



MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC.

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INSPIRED!!



NEWSLETTER NO. 38

5th AUGUST, 2022

‘SEASONS’ PROGRAMS FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2022

‘RE-CONNECTIONS’ – OUR NEW YOUTH SERIES

13th WINDFIRE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC IN OCTOBER 2022

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT – J.S. BACH’S *ST JOHN PASSION*

FREE ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS

FRIENDS’ REPORT FOR 2022

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

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



MUSIC AT THE BASILICA IS STILL HARD AT WORK BRINGING YOU WONDERFUL MUSIC!



Here is your brochure for all our activities from now to Christmas. It's time to get out your pencil and start circling. Start with Sunday August 21st and Thursday August 25th. One brings the familiar and much-loved Australian Chamber Choir The other, 'Re-Connections' Youth Series, is a new event. Now, keep circling, right up to Christmas!

'SEASONS' SERIES – AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2022



Australian Chamber Choir starts the MAB calendar with 'Top Dozen Choral Classics', which have been chosen by popular vote by ACC's fans. It is a superb collection of favourites, showing what audiences really want! What great taste! The choir will be back for Christmas. In between the two ACC concerts, we will bring amazing music with great contrasts to please everyone in 'Cathedral Windows' in September, and 'Rameau Concertos' in November. Then in between those two concerts we are presenting a new Youth Series. We brought you 2022's 'Seasons' Program in the first half of the year. Let us know how you like our 'Seasons' programs by commenting on Facebook or sending us an email. We really value what you have to say.

'RE-CONNECTIONS' YOUTH SERIES – NEW FOR 2022

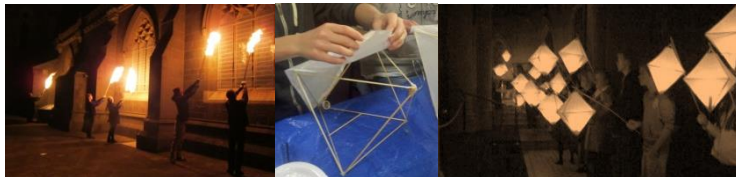


This new collection of five events from the young artists of Geelong is supported by a grant from City of Greater Geelong's *Covid 19 Arts Recovery Program*. The grants are designed to get the Arts thriving again, and part of our \$10000 grant will allow young people to perform in public and reconnect with each other and with audiences to make the arts live again. The groups of young artists, mentored by their teachers, are combining in short programs that bring together music, choral singing, movement, performance of exam pieces from VCE students, strings ensemble, poetry and visual art, so it is exciting to be reconnecting different art-forms with music. We are really pleased with this new addition to our normal program, and we hope you will come to these five events. We have made them free so that families and children can attend to enjoy the work of the young performers. One event is at the Geelong Art Gallery. Here the students will present poetry and instrumental music as the patrons wander around the Gallery in the normal way. It will not be a formal, seated event, just something that grows. Four other events will be at the Basilica. There is more information in the brochure. We look forward to showcasing Geelong's young artists in this new series.

RE-CONNECT WITH THE ARTS AND YOUTH AT THESE FIVE EVENTS IN THE GEELONG ART GALLERY AND THE BASILICA OF ST MARY OF THE ANGELS.

13th ANNUAL WINDFIRE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC – OCTOBER 2022

After twelve successes, the Windfire Festival is firmly on the arts scene in Geelong and needs no introduction. In those twelve years, it has known some adventures! A little reminiscence won't hurt! The artists for our very first Opening Concert withdrew in the last week, throwing us into chaos. . Hasty re-arrangement was required to engage new artists and bring in a baby grand piano! Another time, a mini-bus of Melbourne singers became lost for an hour. They zipped past the venue several times. We chased the bus and piloted them to the venue. The singing was worth the wait! One year, weeks of creativity went into constructing hand-made paper lanterns and huge fiery torches for a torchlight parade. Geelong turned on its coldest weather, most violent winds and heaviest rain for 100 years that day. We quickly adapted to an indoor event, but the torches had to stay outside!



Do you remember the horses from Creswick's Australian Light Horse? They were no trouble at all, standing to attention outside the churches, parading along the road, watching over an Anzac service on the lawn at the Basilica, with resplendent riders of course. That was a highlight! We mustn't forget the floral carpets – thousands of dahlias, fresh-picked at dawn by gum-booted volunteers on a farm at Winchelsea, with a couple of keen-eyed bulls eyeing us suspiciously! 🇺🇸



There is no need for me to describe the Festival confusion we had to sort through during the pandemic! Cancellations – postponements – hours of phone calls – non-stop emails – tearing up the calendar – throwing out the useless printed materials! But never giving up!

The result of all this resourcefulness is that, this year, you are being treated to two Festivals. The twice-postponed Festival planned for 2020 finally happened in March 2022 and was a huge success. Covid ensured that 2021 missed out completely, hidden behind tight-fitting masks and a thick fog of hand-sanitiser. The 2022 Festival, described in the brochure, is to happen from 7th to 16th October.

I think we can say that the Festival has been a growing, changing, challenging, adaptable event, but it has always brought our audience the same quality, no matter what our patient, tenacious and determined organizers and artists have had to face up to. Let's hope there is no déjà-vu!

THE FESTIVAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN FUN!

WE ARE HOPING THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GET TO MOST OF THE EVENTS THIS YEAR.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL IN 2022 –THE ST JOHN PASSION BY J.S. BACH.

We have already told you about this in the last newsletter, and there is more information in the brochure and there will be other publicity to keep you reminded of the date – Friday 7th October at 7.30 pm. The rehearsals are going really well and choristers from The Geelong Chorale and Windfire Chamber Choir are loving the work. They are even wearing their masks during rehearsals to keep Covid at bay. Not easy, but choristers will suffer ANYTHING for their ART!!

FREE LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS FOR ADVENT

It wouldn't be Advent without the Free Lunchtime Recitals at the Basilica. This year, each organist will include a guest artist in the program. This extra dimension is courtesy of the *Covid19 Arts Recovery Grant* from COGG, and aims to create more performance opportunities for artists and extra interest for audience, helping to support the mental health and well-being of the community. Geelong audiences like the pipe organ recitals and we are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Monday recitals in the last week of November and the first three weeks of December

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT THE BASILICA

What a lovely time we had earlier this year, with the return of Music to the Basilica.

Three Friends outings earlier in warmer weather took us to Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre for an entertaining introduction to 'culture'; to the Geelong Botanical Gardens for a guided tour of the arboreal collection of significant trees; and to the Wool Museum for three exhibitions: the Australian wool industry, international nature photography, and extraordinary sculpture using light. We were also treated to an intriguing presentation of the carpet weaving operation. Some of the most enjoyable moments were shared around the table at coffee or a simple lunch afterwards.



Come and join us for some more of these very affordable 'excursions' as the weather warms in September, October and November. You may like a return visit to the Geelong Botanic Gardens focussing on the Camellia Walk? Do you have something to suggest? Would you like to register as a volunteer to help at concerts? Let me know your preferences on judithatrimble@gmail.com

If you have not already renewed your 2022 membership, we would be happy to reduce it to just \$20. Full membership for 2023 of \$35 is due again on December 1 2022.

Warm wishes. Judith Trimble

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

We have been fortunate in receiving two grants of \$10000 each from *City of Greater Geelong*, \$2500 from *Geelong Community Foundation* and \$10000 from *Robert Salzer Foundation* in recent times. They supported us throughout the pandemic, extending the time-frame for using the grants, and waiting patiently for us to be able to do so. We would like to express our deep appreciation.

There is a lot happening right now with Music at the Basilica's music program. Please support us by attending the wonderful events and encourage us even more by booking ahead!

Best wishes to everyone from Jeannette, representing the Management Committee.