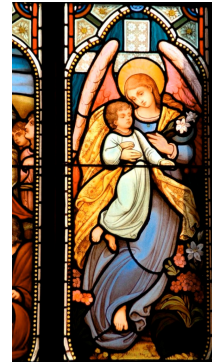




Royal School of Church Music
(ACT Branch)



NEWSLETTER
July 2008

What's in this edition:

- Composition competition – closing soon
- New Website details
- Message from the chair
- Report on Melba Uniting Church Organ Dedication
- Organ restorations and installations around Canberra
- Visit to Murrumburrah-Harden parish

Composition Competition
Psalm 150

~~~~~Closing 24<sup>th</sup> July~~~~~

The task for this year is to write a setting of Psalm 150.

The shortlisted entries will be performed at a special Composition Competition Concert to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

Send your entries by 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 to:

Gemma Dashwood  
Secretary RSCM (ACT)  
42 Rubbo Crescent  
Weston ACT 2611

For further details and entry forms see our website [www.rscm-act.org](http://www.rscm-act.org).

NEW WEBSITE

Thanks to the expertise of our new committee member, Nigel Poole, we have developed a new and improved website to publicise ACT events. The website can be found at [www.rscm-act.org](http://www.rscm-act.org). Nigel is keeping the website updated so remember to check it regularly.

## EVENT REPORT

### Rededication of New Organ – North Belconnen Uniting Church

The Branch provided significant input to the occasion for rededication of the pipe organ at North Belconnen Uniting Church on 22 June. **Our members were able to augment a group of people from the congregation to provide a sizeable choir which rendered two anthems under the skilled direction of Ann Freeman. It is hoped this occasional choir can continue.**

A large congregation was present, including the ACT Chief Minister and several visitors. In addition to the dedication ceremony, plaques commemorating the restoration, and the original provision of the organ, were unveiled. The musical program included several organ solos, an organ duet and two congregational hymns. The organists were students from the ACT Organ School who provided a wide selection of music. A delicious afternoon tea was provided at the conclusion.

The Branch will endeavour to provide the church any assistance it can with the music, particularly the supply of organists in these days of organist shortages.

### ORGANS !!!

The Canberra School of Music has recently acquired an Allen Q-345C digital organ in Llewellyn Hall. There are six "suites" available on the organ, and this allows the instrument to be adjusted for any genre. The RSCM (ACT Branch) is currently trying to negotiate a time where members can hear and play the organ. Stay tuned!!! (Pardon the pun!)

Secondly, St Philip's Anglican Church in O'Connor is currently hosting an appeal to restore their beautiful Hill, Norman and Beard chamber organ. For more details visit [www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au](http://www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au)



## UPCOMING RSCM EVENT

### Visit to Murrumburrah-Harden Parish

The RSCM (ACT Branch) is organising a branch visit to Murrumburrah-Harden to see the Ross Memorial Chapel (Darby Street, Harden) and the organ housed there. The church, an imposing brick edifice, is visible from the main road, turn left when coming from Canberra.

The church has a fine pipe organ built by Dodd of Adelaide in 1917. A local personality will talk about the history of the church and the organ, followed by a brief recital by visiting and local musicians. Refreshments will follow in the Church Hall.

The visit will be held on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and the events will start at 11am. This will be an interesting day's outing for us and hopefully of encouragement to the local people.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Respondents to our current composition competition have been asked to provide a musical setting to Psalm 150, which concludes triumphantly, "Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!"

God's people are enjoined to praise Him in worship, uniting with the whole company of the saints, earth and heaven being totally one. One of my favourite hymns would have to be Horatius Bonar's "Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God, in every part with praise." In particular the verse:

*"So shall each fear, each fret, each care, Be turned into song; And every winding of the way. The echo shall prolong."*

Some years ago I used to travel regularly from Scone to the Moonan district in the upper Hunter River reaches to play harmoniums for services in country churches. This involved travel along a rough road which wound its way around the contours of a hill descending into the "valley of the thousand hills." I often became carsick along the winding way. However the country people just loved to sing, and relief came soon enough when the waters of the new Glenbawn Dam flooded the area necessitating construction of a new road to more modern alignments. Certainly of benefit to itinerant organists!

We rejoice in God's love, so freely given, but we are also encouraged to praise God in our daily living. God give us grace to praise Him both in the sanctuary and in our day to day experiences.

Bill Fraser

## REQUIP – A Conference in Canberra

Requip is aimed at refreshing and equipping for ministry in churches. This conference is designed especially for people involved with music, singing and sound production. Date: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Cook. For further details: [requip@focus.asn.au](mailto:requip@focus.asn.au)

### Choir Rules in the Good Old Days 1915

- The practice shall commence at 8.30am or at such later time as a sufficient number shall have gathered together. Members are thought more of if they arrive late
- The choir meets one evening a week for the following purposes: to discuss politics, tennis, scandal or church affairs; to arrange socials, excursions, and to flirt. NB If there is any time not occupied in the foregoing manner, and if the members feel inclined, it might be desirable to have a little singing.
- No notice should be taken of the conductor. Do not trouble to look at his beat. He should tap. What your next door neighbour is saying is sure to be of greater interest to you.
- The conductor is always pleased to receive advice from individual members. He likes to receive hints as to choir management, suggestions as to "tempo" and expression, and is delighted to be instructed in the elements of musical grammar. If you think he has made a mistake, tell him so!
- Members of the choir are recommended to take home copies of music to look over at their leisure. It really doesn't matter if they don't bring them back, because choir funds are usually in a flourishing condition, and more copies can always be bought.

Russell Museum