



November 2019

A newsletter for all choristers in Western Vic. & SE
of SA

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The Choral Grapevine website: <https://thechoralgrapevine.wordpress.com/>

CHORAL CALENDAR

Date, time, venue	Concert details
Sunday 10 November, 2.30pm Mozart Hall, Warrnambool	CANTORI 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT conducted by Jeanette Hajnci. All proceeds to Special Developmental School Music Equipment. Afternoon tea provided. \$25/\$20 Conc/child Booking Trybooking
Saturday 16th November, 10am-4pm, Mozart Hall, Warrnambool	MESSIAH BOOT CAMP for Port Fairy Messiah (28th December), presented by Jeanette Hajnci \$25. Bookings 03 5561 2291
Sunday November 17, 3pm, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Kyneton	MASS OF THE CHILDREN (John Rutter) presented by <i>The Gisborne Singers</i> , directed by Stephen Brockman. The mass is accompanied by the Gisborne Singers Children's Choir, soloists Rosie Cocklin (soprano) and Tom Healey (baritone) and orchestra. Tickets \$40 \$35(conc) \$20(student) under 12 free Bookings http://www.gisbornesingers.org.au/ 0480 156 263
Saturday November 23 - 10:00 am – Sunday, November 24 - 4:00 pm, Hammond Fellowship Centre, Christ Church, cnr. Henna and Koroit Streets, Warrnambool.	Tony Backhouse: Weekend Workshop – Warrnambool, Victoria Details Hammond Fellowship Centre at the Christ Church corner of Henna and Koroit Streets, Warrnambool For more information: Liz Jackways: vocal.coach@hotmail.com Kathy Culkin: k.culkin@bigpond.com To purchase tickets click here
Sunday November 24, 3pm, Church of Christ, New Gisborne	MASS OF THE CHILDREN (John Rutter) presented by <i>The Gisborne Singers</i> , directed by Stephen Brockman. The mass is accompanied by the Gisborne Singers Children's Choir, soloists Rosie Cocklin (soprano) and Tom Healey (baritone) and orchestra. Tickets \$40 \$35(conc) \$20(student) under 12 free Bookings http://www.gisbornesingers.org.au/ 0480 156 263
Sunday November 24 th , 2pm, Nazareth Church, Grovedale	CHRISTMAS CONCERT proudly presented by <i>Vox Box Community Choir</i> conducted by Lisa Breen. Information and bookings: Lisa Breen (0413 480 182) or Robyn Harper (0417 829 926)
Sunday, November 24 th , 3pm, Auburn Uniting Church, 81 Oxley Road, Hawthorn	SINGING INTO SUMMER <i>Victoria Welsh Choir</i> and <i>Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir</i> Tickets: General Admission \$30 To book www.trybooking.com/BFYBW or contact Lea on 9798 3449
Sunday, November 24 th , 12.30pm, Naracoorte Caves (Blanche Cave)	WORLD HERITAGE FESTIVAL at the Naracoorte Caves, including the Naracoorte singers singing a <i>This is Naracoorte</i> . More information at the Festival Facebook page
Friday, November 22nd, 8pm, St Paul's Anglican Church, La Trobe Terrace, Geelong	CÉSAR FRANCK AND HIS STUDENTS <i>Windfire Chamber Choir</i> conducted by Rick Prakhoff. Soloists Teresa Duddy soprano, Tom Healy—baritone, Jacinta Dennett—harp, Timmothy Osborne—Cello, Sonoka Miyake—piano, Brighid Mantelli—flute, Frank De Rosso—organ Tickets \$50/\$45/\$30 from Trybooking or at the door.

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Reports from our choirs

GISBORNE SINGERS

The Gisborne Singers will be accompanied by a children's choir, soloists and orchestra when they perform John Rutter's wonderful *Mass of the Children*. Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and three anthems by John Rutter's complete the program. Soloists are Rosie Cocklin (Soprano) and Tom Healey (Baritone) There are two performances, on Sunday November 17 at 3pm in Kyneton and Sunday November 24 3pm in New Gisborne Bookings www.gisbornesingers.org.au. 0480156263

HAMILTON SINGERS

Hamilton Singers Christmas Concert will be on Sunday Dec 15th, at 2.30pm at the Lutheran Church, Hamilton. Tickets are \$15, which includes afternoon tea.

Come along to hear Hamilton Singers present some lovely Christmas music but also some repertoire we have enjoyed throughout this year.

Hamilton Singers were given the opportunity of performing some Ken Stott repertoire as world premieres at the *Hamilton Symphony Orchestra* concert on September 15th. The two songs are very much John Rutter in style, very lyrical and a joy to sing. It is also something very special to perform works for the very first time. We now work hard on Christmas repertoire for our coming Christmas concert. We have been encouraged this year by the growth of our choir with a few new members joining our ranks. It is always fun to welcome new members and to spread the joy of singing with others in our community. [Beth Tonissen](#)

CANTORI

On **Sunday 10 November** Cantori will be holding their 10th Anniversary Concert in the Mozart Hall - proceeds to Special Developmental School Music Equipment, afternoon tea to attendees. Everybody wins! [Jeanette Hajnc](#)

PORT FAIRY MESSIAH

On **Saturday 16 November** the Mozart Hall hosts the Messiah Boot Camp where people can brush up on their Messiah choruses in preparation for the Port Fairy Messiah on Sat 28 Dec 2019.

We are delighted to announce that this year's conductor

for the Port Fairy Messiah will be [Patrick Burns](#), who has delighted those who have sung in the 2018 and 2019 Organ Festival Chorus. He is a treat to sing under, so mark this in your calendar for 28 December in St John's Church Port Fairy. [Jeanette Hajnc](#)

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER MALE CHORUS GEELONG

The international Harvester Male Chorus have had a busy year and we still have a couple of upcoming concerts. On The 31st of October we presented our annual seniors concert at the Waurin Ponds Community Church. This concert will be a combined concert with the Geelong Ladies Welsh Choir. On December the 8th at 2pm we will be presenting another joint concert with the GLWC when we present a Christmas Carol Concert at St Luke's Uniting Church, Barrabool Road, Highton. [Terry Eichler](#)

MILLICENT CHORAL SOCIETY

Millicent Choral Society resumed practice recently after a 6 week break.

Our annual evening concert of approximately 50 minutes was held for the residents of one of our aged care facilities here in town on October 28th. We present some of the items we have performed during the year at various functions.

On November 9 we will be celebrating 45 years of our society with a dinner will be held at Beachport to mark this achievement.

Our Christmas involvement includes holding a Coffee, Cake and Carols afternoon on Dec 8 and presenting a couple of Carols at the Community Christmas Carol evening on Dec 15. [Jennifer Golding](#)

VOX BOX COMMUNITY CHOIR GEELONG

VOX BOX COMMUNITY CHOIR proudly presents its Christmas concert at 2pm on Sunday 24th November at Nazareth church, Grovedale. Come along and enjoy joining us as we sing and perform some lovely carols, then after the yummy afternoon tea, sit back and enjoy our presentation of *THE HOLY BOY*, a contemporary Cantata by David Palmer. Bookings would be appreciated or tickets will be available at the door-\$20 flat- rate, with children under 12 free with paying adults.

A portion of ticket sales will be donated to Nazareth Church in aid of the charities they support. For bookings or further info please call choir director Lisa Breen (0413 480 182) or Robyn Harper (0417 829 926). [Lisa Breen](#)

THE COLAC CHORALE

Our Chorale are once again rehearsing Christmas music, in preparation for our usual Christmas singing at the Colac Aged Care Homes. This is always a joyful thing to take part in - and it also gives pleasure to the residents, who 'sing along' with the well-known carols.

Also, some of our Chorale members are joining with the **Ballarat Choral Society and Orchestra** in singing *Fantasia On Christmas Carols* by R. Vaughan Williams, at the Wendouree Performing Arts Centre on November 30th at 7:30 PM.

Our own Chorale Concert is planned for March 2020 entitled "Two of a Kind". The plan is to sing groups of two songs with a common theme, such as two lullabies, two spiritual songs, etc. This should provide an interesting program, both for the singers - and for the audience...

Finally, we send all choral groups our best wishes for a very Happy Christmas season - and for the New Year. [Gwenyth Knox](#) 03 5231 4278

NARACOORTE SINGERS

We have been asked to sing at the World Heritage Festival at the Naracoorte Caves, singing a short song called *This is Naracoorte* in the beautiful Blanche Cave, at 12.30pm On Sunday November 24.

WE will have a few Christmas items to perform - singing carols at Longridge Retirement Village Christmas lunch, on Thursday November 28, our annual Christmas Concert on Sunday December 8 - this year using the cantata *Christmas Presence* by Pepper Choplin as a base with a few other added Christmas songs. We repeat the Christmas concert at Longridge Retirement Village on Monday December 9 at 6.30pm, and finally appear at the annual Carols in the Square in Naracoorte on Sunday December 15.

This will complete another busy year for Naracoorte Singers. We will then have a well-earned break in January and recommence singing in February. [Lyn Schinckel](#)

THE GEELONG CHORALE

The Geelong Chorale, directed by Allister Cox, will once again join with *The Geelong Handbell Choir* directed by Gwyn Gillard, to present the Chorale's annual Christmas concert. This year features works by two great English composers: *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughan Williams and John Rutter's supremely engaging *Magnificat*. There will also be a chance to hear two rarely performed Christmas chorales from Vaughan Williams' cantata, *Hodie*. Soloists for the concert are Fiona Squires, soprano, and Rodney Dearing, baritone, with piano accompaniment by Kristine Mellens. The concert is on Saturday December 7, 2019 at 5pm (more details in the Choral Calendar).

Our last concert in August, *Great Moments*, was a concert of music from Opera, Operetta and Musicals. The first half of the program was devoted to grand opera, with choruses, solos and duets from Verdi, Mozart, Donizetti, Gounod, Puccini and finishing with a rousing performance of the *Easter Hymn* from *Cavalleria Rusticana*. The second half of the concert produced lighter fare - with excerpts from *Yeomen of the Guard*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Merry Widow*, *Porgy and Bess*, *West Side Story* and concluding with a rousing performance of the title song from *Oklahoma* with soloists joining the choir. The concert was very well received by an appreciative audience.

We are in the midst of planning our three concerts for 2020. Please like our [facebook](#) page; follow us on instagram or go to our [webpage](#) for the latest information on our performances. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please email our secretary, Angela West at thegeelongchorale@gmail.com. [Angela West](#)

CORYULE CHORUS

2019 has once again been a very busy but productive year for the *Coryule Chorus*. With several new members injecting their enthusiasm to further enhance the reputation of the choir, there have been a few highlights worth mentioning in this report.

Our participation once again in the ANZAC service at Ocean Grove, accompanied by the *Geelong Concert Band* to a huge crowd of people was a huge buzz for the choristers, and widely acclaimed and appreciated by organisers and audience alike. Our Geelong Seniors Festival concert in October was another happy occasion

for the choir, with almost a sell-out of seats, together with our traditional afternoon tea with the audience after the event. We have also staged another "Open Rehearsal" for the many supporters of the choir, and the rapport our MD Joy and the choir seem to share with the audience seems extremely well received on these occasions.

We have our usual list of Christmas performances coming up at various locations before our own Christmas dinner and break will again be upon us. Merry Christmas to all our fellow choristers in the region. Rob Casey

GEELONG WELSH LADIES CHOIR

The choir performed recently in support of the Art of the Minds which focuses on mental wellbeing in our community. We performed a short bracket of songs at the Mad Hatter's brunch at the Sands, Torquay and were very pleased to be able to provide the entertainment for the attendees.

The Geelong Ladies Welsh Choir have an upcoming concert alongside the Victoria Welsh Choir in their concert **Singing into Summer** on 24th November at Auburn Uniting Church, Hawthorn. (See Choral Grapevine for details and to book)

The GWLC and International Harvester Male Chorus will be combining voices once again to perform a special Christmas Concert at St Lukes Uniting in Highton. **The Colours of Christmas** will provide a wonderful afternoon performance with some of the well-known and some lesser known Christmas tunes.

The concert will be held on Sunday, 8th December at 2.00 pm at St Luke's Uniting, Highton (Cnr Barrabool/ Scenic Rds). All tickets are \$15 and includes an afternoon tea after the performance. Our last combined concert was very well attended so recommend pre-purchasing tickets via Heather on 03 5243 9450. Bron Elford

It's already November and our Choral Grapevine choirs are working towards performances and celebrations for Christmas and holiday times. A good number of you will be presenting major concerts, including having several opportunities to sing **Messiah**, including the annual 'turn up and sing' performance in Port Fairy on 28th December. Most choirs have a break over January. However, for those who enjoy honing their choral skills, I recommend the workshop with London-based Helen Hughson in Geelong on January 4th.

Have you attended choral concerts in 2019? So many singers seem to be so busy that they forget the many opportunities to attend other people's concerts. For example, there have been excellent concerts in Geelong this year, including those presented by Music at the Basilica. Local choristers were most notable by their absence. I recommend that in 2020, every singer in our choirs attempt to attend at least one other choral performance as audience. There's so much beautiful music to enjoy, and hearing others sing inspires our own music-making. And keep those concert reports rolling in for the CGV.

My very best wishes to all of you for Christmas and the holiday season. Helen

Choirs in The Choral Grapevine network in 2019:

Apollo Bay: Apollo Bay Community Choir **Ballarat:** Ballarat Choral Society, U3A Choristers Ballarat, Vox **Berr:** Riverland Choral Group, **Bordertown:** Bordertown A Cappella Singers, **Camperdown:** Camperdown Uniting Church Choir, **Casterton:** Sacred Heart Church Choir, **Cobden:** Cobden Community Choir, **Colac:** Colac Chorale, **Deans Marsh:** Deans Marsh Singers, **Drysdale:** Coryule Chorus, The Bellarine Community Choir **Geelong:** acabellas, Bella Mama, Geelong (Bay City) Conchords, The Geelong Chorale, Geelong Harmony Chorus, GSO Chorus, Geelong Trades Hall Choir, Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir, Geelong Youth Choir, The Gesualdo Consort, International Harvester Male Chorus, Sing Geelong, St Luke's Uniting Church Choir, St Mary's Basilica Choir, Geelong, St Paul's Church Choir, U3A Geelong Choir, Windfire Chamber Choir, With One Voice Geelong, Windfire Chamber Choir, Wondrous Merry, Vox Angelica, Vox Box Community Choir **Gisborne:** The Gisborne Singers **Hamilton:** Footprints the Choir, Good Shepherd Choir, Hamilton Singers, Tabor Male Choir, **Lavers Hill:** Lavers Hill Choir, **Millicent:** Millicent Choral Society, **Mt Gambier:** Mayfair Youth Jazz, Mount Gambier Choral Society, Mt Gambier Christ Church Anglican Choir, **Naracoorte:** Naracoorte Singers, **Penola:** Southern Heritage Singers, **Port Fairy:** Port Fairy St Johns Anglican Church Choir, **Portland:** Portland Choral Group, **Queenscliff:** Tides of Welcome, **Warrnambool:** Cantori, Red Tent Singers, Warrnambool Christ Church Choir, Merri Singers, Warrnambool St Johns Presbyterian Choir, Warrnambool Theatre Company Chorale

WORKSHOPS and SCHOLARSHIPS

TONY BACKHOUSE WORKSHOP: Warrnambool

And for those with a gospel bent, there is a workshop with Tony Backhouse on the weekend of **23 & 24 November**. Tony is an inspiring teacher and this is not to be missed if you like gospel singing. See the Choral Calendar for details and to book. [Jeanette Hajnci](#)

CHORAL WORKSHOP IN GEELONG

Geelong-raised Helen Hughson, now a professional ensemble singer based in London, is delighted to be presenting the first event in what will hopefully become a regular fixture in singers' summer calendars.

Helen will be teaching singers 'tricks of the trade' at the inaugural **Sing @ The Papermill** workshop on Saturday 4th January 2020.

The workshop will be held at the Old Papermill in Fyansford, outside Geelong, and will run from 11am, concluding with a free public concert in the Old Papermill Gallery at 5:30pm.

Skilled choral singers and singers looking to learn how to make a stronger contribution to their choir will learn how to engage more deeply with the music, the text, the rest of the group, and the audience. Helen has a Masters degree in ensemble singing and wants to encourage singers to approach choral music as an ensemble musician, take charge of the notes, and take their choral singing to the next level!

"By fine-tuning your choral instincts and improving your confidence, you'll be able to make a significant contribution to the group you're singing with, and truly bring the music to life!"

The course costs just \$60 for the day (\$30 for students).

Spaces for the workshop and additional coaching opportunities are strictly limited - sign up now to secure your place! All details available online:

<https://sites.google.com/view/singatthepapermill/home>

St Paul's Anglican Church, Geelong

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

St Paul's Anglican Church is

seeking applications for choral scholarships valued at \$1700pa and open to singers between the ages of 10 and 30.

We are particularly seeking basses but all voice parts are encouraged to apply.

If you would like to audition or find out more about this fine choir, contact:

Tom Healey (Choir Director) healeytf@gmail.com

0451 960 768

If you would like to be a non-scholar member of the choir, we would also love to hear from you.

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Saturday, November 30 th , 7.30pm, Wendouree Performing Arts Centre	CHRISTMAS CAMELS presented by <i>Ballarat Symphony Orchestra</i> including Vaughan Williams' FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS with <i>Ballarat Choral Society, Box Hill Choral Society</i> and members of <i>Colac Chorale</i> Tickets: Adult \$35, Concession \$30, Student \$15, Under 12s free. Tickets available at the centre, by ph: 5338 0980, at the door.
Sunday December 1st, 2pm, Christ the King Cathedral, Ballarat	Amahl and the Night Visitors - Commissioned in 1951 for the beginning of television in New York. This short, Christmas opera is presented by Stee Cordelia's <i>Potted Opera</i> with <i>Ballarat Choral Society</i> providing the opera chorus. Conducted by Hugh McElvey. Booking Trybooking
Saturday, 7th December, 2019, 5pm, All Saints Church, Noble Street, Newtown	MAGNIFICAT presented by <i>The Geelong Chorale</i> directed by Allister Cox. Music to celebrate Christmas, with guest artists <i>The Geelong Handbell Choir</i> . Bookings: 0407 095 408 or email mailto:thegeelongchorale@gmail.com
Sunday, 8 th December, Naracoorte Town Hall	ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT presented by <i>Naracoorte Singers</i> including the cantata <i>Christmas Presence</i> by Pepper Choplin. Gold coin donation. For more details contact Lyn Schinckel
Sunday, 8 th December at 2.00 pm at St Luke's Uniting, Highton (Cnr Barrabool/Scenic Rds).	THE COLOURS OF CHRISTMAS presented by <i>Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir</i> and <i>International Harvester Male Chorus</i> conducted by Jeanette John. Come along to enjoy well-known and lesser-known carols. Tickets \$15 which includes an afternoon tea after the performance. to pre-book contact Heather on 03 5243 9450 (tickets also available at the door)
Sunday, 8th December, 2pm, Millicent Uniting Church Hall	COFFEE, CAKE AND CAROLS with <i>Millicent Choral Society</i> . Tickets \$15. Information: Bron Elford
Sunday 8th December, 2 - 6pm, Buninyong Brewery, 107 Yuille St, Buninyong.	CHRISTMAS GARDEN PARTY <i>Ballarat Choral Society</i> . In aid of Choir's trip to Austria in 2021 with Dr Mario Dobernic to sing in cathedrals to mountain top villages. (There may be vacancies for singers to join us!) Ring Merle , 0419 324042 for more information.
Sunday, December 15 th , 3pm and 7pm, St Paul's Anglican Church, LaTrobe Terrace, Geelong	CAROL SERVICE presented by the <i>Choir of St Paul's Anglican Church</i> directed by Tom Healey, with Terry Norman, organ Traditional carols sung by the choir with plenty also for the congregation to sing accompanied by the fine pipe organ in the beautiful surroundings and acoustics of St Paul's. All welcome
Sunday December 15 th , 2.30pm, Lutheran Church, Hamilton	HAMILTON SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT conducted by Beth Tonissen Come along to hear Hamilton Singers present some lovely Christmas music but also some of their favourite repertoire from throughout this year. \$15 entry, Afternoon tea included.
Sunday December 15th, 2pm, Scrub Hill 1869 church, Newlyn.	Amahl and the Night Visitors - Commissioned in 1951 for the beginning of television in New York. This short, Christmas opera is presented by Stee Cordelia's <i>Potted Opera</i> with <i>Ballarat Choral Society</i> providing the opera chorus. Conducted by Hugh McElvey. Booking Trybooking
Saturday, 28th December, 2019, St Johns Anglican Church, Warrnambool	MESSIAH – SING YOUR OWN conducted by Patrick Burns, with orchestra and professional soloists. This is the 38th Annual Messiah at Port Fairy. Scores available or bring your own. Singers \$5, Audience \$25, Family \$50 (Proceeds to St John's Restoration)
Saturday 4th January 2020, 11am - 6pm, Old Papermill, Fyansford	Sing @ The Papermill Workshop Skilled choral singers and singers looking to improve their skills are encouraged to apply to this one-day workshop with London-based professional singer Helen Hughson. Spaces are strictly limited - sign up now to secure your place! \$60 (\$30 for students) Link: https://sites.google.com/view/singatthepapermill/home
Saturday 4th January 2020, 5:30pm, Old Papermill Gallery, Fyansford	Sing @ The Papermill Concert A short, informal, free concert featuring workshop participants, directed by Helen Hughson. All local singers and music fans are welcome and encouraged to drop in. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sPIK8kobewILVbBaayVDCYf5i9tX6eoAKVzHNzxyVc/edit?usp=drivesdk

For the latest updates go to the online [Choral Grapevine Calendar](#)