



St Paul's Cathedral Music Foundation

Newsletter August 2011

No 15

In 2011 the Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral has broken new ground with the establishment of a series of strategic committees, called 'Tactical Groups'. One of these is charged with examining every aspect of Music at the Cathedral, and recommending a vision and strategic directions for Chapter's support of music. The group has completed its first report, documenting music as it presently exists at the Cathedral and the immense resources—people, time, money—that support it.



The next stage is to develop a vision for music at the Cathedral, due to be completed in mid-2012. This will include gathering resources to sustain music as part of the Cathedral's overall mission, and implementing a strategy to ensure the Cathedral continues to play a crucial role in the musical life of Melbourne.

This is an exciting time. The Music Tactical Group's work has highlighted the part played not only by financial supporters of the Cathedral's Music Foundation, but also by those who give of their time, whether simply attending weekly Evensong and concerts, or providing skills in everything from publicity and sewing to the central task of music-making itself.

We look forward to reporting further developments in this effort to reinforce and renew the musical ministry at St Paul's. Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to play your part in supporting this central part of the Cathedral's mission.

There has been a pleasing response to my May letter which invited support for the Cathedral's music. Thanks go to all who have contributed. It is very necessary and much appreciated.

+Mark Burton
Dean of Melbourne

120th Birthday Concert on Thursday 15 September 2011 at 8pm

All our Donors are especially invited to attend this Concert at St Paul's to be given by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral directed by Dr June Nixon and the Chamber Orchestra at St Paul's conducted by Dr Michael Woods. The Concert will celebrate 120 years of Cathedral Music and more! Details of the program are set out on the back of this Newsletter.

Bookings may be made by telephone (03 9653 4309) and tickets may be purchased at the door. \$40/30, under 18 free.

1891



120 years ago

The foundation stone of Melbourne's "new Cathedral" designed by William Butterfield was laid in 1880. Building continued during the 1880s and, in 1888, an organ, the gift of Thomas Dyer Edwardes, was ordered from T C Lewis of Brixton, a leading English organ builder. In 1889, Ernest Wood was appointed Organist and Choirmaster. Prior to his arrival, the nucleus of the future choir had begun rehearsing in 1888 at All Saints, St Kilda under Charles Truelove and Dr George Torrance. It was expected that the Cathedral would be completed in 1890 but the late arrival of the organ delayed its opening. Finally, on 22 January 1891, the Cathedral Choir sang and the organ sounded for the first time at the service of Consecration. So this year saw the 120th "official" Birthday of the Choir, the organ and the Cathedral.

How wise the Cathedral Chapter was at that time. Not only did it decide that the new massive Butterfield building would have a choir that would sing the daily office (Evensong) but also take time to recruit choristers and prepare them. And not just a few weeks, or months, but three years! The Chapter realised that the presentation of the music in a service is not just "put together" at the last moment but requires intense and sustained preparation by all concerned.

The present Choir consists of 18 boys and 16 men. The Choir sings Choral Evensong on Tuesdays to Fridays at 5.10pm during school terms and the 10.30am Choral Eucharist and 6pm Evensong on Sundays.

2011



The Organists of St Paul's

Ernest Wood: 1888-1914

Ernest Wood had been assistant organist at Lincoln Cathedral and then Organist at St John's, Wilton Road, London before his appointment to Melbourne. He took over the training of the choir in preparation for the opening and consecration of St Paul's and the commencement of Sunday and weekday services. He set up a vast library of music and his organ recitals were well attended. He was prominent as a conductor, adjudicator and examiner. At Wood's funeral, Archbishop Clarke paid this tribute "he was talented and brilliant as an organist, patient and painstaking in training the choir and its members have entertained towards him an unflinching confidence and regard".



Alfred Ernest Floyd OBE, Mus Bac (Oxon), Mus Doc (Cantuar), D Litt (hon causa) Monash: 1914-1947



Floyd was a pupil of Dr A H Mann at King's College, Cambridge and was assistant organist at Winchester Cathedral under G B Arnold. At Melbourne, he built on the foundations laid by Wood and quickly brought the choir to a standard comparable with that of leading English Cathedrals and, in 1916, he began an annual carol service. Floyd had a major influence on the musical life of Melbourne as an examiner and lecturer. His compositions include liturgical music, organ music and music for schools. From 1944, he presented his "Music Lovers' Hour" for the ABC which continued for 28 years. He died in 1974.

Colin Archibald Campbell Ross FRCO: 1947-1951

Colin Campbell Ross was deputy organist at Hereford Cathedral 1935-1940 and then Organist and Director of the Choir at St Barnabas', Tunbridge Wells. His appointment to Melbourne was on the recommendation of Sir William McKie who was organist at Westminster Abbey. Campbell Ross resigned after three years and returned to England where he became Organist and Choirmaster at Newcastle Cathedral 1955-1966.



Lancelot Arthur Hardy OAM, B Mus (Melb), B Mus (London), ARCM, FRCO: 1951-1973



Lance Hardy was educated at Caulfield Grammar School and the University of Melbourne and an Ormond Exhibition enabled him to study in London where he was a pupil of George Thalben-Ball and Henry Ley. He received the Harding prize at the Royal College of Organists, and was Organist at St Augustine's, Kilburn. On his return to Victoria, he was a resident master at Geelong Grammar School and later Organist at All Saints, St Kilda before his appointment to St Paul's.

Under Hardy's direction, the reputation of St Paul's as a leading Australian exponent of the English Cathedral musical tradition was well maintained. He taught at the University of Melbourne and was organist to the Victorian Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Choir. For over 20 years, he presented weekly lunchtime organ recitals at St Paul's which covered virtually all the standard repertoire of the time.

June Nixon AM, Dip Mus (Piano), B Mus (Organ), D Mus (Cantuar), ARCM, FRCO (Chm) 1973—

Organist, choirtrainer and widely published composer, June Nixon has expanded the choir's repertoire with a broad range of western European music from the sixteenth century to the present, in addition to music from the English tradition. Her own contributions include anthems, service settings and chants for a psalter composed specially for the choir of St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne.



Her influence outside the Anglican Church was recognized in 1995 by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's Percy Jones Award for "outstanding dedication and service given to music for worship". In 1999, the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey conferred on her the Lambeth Degree of Doctor of Music. June was the first woman to receive this award. June was the first woman to receive this award.

St Paul's Cathedral Choir *120th Birthday Concert*

THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER - 8 PM



The Choir of
St Paul's Cathedral

Directed by Dr June Nixon

The Chamber Orchestra
at St Paul's

Conducted by Dr Michael Woods

120 years of Cathedral Music and more!

Stanford-Te Deum in B flat (with orchestra)*
Stanford Magnificat in A (with orchestra) *

Sketch in F ~ A.E.Floyd

Ostinato ~ Colin Ross

Introduction and fugue ~Lance Hardy

“The Hebrides” Overture ~ Mendelssohn

Symphony no. 5 (Reformation) Mendelssohn

and

Carols dedicated to supporters of the Cathedral music

including

The Holly and the Ivy ~ June Nixon (with orchestra)*

plus

Trinity Grammar Handbells

*First Australian performance

St Paul's Cathedral ~ Cnr Flinders & Swanston Streets, Melbourne

\$40 / \$30 inc. Souvenir Programme, Under 18 free

Bookings 9653 4309 or tickets at the door

Sponsored by Friends of the Cathedral, Bernies Music Land & Manark Printing

St Paul's Cathedral Music Foundation was established in 1993 to provide financial assistance to enable the performance of sacred and secular music at, or in association with, the Cathedral by choristers and musicians with particular focus on the Cathedral Choir and the Cathedral Organ. The Foundation (ABN 99 756 614 261) is a tax deductible gift recipient listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations under section 30-B(4) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Donations may be addressed to the St Paul's Cathedral Music Foundation, 209 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000. Donation forms and other information are available at www.stpaulscathedral.org.au

The Trustees are most grateful to Neville Finney, a long standing member of the Choir, for his generosity and commitment in compiling these Newsletters and to LITHOCRAFT, 3 Permas Way Truganina VIC 3029 for its generosity in donating its printing services.