



NZMC Notes – Issue No 37: December 2019

Hello all,

Welcome to the final edition of NZMC Notes for 2019.

This might be the final edition for the year but it is also only the second!! The first, February edition, highlighted the exciting Art Deco celebration including the Gatsby Picnic, a hugely successful first for us. This edition will focus on new and retiring choristers, a message from Joe and information about a winery fundraiser, Tour '21 and new music additions that some of you submitted.

In Memoriam: It was with a great deal of sadness that we farewelled Rob Crabtree in November. As those of you who were at his farewell will testify, he had a remarkable life of service and among his many achievements was his lifelong passion for singing. Our thoughts are with Rob's family as they readjust their lives without him.

Shirley, it was such fun meeting you for the first time at the choir dinner in Taupo after our concert there in April. We hold a special place for you in our thoughts and prayers with the knowledge that you are going to remain part of our choir family.

Retiring Choristers: David Ayers, Alan Townley, Joseph Maxwell, Norman Phillips.

David Ayers, or Davey as we called him, has resigned from the choir through ill health. A very popular figure especially in the Southmen rehearsal weekends, Davey was Treasurer for the South Island Committee for four years and a wonderful team man in our choir. Bev, we appreciate very much your support; we all know how keen Davey was about the choir.

Alan Townley too was a great team man and a very accurate first bass chorister. Alan told me how difficult the decision to leave was but other priorities, including spending more time with family overseas, needed to take precedence. Cheryl, thank you for your contribution to our choir also.

Joseph has been with us just a short time and has decided that priorities in his life mean there is not enough time to commit to the choir.

Norman has committed many, many extra hours to our choir, most recently on the 20th Anniversary Committee. He is also the current librarian in the South Island, no small task as the choir has worked



through copyright requirements. We won't forget Norman and his guitar on stage either, or his and Martha's company on social occasions.

Davey and Bev, Alan and Cheryl Joseph, Norman and Martha, we hope you leave with fond memories of the NZ Male Choir. We will miss you all. Go well!

Congratulations: Our heartiest congratulations to Colin Green and his partner Diane. Colin is our newest chorister and has joined the second tenors. Welcome aboard Colin & Diane!

Colin might not be the newest chorister for long however as the following list shows those on "probation." The probationary period begins after an individual has successfully auditioned and requires their attendance at three rehearsal weekends before being eligible to sing in their first concert.

Don Battley
Wesley Bell
Keith Carey-Smith

Laurence Ennor
Peter Pritchard
Cliff Lawrence

A number of other applications have been received from prospective choristers, both North and South, who are to audition in the new year.

From the Treasurer:

The subscription notices went out late due to my personal health issues. A good number of choristers have responded with payments. However, there are 24 subs overdue. [\$11,934.00] NZMC would really appreciate receiving your payment as we have ongoing commitments to meet over the next few months.

Congratulations to the Reunion committee and their financial management of that event which leaves us with a surplus.

Best wishes for Christmas.

Warwyck

The Voice of our MD:



2019 has been a very busy and productive year and the sound which the choir is now making is ever improving. In an effort to maintain this progress the music team is looking to work on the general musicianship of the choir as a whole. Improving your ability to recognise and interpret the information on the page can only make it easier to learn and memorise music and will make it more enjoyable. To this end I wish to take some time in monthly rehearsals to allow Alex and Alison to work on your knowledge and understanding while I work sections and small groups.

Patron: It is with pleasure that I announce that Patrick Power O.N.Z.M. has accepted the position of Patron for the next five years.

Patrick hails from Hawke's Bay. He has had a career in opera, overseas and in New Zealand. He is currently teaching singing at Havelock North High School. Incidentally, Joe works alongside Patrick as Director of Havelock North's four choirs!

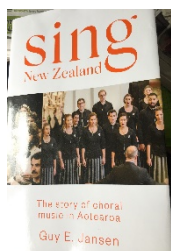
Tour '21: A final decision on the viability of our proposed tour to Europe in June/July '21 will be made by the Tour Committee at Art Deco weekend in February. Thank you to those choristers and supporters who have indicated "yes" to the tour and paid their \$500.00 p/p deposit. If you have indicated "yes" but have not yet paid your deposit, please do so by 31st January. If you are still undecided about the tour you also have until 31st January to say "yes" and get your deposit paid.



Brookfields Winery fundraiser: Royce has sent out a flyer about this fundraiser. The choir will receive \$24 / dozen so it's worth supporting. I'm told the wine is excellent. The fundraising opportunity will continue in February (at Art Deco) when a selection of Brookfield wines will be available. Funds raised will be used to support the proposed tour. **ORDERS with money by 16 December.**

Music Committee: Thanks to choristers who submitted songs. The Music Committee had a list of 26 songs to listen to and the following will be added to our repertoire in 2020 as the music becomes available.

- And so it Goes: Billy Joel
- 3 from the Rheinberger Mass:
 - Gloria
 - Sanctus:
 - Ave Maria
- It is well with my Soul:
- He keeps me Singing:
- How Great thou Art: (Whakaaria Mai) will be sung in English & Maori
- Bonse Aba: A celebration song that originated in Zambia.
- Fields of Gold – John Trent Wallace version.
- Seize the Day: previous repertoire
- If You Love Me: Thomas Tallis
- Ehara I Te Mea: trad Maori waiata
- Te Aroha: previous repertoire



Sing New Zealand – The story of choral music in Aotearoa by Guy E Jansen

This is a great gift idea for Christmas. **NZMC is featured on pages 318 -321** with two great photos. Very readable and an interesting story of choral music in New Zealand. Available at Paper plus and most other bookshops.

Grab-a-seat fares: There has been a great deal of 'chorister support' occurring during the year – Northmen heading south to support a Southern rehearsal weekend and/or concert and vice versa.



Keep your eyes on the grab-a-seat fares offered by Air New Zealand and specials from Jetstar (if they fly into your area). With a little forward planning you will find cheaper fares which might fall on a rehearsal weekend. These fares could make a trip to the other island a viable proposition for you. Not only would you be supporting the other choristers but you would be getting an additional rehearsal 'under your belt!'

Lots of new songs are being introduced from January '20 and the additional repertoire looks exciting. With new songs comes more learning!! Are you up for it?

I wish you all a peace filled Christmas season and a relaxing break over summer with your families.

John

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

President
New Zealand Male Choir