

Friends Newsletter

St Francis' Choir Inc. 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000 Ph. (03) 9663 2495
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Director's Report

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are entering into the final quarter of 2010. It seems that this year has gone by faster than ever. Not even

the replaying of the AFL grand final can slow down the march of time!

The choir sends a special 'thankyou' to those friends who supported the choir fundraiser a few weeks ago. It was very heartening to see so many of you at Dudley Moore: A Celebration of the Man and his Music. It was a very enjoyable evening and we extend our heartfelt thanks to Murray Stapleton of Cantor Productions for having so generously allowed us to profit from his endeavour.

The last few months have been rich and varied for St Francis' Choir. In August we celebrated St Peter Julian Eymard with Mozart's glorious Coronation Mass. The following week we were joined by the choir of the St Patrick's Campus, Australian Catholic University for a celebration of Mary MacKillop with a Mass composed in her honour by young Melbourne composer, Nicholas Buc. A further expression of our commitment to foster young choral singers came in mid-September when we welcomed the St Francis' Youth Choir to sing with us. This dedicated and enthusiastic group under the direction of Shanti Michael sings once a month at the Saturday vigil Mass.

We have also recently honoured Cardinal John Henry Newman's beatification with a performance of Albert Lynch's Mass in honour of Cardinal Newman and we also look forward to further honouring Mary MacKillop on the day of her canonisation, October 17 with Australian liturgical music. Speaking of local compositions, it has also been a pleasure to revive Anthony Halliday's Mass of Celebration for the feast of St Francis on October 3. This dramatic, large-scale work was written for the choir's second overseas tour in 1990-91. (It is also hard to believe we are approaching the 20th anniversary of that tour.)

Looking ahead, it will be our pleasure to welcome back our former choristers for the ever-popular Gounod Mass on the feast of Christ the King, November 21 under the direction of director emeritus, Roger Heagney. This celebration will be followed by the annual luncheon for the friends and former choristers. (A separate invitation will be sent to you for this event, but please reserve the date in your diary now.) This year's midnight Mass will feature the enchanting Messe de minuit of Marc-Antoine Charpentier. We do hope you can join us for these wonderful celebrations.

In the meantime, all of us at St Francis' remain grateful for your generous support of the choir and wish you all the blessings of Spring.

Tony Way
Director of Music

In Brief

Dear Friends,

There is much to look forward to for the remainder of this year, in particular, the annual celebration marking the Feast of "Christ the King" on November the 21st.

I do hope that many of you can join past and present Choristers for the luncheon which will follow the Gounod Mass on that day.

I join with Tony in acknowledging and thanking Murray Stapleton for his amazing generosity in allowing us to enjoy Dudley Moore "A man and his Music". This single event raised \$7,000.00 -through the sale of tickets -a superb effort. Many, many

thanks to all who helped make this evening a social and financial success.

We are always looking for fund raising ideas, so if you have any suggestions please let us know as your continued financial support is necessary to help with the ever growing costs of maintaining the music program at St Francis.

Marilyn Jamieson
Coordinator of the Friends of the Choir



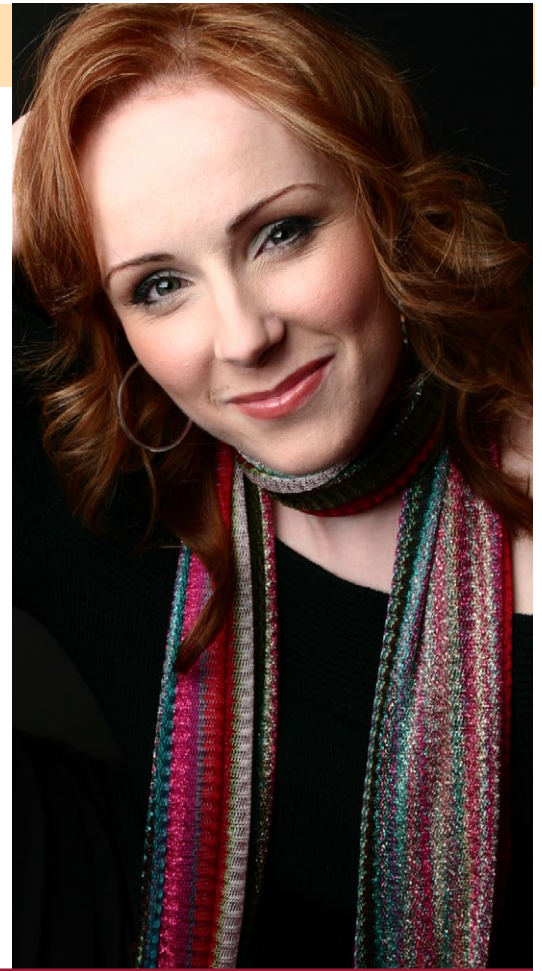
Introducing Justine Schnellbeck Cantor

I am delighted to introduce Justine who has joined the Choir as one of our Cantors. She brings to this task a rich background in Musical Theatre, Cabaret, Film and Television. Justine graduated from the Ballarat University with a BA in Performance/Acting and went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Elite Performance Development and Counselling at the Victorian University of Technology. She is currently studying Psychology whilst working privately with Voice, Dance and Acting Coaches in Melbourne.

Justine has a wide range of performance credits to her name encompassing theatres in Australia, Asia, Europe, United Kingdom and the Middle East. Currently she is excited at the prospect of furthering her musical experience through her involvement with the Choir, In her words she finds the appointment as Cantor as both “exciting and Challenging”. Justine values and appreciates the opportunity to extend her repertoire in Liturgical Music “giving praise to God in the musical form.” Justine’s mother Marie has been a member of the Choir for many years and it is to her that Justine attributes her love of music.

On behalf of the Friends I extend to her a warm welcome.

Marilyn Jamieson
Coordinator of the Friends of the Choir



One of our Choristers Ben Wiegerink has expressed his thoughts on his involvement in the Choir in this poem.

To quote the Ancient Bard Shakespeare
To wit “Music is the food of Love”
Though not excessive is the time spent here
The artistry, the lyrics, the melody do move
Our hearts, our voices to craft exquisite harmony
Perhaps occasionally a piece in unison is sung
Though the greater part is classed polyphony
The whole is savoured both by old and young
The repertoire is often tried and true
But now and then we make attempt to bring
A premiere performance exclusively for you
And challenging for all of those who sing
And lastly let us make acknowledgement
Of the most superbly rendered accompaniment.

Ben Wiegerink

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