

Ray Cugley

Past-President, Leader of the Bass Section, dedicated and much-loved Chorister



Soul of goodness, led the way.
He gave joy to many people
With his bass voice rich and warm,
He was patient, caring, gentle.
Ray.
Linda Robertson

Ray was born into a Salvation Army family in 1943 in Richmond Victoria, one of five children. Ray was their "rock" and always had a great sense of fun as well as being a wonderful son and brother. Ray is survived by his devoted wife Carmen and his three children Paul, Stephen and Alison and several grandchildren.

Ray spent his life serving the Sallies in various ways, including as an Architectural Draughtsman and as an Aged Care Manager in various locations. He worked in Port Macquarie in the 90's and it was then he joined The Hastings Choristers before being transferred away again.

Finally retiring from Dee Why due to ill health he returned to Port Macquarie a few years ago and rejoined the Sallies Band, The Songster Brigade and, fortunately for us once again, our choirs. Ray's passion for music was felt by all who knew him. Possessing a gorgeous bass voice, he happily performed solos but was equally at home as one of the team. Quiet, gentle, solid and 100% reliable - that was Ray. As conductor and choir director my job was facilitated by his presence and musicianship. He led our Bass section with dignity, humour and skill. We are all deeply saddened at the loss of such a beautiful person and musical friend. Ray has touched our lives in a very special way and will live long in our hearts. We are all richer for knowing him. We thank Carmen for her support for Ray's musical talents and for her presence at this concert. No musician can fulfil their dreams without a supportive partner and Carmen has always been that.

So we dedicate this concert series to this great Christian, family man, chorister, team player and musician, Ray
Robyn Ryan, Musical Director, Hastings Choristers

Ray was a former President and Treasurer of the Hastings Choristers and led us with a gentle, but firm leadership that only he could manage. Obliging, reliable, wise, innovative and much more. Our rises, so invaluable in all our performances, are a legacy to his toils. His extraordinary Bass voice would often move me to swallow hard. We know he will be rewarded well in the next life for his contribution to us all in this life.
John Thompson, President, Hastings Choristers

Some thoughts from Ray's fellow Choristers

We shall miss your leadership, your fine voice, and your kind smile

Ray's sister said he was a rock. We Choristers have lost a rock as well. His beautiful voice will be missed.

Always ahead of the other section leaders with his organization of Bass lists, returns for Robyn, concert commitment etc. A quiet achiever.

The voice personified the man - beautiful!

Ray had a voice like honey and a warm personality to match

Ray's voice was magnificent. There is now a deep hole in the choir.

His magic voice will live with us forever.

[once told him] loved his bass voice. He just looked at me and grinned.

We shall miss him and his smile and wonderful voice

SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW

1. See amid the winter's snow born for us on earth below
See the tender lamb appears promised from eternal years

Chorus: HAIL THOU EVER BLESSED MORN
HAIL REDEMPTION'S HAPPY DAWN
SING THROUGH ALL JERUSALEM
CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM

2. Lo within the manger lies he who built the starry skies
He who throned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim

CHORUS

Verses 3 and 4, choir only, but please join in the CHORUS!

5. Sacred infant all divine what a tender love was thine.
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.
6. Teach o teach us holy child by thy face so meek and mild
Teach us to resemble thee in thy sweet humility.