



MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC.

Patron Mr Frank Costa OAM Artistic Director Mr Frank De Rosso OAM

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INSPIRED!!



NEWSLETTER NO. 35

23rd NOVEMBER, 2020

STILL BRINGING YOU EXCELLENT MUSIC

FLEXIBLE TIMETABLE FOR THE PANDEMIC

ORGAN RECITALS ON YOUTUBE

WINDFIRE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

2021 'SEASONS' PROGRAM

KEEPING IN CONTACT – SOCIAL MEDIA, PHONE

FRIENDS, GRANTS, PARTNERSHIPS

CHRISTMAS WISHES

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF

This project is supported by the
City of Greater Geelong through its
Community Festivals Grants Program



OUR TRADITIONAL ORGAN RECITALS TAKE ON A NEW LOOK!!



Step aside COVID19!! The Free Advent Organ Recitals are our signature event, dating back to our first-ever event in December 2006, and they *must go on!* We can't invite audience to come to the Basilica for recitals in person this year, but we are very pleased to present Virtual Recitals on You Tube.

The Organists will be Terry Norman, Beverley Phillips, Tom Healey and Frank De Rosso. Recording sessions have been held at the Basilica on separate dates. Editing of music and video has been undertaken so as to present an interesting 30 minute program to be available on You Tube. Both the chamber and grand organs feature in a diverse program with an emphasis on Advent/Christmas organ music. Links for recitals will be posted on our website from November 29th. Program notes from each organist will be available to download from the website. This is our first venture into presenting virtual concerts and may be the start of something unique during COVID times throughout 2021. I wish to thank David and Eleanor Bowman for their work with the audio and Jane Bashiruddin for video and overall editing. Why not invite a friend or two and enjoy each recital together over lunch or a drink.

Frank De Rosso, Artistic Director.

'SEASONS' SERIES OF CONCERTS



The 'Seasons' series of concerts opened as expected in February, with Five Twilight *Encounters* presenting poetry and music based on the five elements – Water, Fire, Earth, Wind and Light. People really enjoyed 4 of these events. And then, THE CRUNCH CAME!

We had to cancel the last *Encounter*. The Easter Concert and four beautiful choral concerts planned for the second half of the year, including a lovely Christmas Concert featuring Benjamin's Britten's *St Nicolas Cantata*, with Windfire Choir and Geelong Youth Choir, had to be delayed until 2021. It has been a long wait! We have been discussing new dates with our artists and venues. The actual dates have not been confirmed but we have made an agreement to re-schedule concerts around the same month in 2021 – to be confirmed with artists and subject to church availability. Watch our website for updates.

New dates will have to take into account any new Covid 19 regulations, and will be subject to change. We have submitted Risk Assessment Plans and Covid 19 Safety Precautions Plans to the authorities and will be meticulous about safety in the way we conduct our events.

To minimize the handling of cash, we will encourage online booking, and we are working on the provision of credit /debit card facilities for door sales. Call Jeannette on 0408 305868 well in advance if you need to book by phone or mail and she will be able to arrange tickets.

As a condition of entry, patrons agree, by purchasing a ticket, to abide by any Covid-safe rules current on the day of the event – mask-wearing, hand-sanitising, social distancing, providing contact details – whatever. We want everyone to feel safe. For safety's sake, we will sacrifice our after-concert get-togethers with tea and biscuits for a while.

WINDFIRE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC



The 2020 *Festival* was on its way in May until ...Yes – THE VIRUS. Now it will be coming to you in May 2021, or maybe later in the year, depending on the safety guidance surrounding the pandemic. When we announced the postponement of the 2020 Festival to our artists, they all agreed to save the dates for us for 2021, and they are all looking forward to presenting their best music for you when the time

comes. Organ Recitals, concerts, Festival, workshops– everything is under way. (We may have to skip the tea and biscuits.) Many local artists are featured with excellent youthful visiting choirs. Read about it on Facebook and our website. Jane will update them regularly.

Keep track on www.musicatthebasilica.org.au or www.facebook.com/MusicattheBasilica

KEEPING IN CONTACT

(1) SOCIAL MEDIA



More than ever, people are into social media these days. If you have recently taken to this form of communication, it would be great to have your email details so we can keep you well informed, right there in your Inbox. We don't hand your contact details on to *anyone* else. You can elect to get future newsletters by email – just email and let us know. For some of us, nothing beats a hard copy, and we are always happy to post our brochures and newsletters to you, but the cost means that we can only do this once or twice a year. We often have information, reminders and offers that we could send you by email, so please consider joining the email mailing list. Our programs are always available on our website. Don't forget our Facebook page. You can contribute ideas, see comments and photos and be right up to date.

(2) MAKE A PHONE CALL



IF WEBSITES, INTERNET, EMAILS, FACEBOOK AND SO ON FREAK YOU OUT, DON'T WORRY! JUST PHONE JEANNETTE ANY TIME ON 0408 305868. SHE WILL BE PLEASED TO HELP YOU. WE REALLY WANT TO KEEP **EVERYONE INFORMED.**



'FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT THE BASILICA'



Hello Friends.

After such a long break from our beautiful concerts, I am sure you must be as keen as I am to have the Basilica filled with music again. We have all missed the joys of listening together in that special place. Your Committee will be working towards a celebration of Music in the Basilica as soon as conditions allow, and we shall be calling on your company and your support. Friends of MAB membership renewals will not be due again until 1 December 2021. Your friendship is what matters. We look forward to gathering again, and will let you know about definite concerts as soon as possible. Until then, keep well and enjoy Jeannette's recital suggestions.

Judith Trimble

GRANTS

Last year, COGG provided a grant of \$6000 for the *Windfire Festival of Music*. When we were unable to go ahead, COGG kindly left the grant with us for use in 2021. We had the same experience with Robert Salzer Foundation. Only a portion of their grant of \$10000 had been expended when the lockdown overtook us. We contacted them and they advised us that the grant would be left with us for use in 2021. We thank our generous grant-makers for their ongoing support. At the first opportunity for safe events, we will present music worthy of this faith in Music at the Basilica, its programs and audience.

PARTNERSHIPS – ON HOLD FOR THE PRESENT – BECAUSE OF COVID!

There is no doubt that Covid 19 has put a major barrier in the way of our new “Partnerships Programs” initiatives. I mentioned in our last newsletter that, with the advice of MAB’s patron, Mr Frank Costa, I would work with the community to expand MAB’s footprint. Two programs – the *Music 21 Patron’s Circle* and our *Official Sponsors Program* – have been approved by the Committee. We were ready to make a start in May, but THE PANDEMIC brought everything to a sudden halt. We will delay the programs until the first half of 2021, giving businesses, supporters and grant-makers time to get back into full swing. I hope to be able to bring new financial partners, donors, members and audience into the circle to ensure that MAB thrives as a successful and independent business working with many partners on different levels. If you would like to enquire about membership of the *Music21 Patron’s Circle* or the *Official Sponsorship Program*, please contact me on 0408 306868.



Jeannette Johnston, Partnerships Manager.

CHRISTMAS WISHES



Everyone at Music at the Basilica wishes you a Merry Christmas. It will be a bit different, but the spirit of this lovely Christian celebration of the Birth of Christ still retains its importance. We hope you can celebrate with your family and friends. Maybe we will be able to return to the usual round of Christmas Concerts and Carol Services from our favourite performers in our favourite venues in 2021.

THE LAST WORD

You’ve heard this before, but it is worth repeating! Remember that *word-of-mouth is the best advertising*, so share your MAB experiences when you are chatting over a coffee and invite someone new to come to the concerts with you. Bringing a new “fan” is every bit as good as making a donation, and would make it a very Happy New Year for us.

Jeannette for the Committee of Music at the Basilica.

