

# Hastings Choristers

# CELEBRATE

21 Years

**Musical Director  
Robyn Ryan OAM**

**Accompanist - Lydia Wills**

**8.00 pm Saturday 18 June 2011  
Glasshouse, Port Macquarie**

*ANCA*

AUSTRALIAN  
NATIONAL  
CHORAL  
ASSOCIATION



HASTINGS  
CHORISTERS  
*'sharing the joy of song'*

# Artists and performers

## Robert McDougall



Robert McDougall began his musical career in 2003 at the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music. In 2004 he auditioned for the Schools Spectacular where he was chosen as a featured soloist each year from 2004 until 2008. Robert graduated from the prestigious Talent Development Project in 2007 and was awarded a scholarship from the Sport and Tourism Youth Foundation. He was asked to join "Ultra Swing Lounge" a popular Newcastle-based swing and jazz extravaganza incorporating 3 male vocalists in the "Rat Pack" tradition with a 20 piece big band. They performed extensively throughout the Hunter Region during 2008 and 2009 and last year released a CD of their live concert called "Ultra Swing - Live at the Civic".

Some of Robert's many other performance credits include: Frederick in Pirates of Penzance for the Sydney University Musical Ensemble, Marius in Les Miserables at NIDA's Parade Theatre, and the National Anthem at the World Youth Olympics. In conjunction with Rotary International, Robert has recorded two CDs compiled from some of his favourite musical theatre and jazz pieces, as well performing in and producing two fundraising concerts in the Tamworth area. The proceeds have been donated to the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund which has used them to research depression in young musicians. As a result of his efforts Rotary has acknowledged Robert as a Diamond Friend and awarded him a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Robert is currently studying a double degree - Bachelor of Music (majoring in Voice) and Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University. He has also recently opened a vocal studio in Surry Hills where he teaches private students, and is a tutor for the Talent Development Project.

## Lydia Wills



Lydia has been learning piano since she was four years old. Since then she has won numerous awards for

her musical skills, including the Peter Rorke Award for the best undergraduate musician in 2001 (USQ). She has also been awarded a Master of Music, a Bachelor of Music (Honours), a Licentiate Diploma of Music Australia, and an Associate Diploma of Music Australia. She has given many solo recitals and has performed concertos by Kabalevsky, Beethoven, Chopin, and Saint-Saëns. Lydia is currently working as a free-lance accompanist and teacher.

## Nina Mestric



Nina grew up singing in choirs and completed a Bachelor of Arts Music degree in 1998 majoring in singing. For a change of lifestyle she moved to Port Macquarie in 2003 and has since worked full time in a Manager's role of the successful international sports team wear specialist Coast 2 Coast Sports. She has been singing with the Hastings Choristers for the past 7 years and has been a regular soprano soloist with repertoire including classical, musical theatre and German Lieder.

## Jim Matsinos



Since retirement, life has only become busier for Jim. Much of his time has been associated with performances in concerts and recitals, judging Art Competitions, Chairperson of the *Glasshouse Art Advisory Board*, collecting contemporary Aboriginal Art, travelling, attending concert recitals in Sydney, family life with the grandchildren and currently directing a provocative drama, with a dramatic artistic approach, for the *Port Players*.

## Stella Hannock



Stella has been studying singing for the past five years. She is 13 years old and is currently preparing for her AMEB Grade 5 exam having passed Grade 4 with high distinction. Stella was very successful at the recent Taree Vocal Eisteddfod winning the 14 years aggregate award as well as the 16 years Vocal Championship. This month Stella will travel to Tasmania to sing with Gondwana Choirs.

## CANTORUS

### Sopranos:

**Adele Miles** \*\*  
Shirley Aitchison  
Evelyn Chee  
Geraldine Clarke  
Anita Fryszak  
Gerry Jeffery #  
Kerryn Lawrence  
Gwenda Lee  
Fae Lister  
Nina Mestric  
Fran Pearce  
Jenni Searson  
Cheryl Styles  
Jenny Tucker  
Henny van Woudenberg  
Nelly Wagemaker

### Altos:

**Jenny Reeve** \*  
Linda Burn  
Evelyn Chee  
Janet Greenham  
Val Hayden  
Meredith Hinds  
Libby Hopley  
Charlotte Hummel  
Monica Hunt  
Trish Lawrence  
Maureen Mallyon  
Karen Phillips  
Linda Robertson  
Del Robson  
Chris Sheen  
Clare Walker

### Tenors:

**Paul Groeneveld** \*  
Gillian Bennett  
Sue Creech  
Terry Crossley  
Hilya Siren  
John Thompson #

### Basses:

**Michael Matthews** \*  
Ross Adam  
Brett Goshorn  
Lionel Hudson  
Brian Jones  
Gary Snow  
Warren Taylor

\* Section Leader

# Original Chorister since 1990

## CANTABILE

Gillian Bennett  
Mary Biden  
Anita Fryszak  
Heather Hannock  
Meredith Hinds  
Wendy Jamison  
Kerryn Lawrence  
Nina Mestric  
Adele Miles  
Fran Pearce  
Chris Sheen  
Carol Sorensen

# CELEBRATE

Compere - Cameron Marshall

## CANTORUS

Danny Boy  
Blue Skies  
Morning has Broken

arr. Linda Spevacek  
Irving Berlin, arr. Steve Zegree. **Flute: Anita Fryszak**  
Gaelic melody arr RJ King, text Eleanor Farjeon  
**Solo: Stella Hannock**  
**Flute: Anita Fryszak**  
*Chicago* – Ebb & Kander, arr. Kirby Shaw  
John Rutter  
John Leavitt

All That Jazz  
For the Beauty of the Earth  
Festival Sanctus

## ROBERT McDOUGALL

Ideale

F. Paolo Tosti

## NINA MESTRIC

O Mio Babbino Caro

*Gianni Schicchi* – Puccini

## ROBERT & NINA

All I Ask of You

*The Phantom of the Opera* – Lloyd Webber & Hart

## STELLA HANNOCK

Blackbird

Lennon & McCartney

## CANTABILE

Fields of Gold  
Towards Infinity  
Chattanooga Choo Choo

Gordon Sumner, arr. Mark Puddy  
Paul Jarman  
Gordon & Warren, arr. Mac Huff

## JIM MATSINOS WITH CANTORUS

Master of the House

*Les Misérables* - Boublil/Schönberg/Kretzmer  
**Spouse: Wendy Jamison**

# INTERVAL

## ROBERT McDOUGALL

The Impossible Dream  
Some Enchanted Evening  
What Kind of Fool am I?

*Man of La Mancha* - Darion & Leigh  
*South Pacific* - Rogers & Hammerstein  
*Stop the World - I Want to Get Off* - Bricusse & Newley

## CANTABILE

Blue Skies  
Seal Lullaby  
Reel a Bouche

Irving Berlin, arr. Mark Puddy  
Eric Whitacre  
Malcolm Dalglish

## ROBERT McDOUGALL

A Bit of Earth  
Race You to the Top of the Morning

*Secret Garden* – Lucy Simon

## with JOHN THOMPSON

Lily's Eyes

## CANTORUS

Dies Irae  
Lacrimosa

Mozart Requiem Mass

Libera me

Faure Requiem Mass **Bass: Robert McDougall**

Et Incarnatus  
Gloria

Haydn Nelson Mass  
**Soprano: Nina Mestric**  
**Alto: Evelyn Chee**  
**Tenor: John Thompson**  
**Bass: Lionel Hudson**

Sure on this shining Night

Z.R. Stroope **Solo: Nina Mestric**

## ROBERT McDOUGALL WITH CANTORUS

You Raise Me Up

Graham & Løvland

## A letter from our Musical Director...

Reflecting on the past 21 years I recall our very humble start and in particular our first major concert on this site in the Old Civic Centre when we performed an all Mozart program. Our first soloists were Jan Kearns, Jeannine French (both of whom have sent us greetings and apologies for tonight), Jim Matsinos and John Thompson. The main work was the Coronation Mass, which was quite a challenge but we made it with the help of our first accompanist Miriam Lattimore. A small choir and a small audience but we had a ball. Amazingly some originals are still turning up 21 years later – Anne Molver, Gerry Jeffery, Adele Miles, John Thompson and myself and several others who joined shortly after.

What happened over those years? Well ... more than 2000 rehearsals with several choirs, over 80 concerts, squillions of meetings, four excellent choral festivals, workshops with composers and choral luminaries, performances in many prestigious venues – the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Town Hall and various cathedrals to mention a few, and Choralfest 2010 which put us and Port Macquarie on the international choral map. A long and happy journey supported by incredibly interesting and stimulating singers, and that's what community choirs are all about. And let me tell you, they can party – we've had some terrific social gatherings. It's been great fun, but it is the music that glues us together.

Hastings Choristers have had wonderfully supportive patrons and are deeply indebted to our current patrons Paul and Mary McCarthy who, along with Publicity / Marketing guru Ian Peterson, have ensured we maintain a dynamic and relevant profile in this community. And you our audiences, who have faithfully bought tickets over the years, there is no concert without you, my thanks for your continued patronage.

I feel enormously privileged to have worked with several inspirational Presidents and many hardworking committees, as well as fabulous Section Leaders who've taken care of each voice group. They are always organised and great communicators – I could not exist without them. Most of all, I experience great joy in working with a group of fantastically dedicated singers who just turn up because they love to sing. And not only sing – so many of our members go the extra mile and take on volunteer roles within the group. The fact that these singers also share the quest for excellence bears witness to their pride in being part of a top quality choral organisation.

I'm now going to give you a short lecture on the benefits of singing in choirs. Our rehearsals always start with physical then vocal warm ups, and often these involve whole body movement, as people love the challenge of singing and coordinating various body parts – much better than sitting still doing a puzzle! In case you are in doubt about the health benefits of singing in a group, "Singing is about little flaps of tissue vibrating but it engages so many of the body's systems – lungs, heart, nervous system – that it's not surprising it has such overall benefits. After a big choral piece you can feel like you've been on a short jog." (Gareth Malone). A Sidney de Haan research review highlights the way that singing enhances mood and energy but also can boost immunity en route. Samples of saliva taken from singers after rehearsals of Mozart's Requiem showed increased secretion of antibodies. And Prof Graham Welch writes, "Singing not only improves the body's cardiovascular system, it also reduces the opportunity for bacteria to flourish in our upper respiratory tract so it can prevent colds and flu." Ponder this.

I am proud have been a part of the growth and development of choral music in our local community and I thank the hundreds of singers and friends of our choir who have helped me in this journey. My very special thanks to husband extraordinaire Frank who, along with Elle the wonder dog, ensures sanity prevails at our place.

A most rewarding 21 years – what's next? There's a lot happening in 2012 – come and sing with us in China.

*Robyn Ryan*, Hastings Choristers Musical Director, 1990 – present

## To our dear supporters,

*It seems such a short time since Robyn gathered a group of singers and formed the Hastings Choristers, but, believe it or not, it is now twenty one years since that day! What a journey! Tonight you are experiencing a tiny insight into the vast repertoire that has evolved for us over those years. We have presented many of the major choral works upon which choirs build reputations. We have tempered the heavy works with the placid lullabies of many a favourite composer. We've experimented with contemporary works that have left some audiences (and ourselves) gasping for breath, and delved into jazz and pop to suit the mood. Throughout all this time, however, our focus has been on musical excellence - that is what excites us and, we hope, pleases you. The joy of singing is such an uplifting experience and we trust you will share the thrill with us tonight.*

**John Thompson - HC President, 2011**

## UPCOMING CONCERTS 2011

### Choral Kaleidoscope

**Sunday 28 August, 2 pm**

**A joint choir venture at MacKillop Senior High School MPC. Listen to choirs from Forster to Uralla join their voices in this richly varied choral extravaganza.**

### Messiah

**Sat 3 Dec 8 pm & Sun 4 Dec 2 pm**

**With Heather Moen Boyd, Organist, at Port Macquarie Baptist Church.**

**Why not step out of the audience and on to the stage?**

Come along to our next rehearsal on Monday 4 July at 7 pm, MacKillop MPC, and join the Hastings Choristers!

## HASTINGS CHORISTERS - 2011 COMMITTEE

**Musical Director** - Robyn Ryan OAM; **President** - John Thompson;

**Secretary** - Therese Goshorn; **Treasurer** - Nelly Wagemaker; **Vice President** - Sue Creech; **Committee**: Chris Sheen, Ross Adam, Evelyn Chee

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## Thanks and acknowledgements

*Hastings Choristers would like to thank the following people for their help in making our 21st birthday concert such a success:*

Paul and Mary McCarthy - Patrons; PMA Communications Group - printing and art work; Ian Peterson - publicity and posters; Belinda Gibson and the Glasshouse team; Jerome Robinson from Forty Winks; Jenni Searson and MacKillop Senior College; Hastings Council, Searson Shannon & Co, Harrison & Siepen - major sponsors of *Our Story*.

## The 'Our Story' team

Very special thanks to Anne Molver, Jenny Reeve and Dave Johnson, who have spent countless hours piecing together the history of Hastings Choristers and have produced the wonderful booklet available to us all tonight. **Our Story : Hastings Choristers 1990-2010** - Only \$20!

