

Dunedin RSA Choir

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHOIR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Our website: www.dunedinrsachoir.co.nz

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Upcoming Events:

1. **Armistice Day Concert.** Saturday 11th November 1pm in Gore, at the Gore District Memorial RSA Inc. Facility in Bowler Avenue.
2. **Friends of First Church Lunchtime Concert.** Tuesday, 14th November 12.15pm at First Church of Otago.
3. **End of Year Dinner/concert.** Date to be confirmed, early December. Possibly Orokonui Café
4. **Neptune Memorial Service.** Around 17 Dec. (if it is being held this year.)
5. **Montecillo Christmas Morning Tea and Carols.** Usually a week before Christmas.
6. **Presbyterian Support Club Enliven Carol Singing.** Friday 24th Nov., Tuesday 28th Nov. and Wednesday 6th Dec., 11am. (A small group of singers required).



Chairman's Message

Welcome to another RSA Choir Newsletter.

On October 12th the choir was privileged to sing at a very moving Passchendaele Memorial Service in the Dunedin Railway Station. This Memorial Service remembered New Zealand's greatest loss of life in a single day.

As we draw to the end of another busy year, we still have a number of public events to go.

On Armistice Day this year, November 11th, we are off to sing in Gore at the local RSA. We're greatly looking forward to it.

On Tuesday November 14th we will be singing at a lunch time concert on First Church. It's open to the public, so please feel free to attend.

A major fundraiser this year is our 2024 Calendar. Set at a very affordable price, we invite you to get in early for Christmas presents!

Thanks for those who have become our Friends of the Choir, this and all your support is greatly appreciated. If you were a former subscriber and not already a Friend of the choir, it would be really great if you would take the step to become a Friend of the choir. The system is explained in page 6 of this newsletter. Just email Neville Carr as described, pay \$50 into our Choir account and you are a Friend for 2024.

Kind regards
Kevin

Armistice Day Concert, Saturday 11th November 2023, 1pm

DUNEDIN RSA CHOIR
Presents
ARMISTICE DAY CONCERT
Saturday, 11th November 2023
1pm
In the Gore RSA
The choir will present a selection of well known songs.
Guest Artists:
Soprano Rosie Auchinvold
Tenor Kieran Kelly
Ralph Miller, Trumpeter
Tickets for Sale at the door.
Cash only
ATTENTION!
THE 2024 DUNEDIN RSA CHOIR CALENDAR IS OUT
\$ 15.00
Choir Website www.dunedinrsa choir.co.nz

The choir will bring a stunning selection of songs. There will be quite a variety that are mostly well-known, including: ***I Vow to Thee my Country***, ***Bring Him Home*** from Les Miserable, ***When I'm 64*** (adapted to 94 as being more appropriate for many choir members), ***Ghost Riders in the Sky***, ***The Rose***, and ***Battle Hymn of the Republic***. In addition, to reflect Armistice Day, there will be a Remembrance Section during which the choir will sing the moving songs, ***Blades of Grass*** and ***Anthem*** from Chess. We are also privileged to present 2 of our 3 RSA Choir Scholars and an exciting well-known trumpeter, **Ralph Miller**. Our scholars are superb soprano **Rosie Auchinvold** and accomplished tenor **Kieran Kelly**.

Mark Wigglesworth's Farewell Concert

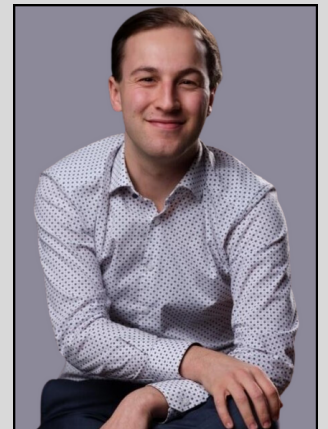
Friday 25th August 2023, 7pm at St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin.

The choir was honoured to be asked to sing 4 songs at Mark's Farewell Concert in St Paul's Cathedral. Mark had put together an excellent programme with musicians covering a wide range of Music - item on organ, the St Paul's Cathedral Choir, Soloists, a euphonium player and a violinist. An outstanding programme, with Mark being in some way involved in every item by compering, singing and playing either the organ or the piano. Mark really showed his wide range of talents. All these talents will serve him well in his studies in Glasgow.

We are very sorry to lose him as our pianist. He has been such a great asset for us.

We wish him all the best and we hope we will see him in the future when he returns to Dunedin.

We are currently looking for a choir pianist to replace Mark. Until we can find somebody on a permanent bases, Sandra Crawshaw has agreed to play for us. She will be our accompanist until after the Gore concert in November.



The Choir Calendar 2024 is now available.

This calendar is the choir's big fundraiser for this year. Unfortunately the choir's income over the last two to three years has dropped considerably because there were no concerts during the Covid lockdown, but the costs of running the choir have not.

The committee has been looking at different ways of bringing in the additional funding required to run the choir. This calendar fundraiser should do that.

These calendars will put good colour into your home and also will be great Christmas presents. They give snapshots of the choir's activities and also show up beautiful Dunedin.

Every \$15.00 you are spending by buying a calendar will go directly to fund the choir. To purchase one or more, please contact one of our members or transfer the money into our bank account: [03-0903-0385394-00](tel:03-0903-0385394-00). Make certain you also note 'calendar' & your name. In addition please send an email to our choir member Neville: nevcarr@gmail.com and he will organise the delivery of the calendar(s). We greatly appreciate your support.

All this information is also on our Website: www.dunedinsrachoer.co.nz

We give special thanks to the companies that sponsored our calendar. They are :



THE MEDALS GUY
 Kevin F Tansley
 03 473 7085 | 021 022 30870
medalsguydunedin@gmail.com
www.medalsguy.co.nz
 PO Box 6254, North Dunedin, DUNEDIN 9059



Calendar back page.

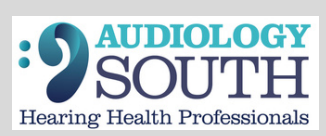


DUNEDIN RSA Choir
 the music living on since 1859

We are looking for New Singers!
 Join our team of happy singers! There are many benefits from being in a choir, including great socialising and improved health! As one of our mature guys said ' my doctor is amazed how good my lungs are and said, whatever you are doing, keep doing it'. You don't need to have a singing background or be ex service to join.

Enquiries re joining the choir or for other reason may be made to:
 Kevin Tansley, Chairman
 Phone: 021 022 30870
 Email: kevintansley93@gmail.com
 or
 Ken Klark, Secretary
 Phone 03 455 7766
 Email: bjkclark17@gmail.com

For more Information about our choir, go to our Website www.dunedinsrachoer.co.nz



Featuring images of the RSA Choir and Dunedin.

- Available from:
- Choir members.
 - Order &/or delivery nevcarr@gmail.com .
 - Pay online into Choir account enter 'calendar' & your name.
 - From selected retailers
- Great value at only \$15.

For detailed information go to our website: www.dunedinsrachoer.co.nz
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Vocal Scholar Concert Report

Saturday 9th September 2023, 2pm, at the St. Patrick's Basilica

By Neil Grant:

'Let Us Now Praise Famous Men' was the first song on the RSA Choir's Vocal Scholars' Concert programme in September. As it happens, a slightly broader title would have been appropriate, since several women also deserve praise for the concert's success. The choir's regular accompanist, Sandra Crawshaw, sadly succumbed to Covid a couple of days before the concert, which created no little excitement for Musical Director Karen Knudson, and concert organisers, but they were equal to the task, and by lunchtime on the day of the final rehearsal had secured the services of Tom McGrath, a teaching fellow at the University School of Performing Arts. Tom slotted into the role as though he had been there for years. The other woman who added her expertise was Rosie Auchinvole, one of the three scholars supported by the choir. Rosie's strong soprano, honed by singing in the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir, the New Zealand Youth Choir and the Southern Youth Choir, captivated the audience and choristers. Benjamin Britten's setting of 'The Last Rose of Summer' was particularly moving. She sang with the choir in Handel's 'Where'er You Walk'.

Dom Edmond, a tenor/baritone, showed his versatility in his bracket with songs by Faure and Leoncavallo, and concluded with an emotional rendition of 'Maria' from 'West Side Story'. He supported the choir in the popular 'Danny Boy'. Kieran Kelly, baritone, has awards from Trinity College, London, and was a member of the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir. Also a versatile singer, his solos were from Poulenc, Ireland and Brahms, and he added strength and colour to the choir as they sang the American spiritual, 'City Called Heaven', and 'Bring Him Home' from 'Les Miserables'.

Like the last night of the Proms, the programme concluded with 'Land of Hope and Glory' sung in rousing fashion with some flag waving and audience participation. This varied programme was enhanced by the architecture, atmosphere and acoustics of St Patrick's Basilica, a venue the choir enjoys performing in.



Scholar Kieran Kelly



Scholar Dom Edmond



Scholar Rosie Auchinvole



The Choir's front row.

If all the cars in New Zealand were painted pink, what would you have?
a PINK CAR-NATION!



We like to introduce two new choir members:

Dan Milliken

I grew up in a southern suburb of Sydney NSW. My first job, being an apprentice chef for Qantas International was not really me. I decided to joined the RAAF instead, starting at Laverton Victoria in Radio school. That was not really me either, but I found myself in the right place as the Australian Army was looking for three personnel for a tri-service course in Pathology and I was posted to No1 military hospital in Brisbane QLD.

This was very much to my liking. After graduating I was posted to Richmond air base Sydney, and did my BSc Path by correspondence. 4 years later I was posted to Butterworth, Malaysia for a little over 2 years, returning again to Richmond for a year. That year I married Natalie! We then were posted to Pearce WA and I was promoted to Sergeant in Charge of laboratory. Unfortunately, my wife did not really like the RAAF life (misogynistic attitude). At the end of 9yrs I was discharged and we moved to Wagga Wagga NSW.

There I worked in a number of hospitals in NSW, and Canberra ACT, until my Natalie was offered a teaching position in a very small town, with a pub and three tennis courts and a general store. We moved frequently to the pleasure of NSW education department, and I worked wherever there was a hospital. We finally ended up in Berridale NSW, in the high country of Snowy Mountains, where Natalie's family lived. We were there until 2015 when Natalie graduated with a Masters of Theology adding to her list of degrees.

We then moved to Junee (near Wagga) NSW, where Natalie worked as Chaplain in a men's prison for 6 years. I was medically retired and sang in the WCRMC (Wagga City Rugby Men's Choir) for 4yrs. I had a triple bypass in 2020. When Natalie accepted a position at Caversham Anglican Church as vicar, we moved to New Zealand - so here we are!! - We do have 4 children and 2 grandchildren.



Chris Auchinvole

Chris was born in Scotland and went to school in England. He attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) and then left England to join his two brothers in New Zealand doing dairy farming. He married Elspeth and they lived in Whangarei, Christchurch, Wellington, Devonport, Moana West Coast and Dunedin.

At the conclusion of a recent concert, the invitation for people to join the RSA Choir was extended to enthusiasts in the audience. Chris Auchinvole put his hand up and has enjoyed attending choir practices and rehearsals since.

Singing, in smaller choirs than the RSA, has been a feature of Presbyterian church attendance that Chris and his late wife Elspeth always enjoyed and participated in throughout their careers. Elspeth was a teacher and Chris was a NZ Dairy Board Executive before entering Parliament as a National List MP for six years plus three years as an elected National MP for the West Coast. He was also an elected member of the West Coast Hospital Board for 6 years. Chris is finding that retirement from the elected positions is providing him with much more time to dedicate to areas of personal interest. This was combined with a planned relocation away from Moana at Lake Brunner, to Dunedin where he has family.



Attendance Badge Presentation – at the Scholar Concert

Brian Donnelly for 15 Years, Foyalima Lemalu for 25 Years



Our two members Brian Donnelly and Foyalima Lemalu, received attendance Badges at the choirs Scholar concert. Brian has been with the choir for 15 years and Foyalima reached the milestone of having sang with the choir already for 25 years.

We like to thank and congratulate both members for their long and loyal service!



Will You Be Our Friend?

As many will know, we suspended our Subscribers' programme during the necessary Covid lockdowns as we were unable to guarantee that we could offer concerts!

Now that we are back in surer times, we are now relaunching and rebranding this programme as.

Friends of the RSA Choir and asking Will you be our friend?

By becoming a Friend of the RSA Choir you are:

- Showing your support for live music in Dunedin
- Helping the choir sing in front of a live audience
- Supporting the choir financially.

Being a Friend of the RSA Choir entitles you to TWO tickets to any one of our public concerts for **\$50/year**. Of course, you can always gift a Friend to a friend! We can never have too many friends.

To become a Friend, just contact Neville Carr:

- Email him nevcarr@gmail.com, OR
- phone him on 03 477 9131, OR
- write to him at 6 Bruce St, Roslyn OR
- direct credit into our bank account
- **03-0903-0385394-00** (please add your name and the word Friend). As always tax receipts will be issued on request.

We hope that you can support the choir in this way.

Kevin Tansley
Chair, Dunedin RSA Choir

If we do not already have your email address, please email it to
Neville Carr:
nevcarr@gmail.com, OR phone him
on 03 477 9131



Pianist Cameron Monteath playing at the Matariki Concert July 2023.



Choir members singing at the Matariki concert July 2023.

We are looking for New Singers

Join our team of happy singers!

There are many benefits from being in a choir, including great socialising and improved health! As one of our mature guys said 'my doctor is amazed how good my lungs are and said, whatever you are doing, keep doing it'. You don't need to have a singing background or be ex-service to join.

Just contact any choir member or come along to any of our weekly Monday practices (7 to 9 pm) in the Salvation Army Hall, Princes St, to see if it suits you. Visitors are always welcome.

For more Information about our choir, go to our Website www.dunedinrsachoir.co.nz

