

# Voices

## NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLD COAST CITY CHOIR INC.

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Newsletter Editor - Angela Johnston

March 2010

### President's Report .....

Dear Choristers and Friends,

Welcome to 2010 and what promises to be another exciting and different year with the Gold Coast City Choir.

Despite the heat and humidity, we are well under way with rehearsals for our Easter Programme. We are reprising member Leon Powrie's cantata "I Remember" that was so well received when first performed, along with a beautiful selection of more traditional pieces. Check our Diary Dates for the details of each of the three performances we are presenting this year.

We are very happy to welcome 10 new members to the choir - the largest intake we've had for some time. I hope you are all enjoying your initiation into the choir. As you've no doubt already realised, it's always a case of 'all systems go' with us. It can be a bit confronting being presented with a great wad of music, some of which you've never seen or heard before. Fortunately, you've all come back for more. It all comes together in the end. So, hang in there and enjoy the journey. You'll soon be proud to be a member of the Gold Coast City Choir.

As you can see from our Diary Dates, our calendar for the year is quickly filling. After the success of our 'Heritage Songs of Queensland' CD, we've decided to go "country" this year. Max will tell you more in his article. We will be straight into

rehearsal for our exciting "Country Pops" after Easter. Be sure to keep July 31 free.

We hope to see as many of our loyal supporters as possible throughout the year as we continue '*In Pursuit of Choral Excellence*'.

Dí Buckland

### from our Director of Music .....

Our Easter program offers wonderful challenges for our choir - a taste of Verdi's Requiem, Samuel Barber's Agnus Dei, some Mozart, Vivaldi and Leon Powrie's appealing cantata "I Remember". It is great to see the choir relishing this challenging and enriching music. What a year ahead with our 'Country Pops' also to look forward to later on.. Our choir is growing in number and in youthfulness and seems vibrantly alive... a joyful group of music-makers that warms my heart. Friends of the choir, please do not miss any of the outstanding forthcoming events - we love to see you there, your support is much appreciated.

Cheers,  
Ruth Gurner.

### website ...

Everyone can keep up-to-date with our activities, online at ....  
[www.goldcoastcitychoir.com](http://www.goldcoastcitychoir.com)

*In Pursuit of Choral Excellence*

## Diary dates

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March** *Workshop* Southport Uniting Church 6.30pm

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March** *Performance* : "I Remember" Reedy Creek SDA church, 6-9 Bridgman Drive, Reedy Creek 2pm (choir call TBA)

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March** *Performance* : "I Remember" Southport Uniting Church 8.30am (choir call TBA)

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** *AGM* at rehearsal, Youth Orchestra building, Community Drive, Ashmore 7pm

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Good Friday)** *Performance*: "I Remember" Trinity Anglican Mission, Robina Town Centre Drive, Robina 2pm (choir call TBA)

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April** *Anzac Day Memorial Service* RSL Surfers Paradise

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June**: *Friends of the Gold Coast Arts Centre Soiree*

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July** *Country Pops Dinner and Show* Gold Coast Arts Centre 6.30pm show.

## Members matters...

We are very happy to extend a warm welcome to the following people who have joined the Choir in 2010: Candice SKJONNEMAND, Kathryn KING, Christopher KING, Susan MERRITT, Jenny MACINTOSH, Patrick WOODCRAFT, Marion BROWN, Michito TAKAHASHI.

And sadly, we also farewell three long-time choir members who feel they can't continue with the choir. We thank them for their years of dedication, and look forward to seeing them in the audience at future choir performances, as we do all retired members of our choir family.

Gerda BLOKKER joined 5th April 1988 = 22 yrs

Henk & Anne JACOBS joined 12 May 1998 = 12 yrs

On the topic of *long-standing members* I thought I would just check on others between 15 & 20 years.

Di Buckland	01/06/1995 = 15 yrs
Laurel Chipman	16/02/1988 = 22 yrs
Marianne Dalgleish	06/06/1995 = 15 yrs
Pam Deed	13/07/1993 = 17 yrs
Dawn Hogan	06/06/1989 = 21 yrs
Daintry Pohlman	01/08/1982 = 28 yrs
Lawrie Yakimoff	07/02/1989 = 21 yrs

Good work ladies and gentlemen! Your service, talent and friendship are much appreciated.

## ***Can you help?***

We are in need of a person who can sew new choir uniform shirts for us. Faye Holden has been doing this for us but can't continue (many thanks for your services, Faye!)

We would provide all the fabric, thread, buttons and patterns, and the logo is embroidered by a commercial service. You would earn a fee for each shirt sewn. For further details, please contact Di on 5578 3361.

# Country Pops

*The Choir's July 2010 production at the Gold Coast Arts Centre*

The Gold Coast City Choir has entertained the Gold Coast community for over 40 years. Its performances of choral classics, such as the Mozart Requiem, Handel's Messiah and numerous wonderful choruses by composers such as Verdi, Barber, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky and many others, have been applauded at venues throughout the Gold Coast. In 2009 the Choir added something new to its repertoire and recorded a CD titled "Heritage Songs of Queensland". The CD's popularity exceeded all expectations. ABC Radio was particularly taken by the rendition of Waltzing Matilda and played it a number of times with glowing comments by Spencer Howsen.

"Heritage Songs of Queensland" has been so successful that the Choir has determined to further broaden its repertoire by including choral arrangements of much loved country and folk music. This new direction for the Choir has members very excited. The Choir will soon be rehearsing songs such as: Ghost Riders in the Sky, Love is Like a Butterfly, If I Said You had a Beautiful Body Would You Hold it Against Me, Bridge over Troubled Waters, Wedding Bell Blues, and other country hits made famous by stars like Slim Dusty, Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell, Dolly Parton, Redgum and John Denver.

The Choir will showcase its new direction at a dinner-show at the Paradise Showroom, Gold Coast Arts Centre on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010, starting at 6:30 pm. Bookings are now open on (07) 5588 4000.

The show will feature as guest artists the dynamic duo P.J. and Melanie Creamer who have toured extensively over the last ten years performing at festivals throughout Europe and North America. Their music covers a wide range from folk to country and to rock. Audiences will be entranced by their renditions (backed by the Choir) of Diamantina Drover, Brown Eyed Girl, Desperado, Take it Easy, Take Me Home Country Road, Rhinestone Cowboy, Thank God I'm a Country Boy and others. Our other guest artist is the well known Gold Coast singer Jordan Jansen who at age eleven has established an incredible following and is much in demand for civic and corporate events. His solo in Queensland's Waltzing Matilda on the Choir's CD has been widely applauded.

The Choir's talented soloists, Lorelle Brown and Miriam Minarova will delight audiences with songs such as Perhaps Love, and the Whitney Houston classic I will always love you. Included in the program will be a number of Australian bush ballads such as Women of the West, Brisbane ladies and Queensland's Waltzing Matilda which have been specially arranged for choir by our director Ruth Gurner. The arrangements transform these sometimes simply written melodies into memorable, emotionally-charged musical experiences.

**Remember 31<sup>st</sup> July. Get in early and book now for "Country Pops" on (07) 5588 4000.**

**Easter 2010**



# **Gold Coast City Choir**

**Directed by Ruth Gurner  
presents**

## **I Remember**

**A reflective Cantata that leads to  
a spiritual encounter with the  
Christ of Calvary**

**Composer  
Leon Powrie**

**Accompanist  
Marie Nicholson**

**Preceded by a selection of Classics, with excerpts from:  
Verdi's Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, Mozart,  
Samuel Barber.**

**Reedy Creek SDA  
Church  
6-9 Bridgman Drive,  
Reedy Creek  
27th March, 2010 2:00 PM**

**Southport Uniting Church  
Cnr Scarborough &  
Short Streets,  
Southport.  
28th March, 2010 8:30 AM**

**Trinity Anglican Mission,  
186 Robina Town Centre Drive  
ROBINA  
2nd April, 2010 2:00 PM**

[www.goldcoastcitychoir.com/](http://www.goldcoastcitychoir.com/)

**Further information  
phone (07) 5592 5509**