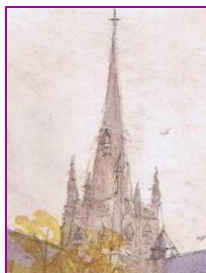


MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC.

Patron Mr Keith Fagg OAM

Artistic Director Mr Frank De Rosso OAM



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INSPIRED!!



NEWSLETTER NO. 37

16th DECEMBER, 2021

MR KEITH FAGG, OAM, ACCEPTS ROLE OF PATRON

NEW FRIENDS' INITIATIVES FOR 2022

'SEASONS' PROGRAMS

WINDFIRE FESTIVALS OF MUSIC

FUNDRAISING

NEW GRANT RECEIVED FROM COGG

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



WELCOME TO MR KEITH FAGG, OAM



Music at the Basilica Inc. is delighted to announce that Mr Keith Fagg, OAM, has accepted our invitation to take the role of Patron of our group. Keith is well-known for his involvement in the development of the City of Greater Geelong through his work with the City Council, the Fagg Family business, many charitable foundations which support the homeless and the disabled and for his personal generosity and willingness to lead in community work of wide benefit to us all.

Music at the Basilica knows Keith well for his attendance at concerts, his membership of our Friends' group, his involvement as a singer in *The Windfire Chamber Choir* and his genuine interest in our many contributions to the artistic life of the Geelong region.

We are honoured by Keith's acceptance and we look forward to working closely with him into the future to ensure that *Music at the Basilica* remains as a vital part of Geelong's arts scene.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT THE BASILICA



Dear Friends

After such a barren period for Music at the Basilica during the Covid-19 restrictions, it is grand to welcome everyone back for a bumper year of beautiful concerts in 2022. It has been heart-warming to see so many enjoying the Monday lunchtime Advent Organ Recitals, and the wonderful Australian Chamber Choir, who sing like angels in our perfect setting.

You will have found Frank's fabulous program for 2022. What a celebration that will be! Now is the time to welcome back all our Friends. What other activities would you like ... film nights and seminars in our little theatre, helping out at concerts, a party where we can meet and enjoy each other's company?

I would like to meet in the Pioneer Room on Monday 7 Feb. at 10.30am to plan for the year ahead. Let me know if you are happy to come along: judithatrimble@gmail.com

Meanwhile, don't forget to renew your Friends' membership. It has been in abeyance for two years, but the amount is still only \$35.

Looking forward to meeting again in 2022, meanwhile I wish you all a peaceful and merry Christmas with family and friends.

Judith Trimble

Music at the Basilica Committee Member

NOT A 'FRIEND' YET?

We would love to increase the number of members for 2022. The annual subscription of \$35 covers you to 1 December 2022. Please contact Judith if you would like to join. You may like to join at the meeting on 7th February (see above) and help to design the Friends' activities that you would enjoy. Call Judith if you are happy to come along.

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA AND 2022



At last we can say that we are back into action with our 'Seasons' concerts and our Festival. We have almost completed our Advent Organ Recitals, and Australian Chamber Choir presented their Bach motets on 10th December to a large and enthusiastic audience. Our volunteers are back, doing their priceless work. Looking ahead, we can say that the 2022 year should be our busiest ever! We are determined to make up for lost time

You *may* have noticed the 's' at the end of *Seasons Programs* and *Windfire Festivals* in the 'headlines' on the front page. That is correct! We are bringing you the 'Seasons' music postponed from 2020 to 2021, and postponed again from 2021 to 2022. In addition, we have a whole new 'Seasons' program for 2022. And there will be TWO Festivals! We are offering new subscriptions that will save on some prices, so that you can attend as many as you choose.

In the first half-year, we will present the concerts that were originally timetabled for 2020. It has been a long wait, but our artists have stayed with us, and we are bringing you almost the same program that we planned so long ago! The former 2020 Festival will take place in March 2022.

The second half-year follows straight on, commencing in July. A brilliant line-up of concerts is arranged, and there will be the *new 2022 Festival as well* in October. We have something quite ambitious for this Festival. **We will present Bach's *St John Passion* as the Opening Concert!**

We enclose our brochure for the first half-year. Please encourage us by booking early wherever you can, giving our Committee the confidence boost we will need to present our busy program. Our July brochure will fill in more detail for the rest of the year, and you can keep up to date on our website. We can send extra alerts to our email group. Send us your email and join soon.

PRESENTING THE 'ST JOHN PASSION' by J.S. BACH

The '*St John*' is a mighty work, and a great joy, for Geelong musicians to present, so we have reached out to our colleagues, *The Geelong Chorale*, and invited them to combine with *The Windfire Chamber Choir* in presenting the work to be conducted by Joseph Hie. Allister Cox, conductor of *The Geelong Chorale*, will support Joseph in the preparation of the work. The *St John Passion* has not been performed by a Geelong group for decades. MAB presented the work in 2015 with the Choir of Scots' Church, Melbourne, directed by Douglas Lawrence.

We are also reaching out to you, asking you to consider offering a special kind of support for this important event by becoming a member of a new fundraising group giving particular support to the engagement of the five soloists. We are in the process of engaging excellent singers, some of whom will be making their first appearance in Geelong. The new support group, to be known as the *Artistic Director's Circle*, is described on the next page..

THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

We invite Geelong music-lovers to become members of the *Artistic Director's Circle* and enjoy the pleasure of being part of the creation of the 'St John Passion' in a personal, satisfying way.

Members will select a level of membership from Platinum \$1000, Gold \$500, Silver \$250 or Bronze \$100, and make a tax-deductible donation directed to artists' fees for the *St John Passion*. Every level of membership is vital in engaging wonderful artists for this special event. The direct support of artists recognizes their excellence and honours their contribution to our enjoyment of the arts. Funds raised through this project will be processed in the usual way through our Public Fund and a receipt will be issued for taxation purposes.

As an added benefit, donations to the *Artistic Director's Circle* MAY make us eligible to apply for dollar-for-dollar matched funding from the *Australian Cultural Fund* later in the year. First of all, we have to show that we have a viable fundraising project. If all goes well, there is a chance that your donation could be doubled in value!

There is some urgency to begin this project to meet deadlines. Please contact Frank De Rosso, on 0431 060240, or frankderosso@bigpond.com as soon as possible to express your interest.

If you choose to become a Platinum Member of the Circle, you will be invited to direct your donation towards a performance by the artist of your choice. Frank will advise you of the artists' names when engagements are finalized. We will acknowledge your support in the program, e.g. *This performance by (artist's name) is brought to you with the support of (your name)*.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Members will form a support group for the orchestra of 20 players and conductor. Some specialist and period instruments are required for this magnificent Bach work. Your generosity will allow us to engage acclaimed musicians to support soloists and choir. We will acknowledge your support in the program in a full list of donors' names at the various levels.

NEW GRANT FROM CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

We have received a new grant of \$10000 for our Festival 2022. We are grateful to COGG for this support and will ensure that the city will be proud of our work. COGG also funded the 2020 Festival with \$6000. After two postponements, we thank them for their patience and for the confidence shown in the ability of the arts to survive and bounce back.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Music at the Basilica wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a music-filled New Year. Jeannette, for the Committee of Music at the Basilica

