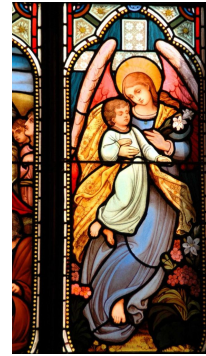




Royal School of Church Music (ACT Branch)



NEWSLETTER
August 2008

INSPIRATIONAL DAY OF NEW MUSIC Composition Competition 2008

On the 17th August about 65 people attended All Saints' Ainslie to hear the performances of the four finalists in the RSCM (ACT) Composition Competition. Composers and performers came from far and wide and it was a great day of music making. The four settings of Psalm 150 were vastly different but yet all equally uplifting.

As well as the performance of the four compositions, Les Davey, Sheila Thompson and Bill Fraser gave short organ recitals and Nigel Poole and Gemma Dashwood performed the solo work that they will be presenting for the RSCM Gold exam in the UK in October.

The Adjudicator, Ann Carr-Boyd praised all four finalists and gave much positive feedback on each composition. Although a difficult task, she awarded the following prizes:

1st Prize: Adrian Wintle (Wagga)
2nd Prize: Nigel Poole (Canberra)
Highly Commended: Mark Conyers (Wagga), Peter Ellis (Canberra)

Congratulations to all involved in a truly successful and pleasant event. Thank you also to Dorothy Dashwood for all her hard work in the kitchen after the event!



L-R: Peter Ellis, Adrian Wintle, Ann Carr-Boyd, Nigel Poole and Mark Conyers

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UPCOMING EVENTS

VISIT TO MURRUMBURRAH-HARDEN UNITING PARISH

The RSCM (ACT Branch) is organising a branch visit to Murrumburrah-Harden and the Ross Memorial Uniting Church (Derby Street, Murrumburrah) with its fine organ. The church, an imposing brick edifice, is visible from the main road, turn left when coming from Canberra. Travel time from Canberra is about 2 hours. The Church has a 2 manual pipe organ built by Dodd of Adelaide in 1917.

The visit will be held on **Saturday, 13th September 2008**. Details of proceedings are:

- 10.30am Morning Tea in the hall
- 11.00am Programme in the Church
 - Talk by local identity about history of the Church,
 - Brief organ recital,
 - Open console.
- 12.30 pm (approx). Light Luncheon in the hall.

This will be an interesting day's outing for us and hopefully of encouragement to the local people.

NEW ORGAN IN THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

As mentioned in a previously, the School of Music has acquired a new Allen Digital Organ. Tentative arrangements have been made for RSCM members to inspect the new Organ at **3.00pm on Sunday September 21st**. Final details will be confirmed closer to the date.

HELP! HAS ANYONE SEEN THIS PIECE OF MUSIC?

We are looking for a set of (or indeed just one of) the following piece:

“The Nativity of Christ” (Kaleb Simper)

If you have a copy, please contact the Secretary (Gemma) on 0413852911 or gemmster@hotmail.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I recently acquired copy of a new publication, *Pride of Place, A History of the Pitt Street Congregational Church*, (now Uniting) Sydney, often regarded as the mother church of Congregationalism in Australia, established in 1833. Early founders included David Jones, a young linen draper, and John Fairfax of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Music has always been important in the Church's life. Significant events over the years included the following.

Around 1901, the choir were impressed with the skills of award winning organ builder W.G. Rendall, and replaced an organ of Gray and Davidson with a new modern 3 manual pipe organ acquired from Rendall, complete with a set of gongs installed at the rear of the church and operated by electric action. However the organ could not be made to work adequately and after much litigation, was discarded in 1909, Rendall having been declared bankrupt. A new organ was obtained from W. Hill and Son of London in November 1911, but was installed incomplete, having incurred a significant cost overrun.

In 1895 at the age of 25, Miss Lillian Frost was recruited as organist, notwithstanding she was a woman (unusual in those days), hailed from Tasmania, was not the preferred appointee of the choir, and had to work under a succession of male choirmasters reputedly of lesser musical proficiency. However she served in this capacity for over 50 years, eventually being compelled to retire in December 1948 following an injury incurred while travelling. In addition to worship requirements, she provided a popular Wednesday lunchtime musical recital which commenced in 1913 and continued for over 1000 recitals.

God give us grace that, notwithstanding the inevitable discouragements, we also may provide long, zealous and skilful service in His name.

Bill Fraser

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY (well, sort of)

BIBLE CAKE

Ingredients:

1. ½ lb Judges V verse 25 (last clause)
2. ½ lb Jeremiah VI verse 20
3. 1 tablespoon I Samuel XIV verse 25
4. 3 of Jeremiah XVII verse 11
5. ½ lb 1 Samuel XXX verse 12
6. ½ lb Nahum III verse 12 (chopped)
7. 2 oz Numbers XVIII verse 8 (blanched and chopped)
8. 1 lb Kings IV verse 22
9. Season to taste with II Chronicles IX verse 9
10. add a pinch of Leviticus II verse 13
11. 1 Teaspoon of Amos IV verse 5
12. 3 Tablespoons Judges IV verse 19 (NB "leaven" is baking powder)

Method:

Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream. Add 4, one at a time, still beating. Then add 5, 6, and 7 and beat again. Add 8,9,10 and 11, having previously mixed them and lastly add 12. Bake in a slow oven for 1 ½ hours.