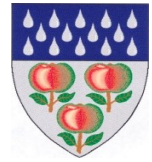




Hyfrydol



No. 100

St Swithun's Choir e-newsletter

June 2022

The program for June

The Covid witch is still on her broomstick, but no-one seems to be taking any notice. The security of four vaccine jabs in most of our arms allows us to remain alert but not alarmed. The only real effect she is having on us now is the rather chilly mornings in the church at this time of year with all the doors and windows open to promote air circulation.

We have a number of special services to sing this month, the first being on the first Sunday when we shall join hundreds of choirs around the Commonwealth singing the anthem composed especially to celebrate the seventy years reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The second will be a week later when we sing our second Evensong service of the year. And the third will be a week after that when we participate chorally in the annual Huguenot Heritage Church Service on Sunday afternoon 19 June.

Visit to Goulburn

It is time to start thinking about accommodation in Goulburn.

The Cathedral Church of St Saviour in Goulburn is looking forward to welcoming us on the weekend of 24th and 25th September.

St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn

On Sunday we will sing Choral Eucharist at 10 am and Evensong at 5 pm. In between the two services, on the Sunday afternoon, we shall present a concert program, details to be advised. We may expect to rehearse in the Cathedral on Saturday afternoon and then enjoy dinner together at a venue to be recommended by our hosts.

We shall leave it to individuals to arrange accommodation for themselves and anyone they might wish to accompany them. An inspection of various websites suggests a variety of accommodations are available, some quite close to the Cathedral. Some of us might like to travel down on Friday and return on the following Monday. A long weekend in the Southern Highlands in Springtime should be a wonderful experience.



The June repertoire

Our rehearsal schedule for June includes some new music, and an Evensong setting we haven't sung since we were in Dublin, five years ago.

1. In our service

The Royal School of Church Music commissioned Thomas Hewitt Jones to compose a new anthem in honour of its Patron, Queen Elizabeth II, as she approached her seventieth year on the throne. Thomas (born in 1984) is a British composer and music producer, working mostly in contemporary and commercial music. His parents are both musicians and his father's parents were both composers.

He wrote of his latest commission:

"I was delighted to be asked by the Royal School of Church Music to write a choral anthem to celebrate HM the Queen, their Royal Patron, on her incredibly special jubilee. Typifying selfless service to her country, her very existence encourages togetherness - so the opportunity to celebrate her with a new and inclusive, yet weighty, piece of choral music that can be sung by choirs all around the UK really resonated for me.

"When searching for words to set to music, it became apparent that many of the Queen's royal speeches over the years have contained pertinent and thoughtful messages, all relevant to today's world. I wanted to incorporate many of these in the anthem, so I decided to write new words inspired by certain quotes which particularly stood out. I hope that the result is a vibrant, uplifting (and, if I'm honest, quite emotionally-charged) piece of music which celebrates both the reign of our incredible monarch, and the ever-valuable medium of choral singing - arguably one of the most natural, uplifting and unifying experiences of the human condition.



"RSCM hopes that this special commission will not only encourage groups to come together to sing, but will also draw attention to its wider activities, aims and vision as it approaches its centenary in 2027."

We shall join over 500 other choirs around the world in presenting the new anthem on the first Sunday in June.

2. Alfred Herbert Brewer

We are singing canticles by Alfred Brewer at our Evensong service on the first Saturday in June. We last sang them at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, August 2017.

Alfred Herbert Brewer, English composer and organist, was organist of Gloucester Cathedral from 1896 until his death in 1928. He began in Gloucester Cathedral as a chorister in his boyhood and began his organ studies under Dr C H Lloyd, the Cathedral organist. He lived in Gloucester his whole life.

His most important public work was associated with the triennial festivals held at Gloucester. For thirty years he was conductor of the Three Choirs Festival which, initially, comprised the choirs of the Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester Cathedrals but now includes other guest choirs. The festival has a very long history, beginning in 1715.

Herbert Howells was born in a small town near Gloucester and showed early musical talent. He became a pupil of Brewer at Gloucester Cathedral. And Herbert Sumsion succeeded Brewer as the Cathedral organist when Brewer died in 1928.



3. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator

Peter Hamilton has arranged harmonies of the hymn tune *Kremser*; Pamela Summers has translated the words of the second verse into French to add relevance to our singing the hymn at the Huguenot service this month.



The words were written early in the twentieth century by an American, Julia Cory, specifically for the hymn tune *Kremser*. Born Julia Cady in 1882, she was the daughter of a prominent New York architect, who was also a Sunday school superintendent and amateur hymnologist. Partly because of his influence Julia began to write hymns at an early age. She married Robert Haskell Cory in 1911 and was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Englewood, NJ for all of her married life. She was a member of the Hymn Society in America. She raised 3 sons and they had 15 grandchildren. She died in 1963.

The hymn tune *Kremser* is named for Eduard Kremser (1838-1914), an Austrian composer, arranger and conductor, and a collector of traditional Viennese songs.

For thirty years he was the choirmaster of the Vienna Men's Choir.

The City of Vienna commissioned him to compile and publish an anthology on Viennese music in order to preserve this traditional cultural asset.



The hymn tune which bears his name was one of a collection of six Dutch folk songs which he arranged and published. Peter Hamilton has now re-arranged it especially for us to sing during this year's Huguenot service.

The Old Hundredth

The sermon series being preached through June and July deals with individual psalms. Psalm 100 does not appear on the list of sermon titles, but it is one of the Psalms featured in the Psalm Festival we shall present on Saturday 28 August. We shall also sing the hymn that paraphrases the Psalm on the fourth Sunday in June. And it seems an auspicious occasion to look at it in this the 100th issue of Hyfrydol.

The words are now almost universally recognized as having been written by William Kethe, a Scottish Protestant. He fled to the continent during Queen Mary's persecution in the late 1550s. He lived in Geneva for some time but travelled to Basel and Strasbourg to maintain contact with other English refugees. Kethe is thought to be one of the scholars who translated and published the English-language Geneva Bible (1560). The twenty-five psalm versifications Kethe prepared for the Anglo-Genevan Psalter of 1561 were also adopted into the Scottish Psalter of 1565. His metrical paraphrase of Psalm 100 (*All People that on Earth do dwell*) is the only one that found its way into modern psalmody. Kethe apparently asked that his text be sung to a tune composed for another of the psalms, Psalm 134, in the Genevan psalter. That tune, possibly composed by a Frenchman named Louis Bourgeois for a French version of the psalm, is now known as *The Old Hundredth*.

The words of Kethe's metrical psalm have changed over time. For instance, his first verse was:

*All people that on earth doe dwell,
sing to the Lord with chearefull voyce:
him serve with feare, his praise forth tell.
Come ye before him and rejoyce.*

The later version of the Wycliffe Bible (14th century) was likely to have been his guide:

- 1 All the earth, sing ye heartily to God;*
- 2 Serve ye the Lord with gladness. Enter ye before him with rejoicing.*

Kethe's original "Him serve with fear" became "Him serve with mirth" in the revised Scottish Psalter of 1655. Our *Hymns for Today's Church* has "Serve Him with joy". Where the original "fear" came from only William Kethe can tell.



The provisional calendar for 2022

Day	Date	Time	Location	Service/activity
Sunday	5 June	9 am	Swiz	Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Saturday	11 June	5 pm	Swiz	Evensong
Sunday	12 June	9 am	Swiz	RSCM Music Sunday
Sunday	19 June	2 pm	Swiz	Huguenot service
Saturday	20 August	5 pm	Swiz	Celebration of Psalms
Saturday	10 September	5 pm	Swiz	Evensong
Sat-Sun	24-25 Sept		Goulburn	Concert and two services
Saturday	29 October	7 pm	Swiz	Foundation concert
Saturday	26 November	5 pm	Swiz	Advent Evensong
Sunday	18 December	9 am	Swiz	Lessons and carols
Saturday	24 December	10 pm	Swiz	Christmas Eve
Sunday	25 December	8 am	Swiz	Christmas Choral Communion

Add to this schedule possible carols on Bannockburn Oval, lessons and carols at local nursing homes and a lunchtime concert a RNS Hospital at dates and times to be fixed.

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Bookings: www.jewish-arts.org.au/Yerushalayim



Peter Hamilton has asked us to advertise this concert. He says, “There will be opportunities for Swiz choir to collaborate with the choir of Temple Emanuel, and they will publicise our Celebration of Psalms (August 20th).”



Our intrepid athlete Louise was absent one weekend last month. Here she is receiving her gold medal for winning the 5 km race at the recent Masters Games in Brisbane. Congratulations, Louise!