

Inspiring and stimulating John Hume Memorial concert.

On Sunday 10th August an inspiring and stimulating concert was held in Holy Trinity Church, Devonport, to pay homage and tribute to John Hume- past Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch. It also marked the inauguration of a special Trust fund, which will be used to promote church music in the Auckland area, and particularly to cover the travel expenses of church musicians travelling to Auckland to conduct workshops and Courses. An anonymous donation of \$5000 has already been made to this trust Fund.

A massed choir of 77 choristers, under the direction of Timothy Noon and Anita Banbury, accompanied by organist Dr Indra Hughes presented 3 anthems- 'Let all the world in every corner sing' (Antiphon) by R.V.Williams; 'The Lord is my light and salvation' by Timothy Noon; and 'O thou the central Orb' by C.Wood.

Four choirs each presented a bracket of anthems during the concert. They were: St Mary's Singers, conducted by Anita Banbury; St Peter's choir Takapuna, conducted by Michael Cox; St Mark's Parish choir, Remuera, with soloist William Ranger, conducted by Brian Millar; and St Andrew's choir Epsom, with soloists Emily Hamilton and Ben Jackson, conducted by Neil Shroff.

Dr Indra Hughes also played The 'little' G minor fugue BVW 578 as an organ solo.

During the concert David Brookes, Secretary of the Branch spoke about the life and work of the founder of the RSCM, and the many problems Sir Sydney Nicholson encountered as organist and choirmaster in Parish churches, Cathedrals and Westminster Abbey. David made reference to two books recently published by the Oxford University Press- 'Musings of a musician' and 'The Chislehurst years'. David remarked on the similarity of problems mentioned by the founder in the early 1900's to what we have today, and gave an example.

Mention was made of the visit of the founder to NZ in 1934, the setting up of a Branch of the SECM in Christchurch Cathedral, and the affiliation of St Thomas church in Auckland, both celebrating 80 years membership this year.

David concluded his speech by listing the many musicians who have taken a leading role in church music in Auckland, including John Hume, and the many talents and skills John possessed. The concert was following the example set by the founder and John in stimulating and inspiring people with a love of church music.

Neil Shroff, Chairman of Auckland RSCM concluded a most enjoyable concert by announcing the setting-up of the John Hume Memorial Trust and its purpose, and thanking all who had taken part in the concert. A very receptive and appreciative audience attended the concert.

David Brookes.

Secretary: RSCM Auckland.