

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC.

Artistic Director Mr Frank De Rosso OAM

CONTACT US

P.O. Box1425, Geelong 3220

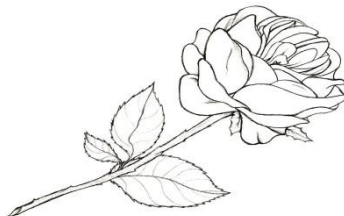
music.basilica@bigpond.com

www.musicatthebasilica.org.au

www.facebook.com/MusicattheBasilica

Secretary Jeannette – jenjohnston@bigpond.com 0408 305868

INSPIRED!!



VALE FRANK COSTA, AO, PATRON

NEWSLETTER NO. 36

10th JUNE, 2021

MAKING A FRESH START IN PANDEMIC MODE

2021 'SEASONS' PROGRAM

12th ANNUAL WINDFIRE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

FRIENDS

GRANTS

ORGAN RECITALS ON YOUTUBE

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

KEEPING IN CONTACT – SOCIAL MEDIA, PHONE

COMMITTEE

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



FRANK COSTA, OAM, PATRON



Mr Frank Costa was our Patron for 15 years. When we formed Music at the Basilica, he was pleased to accept our invitation to be our patron. We are deeply saddened by his passing, and offer sincere sympathy to his family.

Frank always made himself available to discuss our plans, give us his advice, look over our budget, offer his expertise in other business matters and give us encouragement. He made financial contributions to assist us to start our Free Lunchtime Advent Organ Recital Program. In a wonderful gesture for Anzac Day in 2015, he sponsored an appearance by the Creswick Light Horse Re-enactment Troop in the grounds of the Basilica.

Frank was pleased to be our Patron because he believed that Geelong “needs” a group like Music at the Basilica to add its own kind of music to the Geelong arts scene. As we continue to develop our music program, we remain forever grateful to Frank for sharing his wisdom with us, and for his great dedication to the City of Greater Geelong.

Dear Readers

MAKING A FRESH START IN PANDEMIC MODE

Here is our brochure for the rest of 2021. We have gone ahead with a set of new dates to bring all the programs that you missed last year. Almost everything will be as planned, with one change to the Festival program. It will be an exciting time, with a year’s music packed in between August and December! It will be different having the Festival in the second half of the year. We are looking forward to it. Maybe we will like it better!

What we need most of all is for our loyal audience members to be there. We are a bit worried that the long break may affect attendances. Don’t let that happen to you! We ask you to come to as many of our concerts as you can. We don’t want to lose touch with even one of you and we are doing all we can to ensure a safe and wonderful experience when you come to a concert in the lofty, airy spaces of the Basilica. We have submitted the required Risk Assessment Plans and Covid 19 Safety Precautions Plans to the authorities. Look through the brochure and pick out your program. There are special Festival deals with our Gold and Silver Passes.

‘SEASONS’ SERIES OF CONCERTS

These concerts are all choral, but there is just so much variety! Some are a cappella, some are with orchestra, the Christmas concert includes the Geelong Youth Choir and you can even help to choose the programme for one of the ACC concerts (see their website). The first Windfire concert was meant for Easter, but we will enjoy it just as much in September.

WINDFIRE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

As I mentioned earlier, it will be really strange having the Festival in October. Recitals, concerts, workshops – everything is under way. Many local artists are featured with excellent youthful visiting choirs. Read all about it in the brochure. Keep an eye out for any possible last-minute changes. Visit Facebook and our website. Jane will update them regularly www.facebook.com/MusicattheBasilica or www.musicatthebasilica.org.au

NEW – NOW YOU CAN USE YOUR CREDIT CARD AT THE DOOR!

To minimize the handling of cash, we have arranged for credit /debit card facilities to be available for door sales. There will be a special entry desk if you are using your card.

'FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT THE BASILICA'

We postponed the payment of your subscription in December 2020, but we really need you to renew on 1st December 2021. Please put this renewal on your calendar. We rely on the 'Friends' as a core of support and really value your membership. We would also like to increase our membership, so if you can bring another member into the group, that would be great. If you are reading this and are not already a member yet, please plan to join us in December.

GRANTS

Last year, COGG provided a grant of \$6000 for the *Windfire Festival of Music*. The Robert Salzer Foundation made a grant of \$10000. These will be used to fund our 2021 activities. We thank our generous grant-makers for their on-going support. It has been very hard in the grants area this year for anyone working or presenting in the Arts field, and we have not received some of our usual grants. This is another important reason for us asking for your support by attending the concerts. You can be sure we have not cut back on the quality!

OUR TRADITIONAL ORGAN RECITALS WENT DIGITAL WITH GREAT SUCCESS!



We couldn't invite audience to come to the Basilica for recitals in person last year, but our Virtual Recitals on You Tube were a great success. Frank and Jane expanded their skills even further and recorded Terry Norman, Beverley Phillips, Tom Healey, and Frank, of course, at the Basilica on separate dates. Links for recitals were posted on our website and we were delighted with the number of responses. It seems that people were really seeking to find new ways of finding their music. This was our first venture into presenting virtual concerts and it could be the start of a new service to our audience. David and Eleanor Bowman took care of the audio and Jane Bashiruddin did the overall editing. Links to last year's recitals can still be found on our website, at the end of 'Advent' Organ Recitals 2021.'

We will be back to presenting our normal live, free organ recitals again in December. Andrew Blackburn, Douglas Lawrence, Dion Henman and Frank De Rosso will be waiting to make Advent and Christmas memorable for you. Please come and enjoy them!

SCHOLARSHIPS.

We want to expand our Scholarship Program for the Windfire Chamber Choir concerts. Since it began, the program has welcomed around 15 scholars, and we have been really pleased to see them advance in their music studies, even though it usually means leaving us to go to Melbourne! We have a current group of scholars, but we would really welcome five or six new singers aged between 15 and 27 to make up a lively youth component in the choir, with plenty of opportunities for learning new skills under excellent conductors. We think it is really important to provide a classical choral opportunity for our young people.

The scholarships are valued at \$500. Scholars are required to participate in two concerts and attend 7-8 rehearsals for each one. Details and application forms are on our website. We would be happy to answer any questions by phone or email, so please contact us.

KEEP IN CONTACT – I SAID THIS IN DECEMBER, BUT IT IS WORTH REPEATING

(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. 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 Trybooking websites, internet, emails, Facebook and so on freak you out, don't worry! Just phone Jane on 0447 238432 or Jeannette on 0408 305868. They will be pleased to help. Call well in advance if you need to book by phone or mail to allow time for any tickets to be sent out to you.

COMMITTEE – RON EICHLER RETIRES

The artistic and creative Ron Eichler has retired. He lives in Birregurra, and the constant travel is quite a challenge. Many of you will remember his beautiful floral displays, including his amazing 'Plants of the Bible' which he has been invited to re-create for a different Festival. However, he will be installing a special work for our next Festival. I had better not reveal exactly what he has in mind, but Ludwig van Beethoven will be pleased with it!

THE LAST WORD

With everything ready to go, all we need is for the Pandemic to subside and allow us to socialize with joy and safety. I hope to see large crowds at all of our concerts and the Festival.

Jeannette Johnston – Secretary to the Committee of Music at the Basilica Inc.