

# MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC.

Patron Mr Keith Fagg OAM      Artistic Director Mr Frank De Rosso OAM

## CONTACT US

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INSPIRED!!



## NEWSLETTER NO. 39 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023

**‘SEASONS’ PROGRAMS FROM FEBRUARY TO DECEMBER 2023**

**SOME “FIRST-EVERS”**

**OUR WONDERFUL “FRIENDS”**

**SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS**

**A WARM INVITATION**

**A GREAT SUCCESS**

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



## A MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FRANK DE ROSSO, OAM.

Happy New Year and welcome to a wonderful program for 2023. There will be something for everyone to enjoy, as well as opportunities to reconnect with other music lovers.



I would like to highlight that the opening concert, which will be presented by local musicians Stephen Marsh and Kym Alexandra Dillon, will be held at St Joseph's College Performing Arts centre, Newtown. This will be the first time we have included this venue in our concert series and I hope we will see many of our supporters there.

I look forward to working with our artists, especially newcomers Polyphonic Voices, Geelong Chamber Orchestra, Melbourne Women's Choir and Melbourne Conservatorium Brass Ensemble. We are planning free lunchtime concerts on the coast for our Windfire Music Festival in October.

I have a wonderful committee which works tirelessly and if you would like to support Music at The Basilica please consider joining the committee or volunteering in some capacity.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 7.30 PM, HIBERNIAN ROOM, 150 YARRA ST GEELONG**

**CALL US NOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE.**

**ALL WELCOME!**

Visit our website. For updates and further information. [www.musicatthebasilica.org.au](http://www.musicatthebasilica.org.au)  
Frank De Rosso, Artistic Director

## **THE 'SEASONS' SERIES – FEBRUARY TO DECEMBER 2023**

Our brochure for the year is enclosed. We would love you to go through, make your choices and book ahead using the given links. If you are a member of the Friends of Music at the Basilica, you will have priority seating at the concerts. The Basilica is a light and airy space, and we follow any Covid restrictions which may be in force.

You will find that there is variety in the venues for this year. We are always proud to present our concerts in the marvellous Basilica which we use by special agreement with St Mary's Parish, but some works are better suited to the intimacy of a smaller space, or a different acoustic. As you can see from his message, Artistic Director Frank De Rosso loves matching the works to the venues available to us. We will be using even more venues as the year progresses.

Let us know how you like our 'Seasons' program by commenting on Facebook or sending us an email. We really value what you have to say, and it helps with applying for funding.

## **A NOTE FROM JANE, OUR PUBLICITY OFFICER, ABOUT THE FIRST CONCERT – A FIRST-EVER PERFORMANCE IN A NEW VENUE!**

**THEN AND NOW** 3pm Sunday 26 February at St Joseph's College Performing Arts Centre, 135 Aphrasia St (enter via Queens Rd)



Stephen Marsh (baritone) and Kym Alexandra Dillon (piano, composer) gave their first ever performance as a duo in 2007, to a small audience of peers when they were both in high school together. After then they both went their separate ways to forge their own musical paths — Kym growing her Australian career as composer, conductor and performer, and Stephen to a world-class opera career taking him around the globe in celebrated performances.

They finally reconnected back in Geelong in 2020 to collaborate on a work for baritone and piano, and the joy of this experience led on to them coming together to give the acclaimed 2022 premiere of Kym's most ambitious composition to date, a forty-minute song cycle for baritone and large ensemble, 'Diapsalmata: Portrait of a Self'.

In this recital Stephen and Kym present their first ever public performance as a vocal/piano duo, including works that have played an important role for them throughout their journeys individually and together.

I hope to see you there.  
Jane Bashiruddin

## **DON'T FORGET – NOW YOU CAN USE YOUR CREDIT CARD AT THE DOOR!**

However, we have arranged for credit /debit card facilities to be available through Square to buy your tickets, make donations, join the Friends or carry out all your transactions on the spot. Cash?? Have you almost forgotten what it looks like?

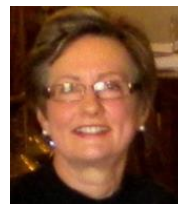
Don't worry – we will still take it!



## **A FEW WORDS FROM JUDITH ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT THE BASILICA**

Dear Friends of Music at the Basilica

How exciting to be looking forward to a new year of beautiful Music at the Basilica. Musicians and choirs are always delighted to perform for us in the wonderful setting of the Basilica, with its superb acoustics. We are blessed.



There will be a party for the Committee and Friends of MAB and some other guests on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February from 6.00pm until 7.30pm. The MAB Committee's Annual General Meeting will be held after the party. You are invited to stay for the meeting if you wish.

Happy New Year  
Judith Trimble

## SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

We have been fortunate in receiving a Festival grant of \$4000 from *City of Greater Geelong*, and \$10000 from *Robert Salzer Foundation* for 2023.. We would like to express our deep appreciation to these generous grant-makers. We have more applications pending, and we will seize every opportunity to apply for funding during the year.



We also have our *Artistic Director's Circle* functioning and would be pleased to take enquiries about how to join this support group. It is hard work finding the funds to support our artistic work. It really raises our spirits when someone makes a donation or joins our Friends support group. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Ask us for a receipt.

## A WARM INVITATION

Further to Frank's invitation to work with us, here are some areas of interest. Give us a call!

Administration	Front-of-House	Media
Audience Building	Fundraising	Photography
Audio-Visual	Graphics	Production
Creative Display	Info Tech	Publicity
Finance	Logistics	Record-keeping
Friends Sub-committee	Mailing List	Social Events

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

We are still basking in the success of the *St John Passion* which we presented on 7<sup>th</sup> October. All the participants loved it, and we felt so privileged to be part of it. The church was almost full to capacity and the audience was great – so attentive and appreciative. We received some lovely reviews of the work. It was exciting to have so many Geelong participants in the work - all of the choir and most of the orchestra. The soloists were all established opera singers and they gave real distinction to the performance.



It was a huge undertaking for us, but we were so well supported by grant-makers, donors and the choir that they made presenting it a great pleasure. As I boasted in the last newsletter, CHORISTERS will suffer ANYTHING for their ART!! Not only did Windfire and Geelong Chorale singers pay a subscription to participate and hire their music; they 'donated' items to our 'free' shop and then 'bought' other items, raising enough money to hire chairs and pay people to them put in place for 3 rehearsals and a performance. That's dedication! Thanks, choristers!

## BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

JEANNETTE, REPRESENTING THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE