



Friends Newsletter

St Francis' Choir Inc. 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000 Ph. (03) 9663 2495
Vol. 26 No. 1 March 2017



Director's Report

Dear Friends,

It is with sadness that we note the death of the choir's patron, Frà Richard Divall in January. Richard was our patron for about a quarter of a century and died,

aged 71, after a long and valiant struggle with cancer. He conducted the choir on many occasions and was always willing to assist us in whatever way he could. He was committed to high standards of performance and expected those he worked with to share that commitment. He had a longstanding interest in early Australian music and there were occasions when the choir performed such music in Richard's editions.

Richard was very devoted to the Order of Malta and became a fully professed member. Not only was he interested in the organisation's long and ancient history, but he was also very involved in its many charitable works. While we remember Richard's many contributions to the choir we also gratefully remember his introducing the work of the choir to members of the Order, some of whom we now count as long-term choir supporters.

Given the large number of people Richard touched throughout his long and varied musical career, it was appropriate that his funeral was held at St Patrick's Cathedral. It was good that I was able to join with several of our choir members in the large chorus that had been assembled for the occasion. Mozart, one of Richard's favourite composers, was well represented, and the singing of the *Lacrimosa* from his *Requiem* was a very moving moment.

We give thanks for Richard's life and legacy, being grateful that Richard, a great son of Melbourne, was involved with St Francis' Choir, one of Melbourne's oldest and still vibrant musical organisations.

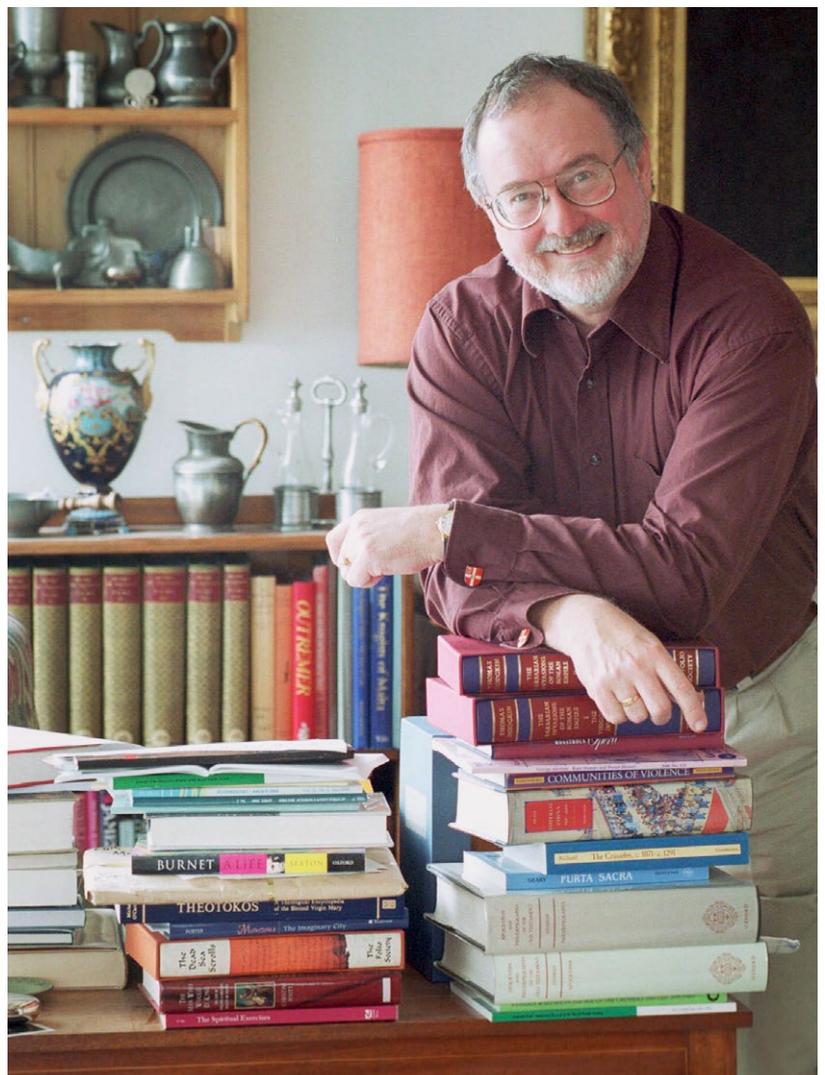
As we have now entered into the season of Lent, the choir is busy preparing music for the forthcoming ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter, details of which are included in this

newsletter. We do hope you will be able to join us for as many of these as you are able. On Good Friday evening this year, we will not be singing *Tenebrae*, but will be reviving César Franck's *Seven Last Words of Christ*. The choir gave the Australian premiere of this work back in 1990 and we look forward to singing it again.

At the start of this new year, the choir joins me in thanking you all for your continuing support and encouragement of our musical ministry. We really do value your friendship, expressed in many and various ways.

All of us at St Francis' wish you well in the coming months,

Tony Way
Director of Music



Choir News.

Congratulations to Larissa and Paul on the arrival of a beautiful baby girl on January 16. I understand that big brother Gilbert is delighted with his baby sister. Baby Ruby Louise is destined to be another future soprano for our Choir as I'm sure she will follow in her mother's footsteps.



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.

Subscription Reminder

**It's time to renew our annual subscriptions to the Friends of the Choir.
We look forward to your company and your support for another year.**

Music program March 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.

March 19 Lent 3	Plainsong H. Purcell	Missa XI 'Orbis factor' Thou knowest, Lord
March 26 Lent 4	W. Byrd W. Byrd	Mass for five voices Miserere
April 2 Lent 5	G. P. da Palestrina A. Lotti	Missa Aeterna Christi munera Adoramus te, Christe (No. 2)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

April 9 Passion/Palm Sunday	C. Willcock T. Weelkes C. Gesualdo	Trocaire Hosanna to the Son of David O vos omnes
April 13 Holy Thursday (6.00pm)	R. Heagney O. Gjeilo J. Kuhnau M. Duruflé	Missa Castanea Ubi caritas Tristis est anima mea Tantum ergo
April 14 Good Friday (3.00pm)	C. Gesualdo A. Lotti O. Gibbons J. S. Bach	O vos omnes Adoramus te, Christe (No. 2) Drop, drop slow tears Crucifixus
8.00pm	C. Franck	Seven Last Words of Christ
April 15 Easter Vigil (8.00pm) (with Canzona Brass)	R. Proulx H. L. Hassler	Mass for the City Laudate Dominum
April 16 Easter Sunday (with the Chamber Strings of Melbourne)	F. Schubert Chant arr. J. Revert W. A. Mozart G. F. Handel	Mass in C Victimae paschali laudes Laudate Dominum Hallelujah!

THE SEASON OF EASTER

April 23 Easter 2	B. Chilcott (St Francis' Youth Choir directed by Rhys Arvidson)	A Little Jazz Mass
April 30 Easter 3	A. Dvořák W. Lloyd Webber French arr. S. Lindley	Mass in D Fontes et omnia Now the green blade riseth

Music program March 2017

May 7 Easter 4	A. Gretchaninov D. Fellows J. Rutter	Missa festiva Springs of water Psalm 23
May 14 Easter 5	A. Gabrieli arr. Heagney T. L. de Victoria L. Viadana R. Proulx	Missa brevis Vidi aquam Exultate justi He is the way
May 21 Easter 6	C. Bowman C. Willcock	Missa Bachiensis* Prayer of Saint Francis
* First performance. *Commissioned by the Province of the Holy Spirit, Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. (175th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated at St Francis' Church) (With the Symphonia of Melbourne)		
May 28 Ascension	C. Saint-Saëns T. Savoy P. Phillips	Messe à quatre voix, Op. 4 Springs of water Ascendit Deus
June 4 Pentecost (with Canzona Brass)	C. Willcock R. Heagney G. Aichinger	Missa Magis You will draw water joyfully Factus est repente
June 11 Trinity	J. Byrne W. Mathias	Mass in honour of St Mary MacKillop As truly as God is our Father
June 18 Corpus Christi (with the Symphonia of Melbourne)	J. Haydn C. Mawby	Theresienmesse Ave verum corpus
June 25 Ordinary 12	R. R. Terry G. P. da Palestrina	Mass in C (Mass of St Dominic) Tu es Petrus



In Brief

Dear Friends

Welcome back! 2017 looks to be shaping up as another exciting year of Liturgical Music. As you

can see from the published program, there is much to look forward to in the next few months. I thank you all in anticipation for your ongoing support of the Choir. It is absolutely essential that we maintain our financial support in helping to defray the costs associated with the Music Program.

So once again I am asking you to renew your annual subscriptions now. If you are able to make a donation that too would be greatly appreciated.

I join with Tony in acknowledging the passing of our much respected Choir Patron Frà Richard Divall and offer my sincere condolences to all his family and friends. May he Rest in Peace.

Marilyn Jamieson

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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e-mail: stfmusic@blessedsacrament.com.au

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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