

Mosman Symphony Chorus
2019 REPORT
Administrator and Treasurer: Rufina Ismail
Conductor: Susan Briedis

Practices were held every Monday evening from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the Melody Room at the Mosman Art Gallery, commencing on Monday 4 February. Enrolled choristers numbered 23. Members very much enjoyed getting together each week and looked forward to the home-baked goodies brought by Rufina and David Stanton.

CONCERT 1. Sunday afternoon, 5 May at Scots Kirk, Mosman.

The main item was *Dixit Dominus* by Vivaldi. It was accompanied by wind players from the Mosman Orchestra: Kim D'Espiney and Cate Trebeck, oboes, and Will Sandwell, trumpet. Four visiting string players and organist Heather Boyd completed the ensemble. Zara Stanton sang the soprano solos.

To fill out the programme, Will and Kim played Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Trumpets* (Kim on Saxophone) which worked very well and was much appreciated by the audience.

Zara Stanton sang the J.S. Bach favourite *Mein Gläubiges Herze*. It was a treat to hear it performed with cello obbligato as it is usually sung as a solo. To complete the afternoon's concert, the strings gave a beautiful rendition of Bach's *Air on a G String*.

CONCERT 2. *Mostly Schubert*. Sunday afternoon, August 18 at Mosman Art Gallery.

The choir shared the concert with a woodwind ensemble from the Mosman Orchestra and two student singers who each sang two Lieder.

The main item was Schubert's *Deutsche Messe D872*, written for choir and wind ensemble.

The movements were presented in three groups, interspersed with items by the woodwinds. The second half of the programme consisted of Schubert's part-songs and Lieder accompanied by pianist, Bev Kennedy. To finish in a lighter vein, the winds played *Chatanooga Choo Choo* and the choir sang David C. Dickau's *I Carry Your Heart with Me*.

CONCERT 3. *Mass for Christmas*, Sunday afternoon December 8 at Mosman Art Gallery.

The concert was introduced by a chamber item: Haydn's Piano Trio no. 30 in D Major (1st movement). Performers were Jacqueline Kent (flute), Scott Rowe (piano), Jennifer Mast (cello). The choir's Christmas offering was Charpentier's very popular *Messe de Minuit*. Strings and flutes from the Mosman orchestra accompanied, with Heather Boyd at the organ. The concert finished with carols, four of which were arrangements sung by the choir alone and four sung with audience participation, Andrew del Riccio contributing the brilliance of trumpet descants.

In 2019 choristers have shown that they can work on their own to prepare the music and little extra assistance by the conductor has been required. The concerts were spaced so that the singers had sufficient rehearsal for each of them. Some additional practice with the instruments, (particularly the organ) in the *Messe de Minuit* would have been helpful.

Most of the music was available on the internet and members took responsibility for running off their own parts.

I would like to thank the instrumentalists who have played with the choir this year. They have enhanced the performances enormously and contributed to the enjoyment of the singers and audience. Jacque Kent's concise programme notes and Linda Entwistle's beautiful programmes have been much appreciated.

Thanks to Andrew for continued support, to Rufina for efficient organisation and communication and to the Mosman Art Gallery for making us so comfortable. The relaxed, collegiate atmosphere of the choir makes rehearsals and performances a pleasure. Thank you, singers. SB