

SUMMER SCHOOL ADELAIDE 4 – 11 JANUARY 2017

First impressions of the Summer School were of excellent planning and communication from early in the piece. Website registrations can be fraught with ‘Gremlins’ but this base was well set-up. Flexibility in payment options was appreciated. To be met at the airport and delivered to Aquinas College was a very welcome bonus.

It was encouraging to note that more than 10% of registrations came from New Zealand. The choice of Director was a draw-card and we were delighted and fortunate to be led by Malcolm Archer. He is a consummate professional who encouraged and addressed the musical material in a most efficient and good-humored way. Tension in the course choir was minimal but there was a huge improvement in concentration and competence throughout the week.

Workshops were well thought out and the customary over-kill was avoided.

Workshop options included Conducting, Developing your choir, Alexander technique, Voice development, Youth choirs, Music liturgy and arts, Polyphony for fun, Performance practice in choral music 16th – 18th centuries, Stained glass, Popular music in contemporary worship, Catholic Worship BW II, Starting anew (David Brooks, NZ), Organ tutorials and accompaniment for beginners as well as advanced players, Exploring the work of JE Dodd, Organ builder. Your President conducted workshops on Anglican Chant and training for Voice for Life levels and examinations. Anita Banbury and Meg Matthews conducted Gold examinations passing three candidates and were of valuable assistance in the training sessions..

The repertoire was wide-ranging and was used effectively in three services within the theme “Kindle the flame of Pentecost”. The Bach Motet Lobet den Herrn proved to be too difficult for the group but other works from Palestrina to Archer were largely handled with aplomb. ‘Performance venues were; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Wesley Uniting Church and St Peter’s Anglican Cathedral where we had the pleasure of renewing contact with the Dean, Frank Nelson. For those who find Adelaide too hot in Summer we did enjoy the advantage of air-conditioning in Aquinas but not in the Church venues which were difficult to perform in when the temperatures were rather close to and above 40 degrees at times. Our sympathies went to the conductor. Aquinas College was excellent apart from there being no common area where the assembled body could socialize. It was well located as was ‘The Queen’s Head’ our nearest watering-hole!

Composers represented on the course were; Purcell, Douglas Mews, Palestrina, John Ireland, Malcolm Archer (three works), JS Bach, Colin Brumby and Gravenston Ives. The majority of the repertoire could be suitable for a competent church choir. It was great to see a wide range of ages with the youngest attendee six months old. The leadership of Alison Whish and Frank Nelson in services and pastoral care was valued highly. Well done Adelaide organizing committee!

Paul Ellis

“I attended the joint Australia/New Zealand RSCM Summer School in Adelaide as a representative of the Cathedral Singers at the Transitional Cathedral Christchurch. I took with me some postcards with images of Christchurch’s two Anglican Cathedrals – several people on the course expressed an interest in post-earthquake Christchurch and were particularly interested in the future of the

Cathedral in the Square. I thought that the Summer School was extremely well organised, the accommodation and the food were excellent and the general atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. The music was varied and it was a privilege to sing some of Malcolm Archer's music on the course as he was Director of Music for the week. We were fortunate to spend most of the week in air-conditioned comfort at our base at Aquinas College in North Adelaide as the temperatures often soared into the mid-30s. I attended a variety of workshops – several as an observer. I am very glad that I attended this Summer School in Adelaide as although Adelaide is beautiful and Christchurch's sister city there are no direct flights from Christchurch so I had not visited for many years.

Felicity Richards