



Friends Newsletter

St Francis' Choir Inc. 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000 Ph. (03) 9663 2495
Vol. 26 No. 2 June 2017



Director's Report

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are nearly half-way through 2017. The choir has been kept busy performing a wide variety of music, not just at the regular Sunday liturgies, but

also at some very special events. Once again, the ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter were attended by record crowds, with well over a thousand people attending on Good Friday afternoon. As I have said to some of our supporters, to attract crowds like that we must be doing something right! Needless to say, I think the choir's music is a very important factor in why people keep coming back to St Francis' to worship.

Amongst the musical highlights of Holy Week was the choir's account on Good Friday evening of the *Seven Last Words of Christ* by César Franck. Numerous people were kind enough to say how moving they found the performance of this work. While the music is very much of its time and place (19th-century France) it is interesting to see the power of music at work, transcending these parameters.

Music for the Easter season not only contained our usual mix of festive Mass settings with organ, but also included the premiere performance of the *Missa Bachiensis* written by former choir organist and noted composer, Calvin Bowman. This setting for choir, cantor, organ and orchestra was commissioned by

the Australian province of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation and was performed to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in St Francis'.

Pentecost weekend saw the choir singing on two occasions. On the Saturday night the choir, together with other choristers from St Francis' and members of RSCM Victoria, formed a 'festival chorus' of 75 voices to sing the Vigil Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral. The occasion was to honour Chris Willcock, SJ in his 70th birthday year. Chris's *Missa Magis* was sung with brass, organ and timpani. It was indeed a 'joyful sound unto the Lord'. *See photos below.*

The regular choir then sang a similar program the following morning at St Francis'.

Continued over...



The following Saturday members of the St Francis' Choir joined the St Francis' Youth Choir to sing at the ordination to the diaconate of Bro. Ben Ho, SSS. There had not be a diaconal ordination in St Francis' since last century, so this indeed was a cause for great rejoicing. The music (including Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass*) fitted the mood. Congratulations to Deacon Ben!

Haydn's glorious *Theresa Mass* for Corpus Christi will bring the solemnities of the first of half of the year to a close. There is much to look forward to later in the year, including Masses by Schubert, Haydn and George Rutter. Details will be announced shortly.

The choir is very fortunate this year to have two friends who have been kind enough to sponsor orchestral Masses. We realise that not many people have the resources to be so generous, but we are truly grateful to the Friends for their continuing financial and moral support of the choir. As we approach the end of the financial year, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the choir to assist us in our ongoing work to bring the very best music to the liturgy. For whatever you are able to give, we are most thankful.

All the choristers join with me in wishing you and yours every blessing in the months ahead.

Tony Way

Director of Music

Top right, Deacon Ben Ho SSS with his parents.

Right and below, Ben's ordination.



Music program July – October 2017

The choir sings regularly at the 11.00am Sunday solemn Eucharist unless otherwise indicated. Occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances, this program may be subject to change.

July 2 Ordinary 13	G. P. da Palestrina F. Mendelssohn	Missa brevis He watching over Israel (Elijah)
July 9 Ordinary 14 (Mass for the conclusion of NAIDOC Week)	C. Willcock C. Willcock	Trocaire Come to me
July 16 Ordinary 15	W. Byrd H. von Bingen	Mass for four voices O viridissima virga
July 23 Ordinary 16	A. Gretchaninov F. Liszt	Missa festiva Qui seminant in lacrimis
July 30 St Peter Julian (With the Symphonia of Melbourne and the choir of Xavier College, Kew)	F. Schubert W. A. Mozart	Mass in G Ave verum corpus
August 6 Transfiguration M. Lauridsen	A. Gabrieli (arr. Heagney) O nata lux	Missa brevis
August 13 Ordinary 19	L. Refice F. Liszt	Missa in Assumptionis BMV Ave Maria II
August 20 Ordinary 20	G. Ives W. McKie	Missa brevis We wait for thy lovingkindness
August 27 Ordinary 21	G. P. da Palestrina G. P. da Palestrina	Missa brevis Tu es Petrus
September 3 Ordinary 22	L. Vierne J. Ireland	Messe solonnelle Greater love
September 10 Ordinary 23	W. Byrd G. Holst	Mass for four voices Turn back, O man
September 17 Ordinary 24	A. Dvořák P. Stopford	Mass in D Ave verum corpus
September 24 Ordinary 25	R. Heagney B. Chilcott	Eymard Mass Be thou my vision
October 1 St Francis (with the Symphonia of Melbourne)	G. O. Rutter C. Willcock	Mass in D Come to me

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the phrase "Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned". The first staff is in 3/4 time and contains the melody. The second staff is in 2/4 time and contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Be mer ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned

be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

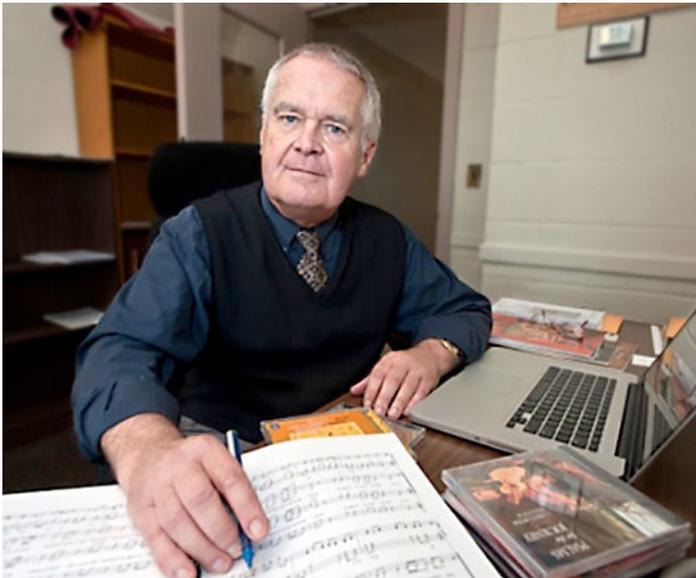


In Brief

As noted in Tony's report, the past few months have been particularly busy for the Choir. How fortunate we are to have such a committed group of

Choristers who devote so much of their time to bring quality Liturgical music to devotions at St. Francis. In thanking everyone concerned I can assure you that all your efforts are greatly appreciated.

It is wonderful to be able to highlight a couple of recent joyous occasions. The first being the celebration to mark the 70th birthday of the composer, Christopher Willcock SJ, photo below. We are so grateful to Christopher for his ongoing support and for his outstanding contribution to Liturgical music both here and abroad.



The second is the ordination to the Diaconate of Brother Ben Ho SSS, above.

On behalf of the Friends I congratulate Ben and wish him joy, happiness and every blessing as he prepares for his ordination to the priesthood later in the year.

Once again, this Newsletter comes just as the financial year is drawing to a close. Some of you may be looking to make a tax deductible donation before the taxman requires your attention. I again invite you to consider making a donation to the Choir. The Liturgical music at St. Francis is very important in the lives of so many worshippers. I know it brings much solace to many people. Your contribution helps keep this grand tradition going. We appreciate and thank you for your ongoing support.

Marilyn Jamieson

St Francis' Choir. A brief history.

St Francis' Choir gave its first performance on 23 October 1845 at the official opening of St Francis' Church, the first Catholic church of the infant colony and today, Melbourne's oldest building. The erection of the church, designed by Samuel Jackson, had been an ecumenical project that took six years to complete. St Francis' became the cathedral of Melbourne in 1848 and remained so until the new St Patrick's Cathedral was ready in 1869.

At the height of the Victorian era the choir was at the forefront of musical excellence in Melbourne with its own orchestra frequently combining with visiting opera

companies and welcoming such famous artists as Anna Bishop, Amy Castles and Nellie Melba.

In 1961 the choir was reformed as a mixed voice group by Rev. Ernest Rayson, SSS. He was succeeded as Director in 1967 by Roger Heagney and in 1998 by Tony Way. Orchestral Masses by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Gounod, Fauré and many others remain an important aspect of the choir's work. The choir has premiered works by many Australian composers and has undertaken two highly successful tours of Europe.

St Francis' Church: www.stfrancismelbourne.org
St Francis' Choir: www.stfrancischoir.org.au
e-mail: stfmusic@blessedsacrament.com.au

The Friends of St Francis Choir

Become a Friend of the Choir. The Friends form a large and diverse group of people who give financial and practical support to the Choir.

As a member of the Friends, you will enjoy:

a quarterly newsletter

choir concerts

a special Annual Friends' Luncheon

discounts when engaging the choir

invitations to attend the choir's social activities

and the company of some wonderful people.

For information

Ph. (03) 9663 2495

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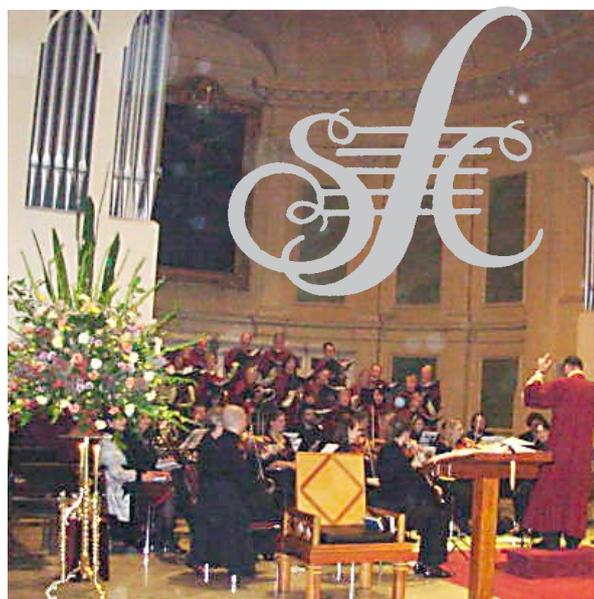
To join or renew the Friends complete the form below and send to:

The Secretary

St Francis' Choir

326 Lonsdale Street

MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Membership and Donations to the The Friends of St Francis' Choir Inc.

Please tick ✓ the appropriate boxes.

Life Membership: \$500

Annual Subscriptions: Individual \$25 Family \$50 Concession \$15

Tax Deductible Donations: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

Payment Method: Cheque Money Order Mastercard Visa

Credit Card Number _____

Name on card _____ Expiry date _____ / _____

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