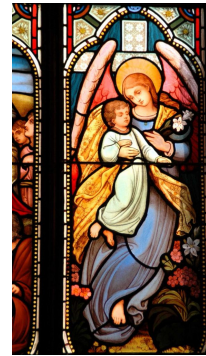




## Royal School of Church Music (ACT Branch)

NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2009

Where has the time gone?! We are a third of the way through the year already! However, we have some exciting events coming up over the next few months which will be worth noting in your diaries.

At the AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, we welcomed **Graeme Brown** to our committee. Graeme has many years of experience in church music and we are very lucky to have him as part of our branch. The rest of the committee remains unchanged as Ron Muffet and Gemma Dashwood were elected unopposed into the treasurer and secretary positions respectively. Bill Fraser is continuing on his two year term as Chair, and Geoff Wells and Nigel Poole are remaining on as committee members. **But don't despair** if you missed out – we are able to co-opt members at any time during the year. Please let one of the committee know if you are able to help – even if just for one event per year.

Our diary for 2009 remains busy, with the most important change being that the Composition Competition has moved from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of June (due to the unavailability of the church). Details of the event will appear separately in this newsletter. There may be one or two other changes to the timetable too – information will be published as soon as available.

### NEW ADDRESS FOR THE RSCM (ACT)

With thanks to our treasurer for organizing this we are pleased to announce that the RSCM (ACT) now has an official address. All future correspondence with us should be sent to :

**RSCM (ACT Branch)**  
**PO Box 6070**  
**O'Conner ACT 2602**

Royal School of Church Music (ACT Branch)

ABN 15957330863

[www.rscm-act.org](http://www.rscm-act.org)

## MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009

**As of the AGM, 2009 memberships are now due.**

Please complete the enclosed membership form and return to **RSCM (ACT Branch) PO Box 6070 O'Connor ACT 2602 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** Members who have not renewed by the 1<sup>st</sup> June will be deleted from the RSCM ACT and RSCM UK database. RSCM (ACT) has to pay capitation fees to the UK based on our membership numbers so we need to ensure that our membership numbers are up to date before RSCM UK charges us.

### EVENT REPORT - Organ Ramble - North Belconnen Uniting Church

A very successful event was held at North Belconnen Uniting Church on 14 February. Fortunately the very hot summer weather abated for a time which was of very practical assistance.

Among the congregation, we were pleased to welcome Rev. Myung Hwa Park, the new minister at St. Columba's Uniting Church, also the president and some committee members of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, ACT Division, who joined with us following our visit to the Albert Hall in the previous November.

It will be recalled that in June last year, RSCM ACT assisted with provision of music for the rededication service of the organ by Leggo of Sydney, which had been translocated from the former Methodist Church at Singleton, NSW to North Belconnen. Our visit this time provided further opportunity to explore resources of the organ, as well as utilising a contrasting portative organ supplied by Trevor Bunning.

Proceedings opened with the singing of *Lord, your Almighty Word*. A variety of organ items were provided by Bill Fraser, Les Davey, Glenda McDowell, David Franks, David Short, Ian Kummerow and Trevor Bunning. Our secretary, Gemma Dashwood further enhanced proceedings with some vocal items, accompanied by Les Davey.

The programme closed with the singing of *Glorious Things of you are Spoken*. A delicious morning tea was then provided by members of the parish. As with many of our recent functions, an early return visit has been requested.

*Bill Fraser*

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The organists from the parish of

**All Saints**  
Anglican Church, Ainslie



present:

*Buxtehude, Bach and beyond...*

a concert of organ music throughout the ages.

**Les Davey**, organ

**Gemma Dashwood**, organ

24<sup>th</sup> May 2009

6pm (following Evensong)  
All Saints' Anglican Church  
Cnr Cowper and Bonney Sts  
Ainslie

**Entry by donation. Funds raised will assist the STOP AIDs project in PNG.**

**Prior to the concert you are warmly invited to Evensong at 5pm.**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual RSCM (ACT) Composition Competition will be held over the coming weeks. This year's task is to compose music for **The RSCM Choristers' Prayer**. Composers are invited to submit their entries by the 1<sup>st</sup> June to the address below.

The finalists' concert and award ceremony will be held at **St John's Anglican Church, Reid** at **2pm** on the **21<sup>st</sup> June 2009**.

Details including rules, regulations and entry forms are posted on the website ([www.rscm-act.org](http://www.rscm-act.org)).

#### **A Message from National Council:**

*RSCM Members will be saddened to hear of the death of John Whitburn Nicholls, MBE, FRCO, ARCM, formerly organist of St David's Cathedral, Hobart, and Hobart City Organist. John died peacefully last Saturday 18 April, at the age of 92.*

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### Message from the Chair

We hope to participate in a worship celebration with a congregation of the Lutheran Church of Australia in the near future.

This denomination emanates from the work of Martin Luther (1483-1546). Luther, an Augustinian monk, was troubled by certain practices of the church of his day and posted a list of "propositions" on the door of the University Church of Wittenberg, Germany on 31 October 1517. This was a normal process of inviting debate among university communities. Luther was concerned that the Scripture clearly taught that a relationship with God is God's gift, and could not be decreed, earned or purchased. Luther's notice was quickly taken down, typeset and with the aid of printing, then a revolutionary new invention, circulated widely throughout Germany and beyond. Almost overnight, the church was plunged into turmoil, from which it has not to this day recovered, despite more intense efforts at Christian unity in recent times.

Further difficulty was experienced in 1799, when King Frederick William III of Prussia decreed that a new liturgy be developed for use in Lutheran and other reformed churches. This was finally published in 1821 but met strong objections from many Lutherans, who continued to use their accustomed liturgies and sacramental rites. These dissenters earned the name of Old Lutherans. By 1835, many sought refuge away from Germany to avoid persecution. Some migrated to Australia and settled in Klemzig, Hahndorf and Glen Osmond in South Australia. A second wave in 1841 settled in Lobethal and Bethanien, hence the many picturesque Lutheran churches established in these localities, many with fine pipe organs.

Despite the turmoil occasioned by Luther's actions, the reformation led to an outpouring of artistry and music. Luther, a musician himself, taught the congregations to sing stirring hymns in their own language, and initiated music making from a succession of great masters including Johann Sebastian Bach.

*Bill Fraser*

#### **Item of interest: Organ Music Society of Sydney Upcoming Event Organ Ramble to some of the prolific organs of Canberra:**

The Organ Music Society of Sydney are holding an organ ramble in Canberra. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June there will be a visit to Llewellyn Hall and a dinner party and then on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June there will be a visit to St Peter's Lutheran, St. John's Reid and Wesley. For more information contact Jim Clinch 0412758651.

### **Information regarding The Accompanists' Guild of the ACT.**

Our newest committee member, Graeme Brown has informed the committee of this item of interest. The Accompanists' Guild will also include on its register people who may be available to play in churches. See the following for more information.

On Saturday, 21 March, 2009, a meeting of interested people voted to form The Accompanists' Guild of the ACT.

The aims of this Guild are to:

- (i) promote the art of musical accompaniment.
- (ii) promote the status of the accompanist.
- (iii) further the artistic development of the association's members.
- (iv) assist in establishing a unity of purpose and the maintenance of high ideals and professional standards amongst accompanists in the ACT.
- (v) provide a common meeting ground for amateur and professional accompanists in the ACT.
- (vi) disseminate information regarding the art of accompaniment.
- (vii) foster close relations with other musical organisations.

The means of achieving these aims are:

- (i) Publication of the "Register of Accompanists". This would be printed annually (probably in the first quarter of the year) and be distributed to members, and sold in shops, etc. The Register would be updated on the web site which we hope to establish.
- (ii) Master classes and workshops.
- (iii) Newsletters to members and potential clients.

A Committee has been formed to proceed to incorporation, but its first task is to produce the Register which would be useful to performers, students and instrumental and vocal teachers at the time of the Eisteddfod, examinations and for end of year studio concerts, recitals, etc.

If you would like further information about the Guild, or a Membership Application Form, please contact Bronwyn Brown at [bbrown@grapevine.com.au](mailto:bbrown@grapevine.com.au) , phone 6161 5088.

### **RSCM (UK) International e-mail Newsletter**

RSCM UK has recently announced the launch of a news e-mail newsletter. The newsletter will be available free of charge to anyone interested in church music, whether an RSCM member or not, by subscribing on the RSCM website.

Each newsletter – around six a year – will include central RSCM news and information, helpful web links, and stories from the wider church community and music world. It will focus primarily on news and events of national, international or general interest.

Visit [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com) to subscribe