



**NEWSLETTER**  
**October 2009**

**NEXT EVENT – HYMNFEST AT ST PHILLIP’S O’CONNOR**

Royal School of Church Music (ACT) and  
Canberra Academy of Music and Related Arts  
present:

**HYMNFEST**

A selection of favourite hymns with solo performances  
from local church organists and choristers



Proceeds to the St Phillip’s O’Connor Organ Restoration Fund

3pm

Sunday 1 November 2009

St Philip’s Anglican Church, O’Connor

Cnr Moorhouse and MacPherson Streets



Entry by Donation

Refreshments will be available after the event  
(proceeds to Missions)

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**4 December 7pm**

Christmas Party at the home of Bill Fraser

The night will include some trivia (it’s now a tradition as we did it last year!) as well as an opportunity for members to catch up and have a chat.

Please bring a plate of food to share.



Royal School of Church Music (ACT Branch)  
ABN 15957330863  
[www.rscm-act.org](http://www.rscm-act.org)

### **New RSCM online discussion forum!**

The ACT Branch has provided a new online discussion board at [http://websights.org/rscm\\_forum](http://websights.org/rscm_forum).

RSCM members are invited to discuss anything related to church music here. Talk about our musical events (you can upload photos too with your posts). Got an opinion? A question? An idea? Information to share? Air it here!

While the site is hosted by the ACT branch, we are hoping that RSCM members and affiliates anywhere will want to join in. You can view the forum at [http://websights.org/rscm\\_forum](http://websights.org/rscm_forum), but you will need to register and log in before you can post or reply to messages.

Our aim is to provide a forum especially for RSCM members and affiliates, which is why we will ask you to enter the name of your branch when you register. Although anyone can view this forum, anyone found to be a non-member may be restricted from posting messages.

Please join in and enjoy!

### **REPORT FROM CHAIR - The Wesleyan Influence on Church Music**

John Wesley (1703-1791) and his brother, Charles (1707-1788), were both sons of an Anglican clergyman and clergymen themselves, and although remaining Anglican throughout their lives, founded the Methodist movement. After early church appointments, they sailed in 1735 for Georgia, America where a mission was conducted. However this was unsuccessful and both returned to England, depressed and defeated. Subsequently John Wesley encountered a personal experience with the Lord on 24 May 1738 while attending a Moravian meeting in Aldersgate Street, London. After hearing a reading of Luther's preface to the Romans, he felt his heart "strangely warmed." This experience gave new impetus to his ministry and having found most parish churches closed to him, became an outdoor preacher. He formed several "societies" which developed into the Methodist Society of England, and later, chapels and an itinerant system of preaching developed.

The first Methodist hymn book was one published by John Wesley in 1742. Hymn singing has always been a vital and distinctive component of worship, and from the beginning, Methodists have been a "singing people". Among others, G.F. Handel wrote three tunes for the Methodists. A variety of metres was adopted which enhanced the repertoire and John Wesley is reputed to have disliked slow and dragged singing. The use of choirs was encouraged and anthems provided, however the adoption of musical instruments took a while to occur. During his lifetime, Charles Wesley wrote over 9000 poems, of which about 6500 might be considered hymns, many of which are still immensely popular.

Charles and Sarah Wesley had 8 children, one Samuel Wesley (1766-1837) became a renowned organist, and his son Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876) held lengthy appointments as organist of Winchester and Gloucester Cathedrals, initiating a needful revival of English cathedral music.

Dr. Arthur Floyd (1877-1974), longstanding organist at St. Paul's Cathedral Melbourne was a student of Dr. G.B. Arnold (1832-1902) pupil and successor of S.S. Wesley at Winchester Cathedral. Hence the English Cathedral tradition established by Wesley has been passed on in Australia to many of Floyd's students, some of whom have relocated to Canberra.

*Bill Fraser*

## UPDATE FROM THE 2010 SUMMER SCHOOL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Over the next few weeks a draft daily program for the RSCM Summer School to be held in Adelaide 3 – 10 January 2010, will be placed on the RSCM Australia website. Full details of the complete workshop program will be released also as soon as final confirmation of who is contributing has been received. You will have an opportunity to book your place in the workshops of your choice by postal mail or email prior to the start of the Summer School.

Watch out too for details of how you can take part in the Forum on Music in Church to be held on Monday evening of the Summer School. We have invited five panelists to respond to questions and comments from RSCM members and those coming to the Summer School. They are Jeffrey Smith, Choral Director for the Summer School; Ralph Morton, National President of RSCM Australia; Paul Ellis, National President of RSCM New Zealand; Anita Banbury, Chairperson of Auckland branch of RSCM New Zealand; and Gemma Dashwood, ACT representative on RSCM Australia National Council. **Start thinking now about questions and issues that you would like the panel to take up.**

Jeffrey Smith has also agreed to conduct a master class for senior organ students and performers on the Saturday afternoon. If you know of any young (or not so young) organists who may like to take part, please ask them to write to us giving brief details of their experience in organ playing and a couple of works in their repertoire that they would be prepared to present to the master class. Jeffrey Smith writes that "I enjoy teaching very much indeed and am eager to hear the best of your local musicians". So do take this unique chance to work with one of America's most experienced liturgical and concert organists. Observers will be able to sit in on the master class as well.

Registrations for the Summer School are now coming in. It would be helpful if people registering as accompanying persons could send in a separate registration form, rather than adding details to a full participant's form. Remember to tell us if you would like to be accommodated in one of the flats at St Mark's College. As these are all three bedroom flats (all double beds) if you would like to reserve a place in a flat, be prepared to share the flat with at least one other couple, otherwise St. Mark's College will put a surcharge on your accommodation and you will have to pay extra. Early bird registration and youth concession registrations for the Summer School close on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Enquiries to

Or

Dr Warren Bourne, Organising Chairperson, RSCM Summer School Adelaide 2010

PO Box 325, Mitcham Shopping Centre, Torrens Park, South Australia 5062

### WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to St Alban's Cathedral, Griffith (NSW) who has rejoined the RSCM (ACT branch) as an Affiliate member.

**EVENT REPORT:  
A Great Visit to Yass !**

Saturday, 5th September, and our venue the historic church and organ of St. Clement's, Yass.

A crowd of over ninety enjoyed the programme from organists Bill Fraser (chair of our branch) David Franks, David Short, Graeme Brown, Nigel Poole, Trevor Bunning and Les Davey. Vocal items were from Gemma Dashwood (Secretary of our Branch) and the Young Uniting Church Singers.

To open proceedings the bell-ringers gave a short demonstration before the proceedings opened with a welcome from the Rector, Archdeacon Genieve Blackwell. A short history of the Parish and church was given by Jane Nauta the parish historian.

To show the organ's ability to accompany a congregation, we opened by singing: "We Have a Gospel to Proclaim" Tune St. Fulda and concluded with "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended" Tune St. Clements, of course.

The bell-ringers returned to give us a great example of campanology (bell-ringing to most of us), whilst a delightful morning tea was served by the ladies of St. Clement's.

Many thanks to all who helped, especially the Parish providing us the opportunity to visit and declare the beauty of the organ.

*Geoff Wells, (Organ)iser.*

**ACCET Summer School for Choral Conductors**

The annual **ACCET Summer School for Choral Conductors** continues to flourish. What began as a single conducting workshop at an RSCM Australia Summer School in Victoria eighteen years ago has developed into a nationally recognized annual course of workshops and master classes. A number of beginner conductors and their tutor at the Bendigo school realized that a more concentrated development of skills and encouragement was needed for conductors of choirs, who often worked without benefit of instruction and inspiration in their important craft.

In January **ACCET** is hosting an important school in Melbourne at Xavier College **January 19-22, 2010**, with renowned UK choral director and teacher **Simon Halsey** as keynote presenter. In addition there is a **Sing for Life** program for choristers to sing under Simon's direction and, a new venture, an associated **Summer School for Piano Accompanists** to be held on January 18-21.

Brochures regarding all three activities are now available from me for posting with your Newsletters, or I have attached a notice for your Newsletter editor to include in your next emailed letter to RSCM members. If you could post brochures I would appreciate hearing from you how many brochures you could use, and where to send them most usefully for a mail-out. Further information and registration for any of the schools is also possible through the ACCET website [www.choralconductors.org.au](http://www.choralconductors.org.au)