guidance about resources such as suitable music ? YES /NO

.... to read NOTES YES/NO

.... For information about events YES / NO

.... For information about other regions in NZ YES / NO

.... Other. Please

describe _____

How many RSCM events have you attended in the past 2 years

(e.g. Music Sunday Choral Evensong, AGM, Choir festival)

Please return your survey by post, or email, or phone Vaughan on 07 829 5319. (Vaughan will document your answers over the phone)

RSCM Waikato

Secretary

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Enderley

Hamilton City

New Zealand 3214

Email waikatosecretary@rscmnz.org.nz

RSCM Waikato 2014 Composition Competition

The committee is very pleased to announce the results of the competition. First prize was awarded to Amy Thomas for her setting of 'Kyrie' and 'Gloria' for unaccompanied double SATB choir.

Jonathan Evers was awarded second place for his 'O Magnum mysterium', also for double SATB choir, and the third prize went to Angela Smith for her setting of 'The Lord is my Shepherd', for soprano solo, SA choir, flute and piano. Amy and Jonathan are University music students, and members of St Peter's choir, and Angela is a teacher at Diocesan School.

Amy's work will probably be presented by St Peter's choir at the Festival in September.

Our heartiest congratulations and thanks for making this a very successful competition.

Musical Resource

Peter McMillan of Matamata has very generously prepared a resource which will be particularly useful for those churches which would like to include music in their services, but have no musicians. It is a collection of 16 DVDs covering a wide range of hymns and other music, most of which is designed to lead congregational singing. If you would like a list of the DVDs' contents, just write to

editorwaikatonotes@rscmnz.org.nz. If then you would like to order one or more of the DVDs, send the right number of blank DVDs to the Editor, RSCMNZ Waikato Branch, c/- St Peter's Cathedral, PO Box 338, Hamilton, with an appropriately stamped package for return postage.

Chamber Music Concert Series

St Peter's, Mt Maunganui continues its series of concerts organised by Chaliun Poppy:

30th August: Bach Cantatas, Nos. 82 *Ich habe genug*, and 244 *Kaffeekantate*.

18th October: Renaissance Polyphony. The St Peter's Chancel Choir presents music by Palestrina, Tallis, Victoria and others.

The concerts start at 7-30p.m. Admission: Adult's ticket \$15, children (0-12) free. Tickets can be purchased through the church office (phone: 07 575 9945), or at the door.

Concerts in New Plymouth

Likewise, St Mary's Cathedral in New Plymouth has several more concerts in its two series:

Lunchtime Organ Recitals: third Thursday of the month at 12.15p.m.: 17th July, 21st August, 18th September, 16th October, 20th November, culminating in the 2014 Christmas Organ recital, at 2.00p.m. on Saturday 20th December.

A gold coin donation would be appreciated, and all recitals are followed by refreshments on the Hatherly Hall;

"@ the Piano": 5th September and 7th November at 11.00a.m. in the Cathedral chancel. Gold coin donation in support of the Cathedral Choral Scholarship Programme.

Reminders of concerts in and around Hamilton

Russell Armitage has begun a very useful and welcome service to concert goers in Hamilton, an email reminder sent out shortly before each concert. If you would like to receive these reminders and

notices, just write to: russellsreminder@gmail.com, and ask him to add your address to his mailing list.

Cantata Vespers at the Cathedral

This series continues very successfully, with ever increasing and ever more appreciative congregations. The 'biggest' so far, in terms of complexity and number of performers, was held on Easter Sunday.

Paula Spiers writes:

Easter Sunday

Leading the worship: the Very Revd Peter Rickman, Dean of Waikato.

Musicians:

Singers: Jayne Tankersley, Ondine Godtschalk, Amy Thomas, Janet Jennings, Sally Rosenberg, Laura Downey, Koli Jayatunge, David Billing, Jonathan Eyers, Edward McKnight, Ray Harlow.

Orchestra:

Catherine Polglase, Kerry Langdon, Celia Griffiths: Violin. Esther LeCouteur: Viola. Martin Griffiths: 'cello. Alexander Arai Swale: Double bass. Rachael Griffiths-Hughes: chamber organ.

This, the final service on Easter Sunday, was the third in a monthly series of Cantata Vespers held this year at St Peter's, which introduce the cantata as the central part of a service as it was in the eighteenth century Lutheran church, and still is in churches such as St Thomas, in Leipzig. The service itself is based on the evening service in the Anglican Breviary with prayers, psalm, canticles, readings and hymns.

Dr. Rachael Griffiths-Hughes as Director of Music at the Cathedral is to be commended for the music in the service and for gathering together such a group of musicians, the membership of which will change each month to suit the particular requirements of the cantata. For most of the congregation these cantatas are new works as they are rarely performed in concert settings.

This cantata 'Christ Lag in Todesbanden' BWV 4. J. S. Bach, is one on the earliest among the three hundred he composed, first performed in 1707/1709. It is in the form of a concerto chorale

derived from the sixteenth century practice of setting hymns with a different combination of voices, solo and choral, chamber strings and organ.

The first verse is a rather somber statement of the chorale in the sopranos with counterpoint for the other voices. Each verse finishes with Hallelujah!, the other verses, including a solo bass, soprano and alto duet, tenor aria, soprano and tenor duet, all with some combination of orchestral parts, contributing to a growing celebration of the Easter message.

The singers all displayed a real sense of Baroque style and the ability to sing both solo and as part of the choral sound.

The chamber orchestra too played with style and precision. The chamber organ with both cello and double bass created a beautiful mellow contrast with the upper strings.

This was a lovely contribution to the Easter Vespers led by the Dean. It was enhanced by the part played by the congregation enabled by a full score of the hymns, Psalmody and Responses.

17th May: Telemann's Cantata, *Ew'ge Quelle milder Strom* (Eternal source, gentle stream), performed by Jayne Tankersley (soprano), Kathryn Orbell (flute), Martin Griffiths (cello).

21st June: Bach's motet *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied* (Sing to the Lord a new song) for double SATB choir replaced the cantata.

19th July: The series continues to demonstrate the breadth of this style, from relatively simple solo cantatas with select instrumentation to multi-movement works containing a range of arias, duets, choruses, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. This month another more substantial cantata forms part of the vespers: Bach's Cantata 93 *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten* (Whoever lets only the dear God reign).

Events calendar for your diaries

Cantata Vespers:

19th July. Bach Cantata 93 *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*. St Peter's, Hamilton. 5-00p.m.

This service takes places regularly on the third Saturday of each month at 5-00p.m. Look out for notices.

Bach concert

Vox Baroque: Bach's Cantata 93 *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*, and two motets: *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied* (Sing to the Lord a new song) and *Lobet den Herrn* (Praise the Lord), concerto for violin and oboe and strings (featuring Amalia Hall) St Peter's, Hamilton. 20th July.

RSCM Choral Festival:

27th Sept. St Andrew's, Cambridge. 1-00p.m.

Editor's column

Heartiest congratulations to Ven. Andrew Hedge, Vicar of Cambridge and Archdeacon of Piako, who has been elected Bishop of Waiapu and will be moving to Napier later this year. Andrew served on the branch committee, and last year organised a clergy singing workshop, and preached at the Music Sunday service.

My sincere thanks again to those who have contributed material for this issue.

After some comment from readers, the little snippet of the Hallelujah Chorus in the title has been replaced. No prize will be awarded, but what's the new one this time?!

Notes is freely available at the RSCMNZ website, and when it is placed there an email is sent to everyone whose address I have to let them know that a new version is out, and how to get to it. If you would like a paper copy but do not at present receive one, please get in touch with the treasurer to become either a member/friend or 'Noter', that is, someone who subscribes to the paper version. The paper copy will always appear some time later than the internet copy.

If you have received this as hardcopy, but did not receive an email about access to the electronic copy, it is because I haven't got your email address. **I'd be very grateful if you could just drop me a line to this effect to the email address below in the list of officers and committee.**

I shall be overseas for September and the first few days of October, so please don't worry if there is no response to something you might send me during this period; all will be seen to afterwards.

The next edition of *Notes* will appear in November, and I would like to be able to publicise Advent and Christmas services around our region, especially those featuring music. I'd thus be very grateful for relevant timetables from churches.

Deadline for material for the third issue for 2014: 31st October.

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RSCM (NZ) Website <http://rscmnz.org.nz/>
RSCM (England) Website <http://www.rscm.com>