



## KMC Grapevine No.2



### Inside this issue

- . Editors' Note
- . Message from the President
- . Falling Leaves
- . New Accompanist
- . Trivia Corner
- . Choir Org. Chart
- . Trivia Answers
- . Index of Songs

### Editors' Note

#### Welcome Back Face to Face

#### Rehearsals

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, the choir recommenced face to face rehearsal after a period of 12 months in recess due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The AGM was completed in the first hour. The second hour was spent singing a number of songs from the Red Song Book. It was great



to be able to sing together after such a long absence.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, we welcomed our new accompanist Hank Xiang a well-known concert pianist, the choir are extremely fortunate in obtaining his services. In the break I had a chat with Hank, and he has kindly agreed to send me his profile.

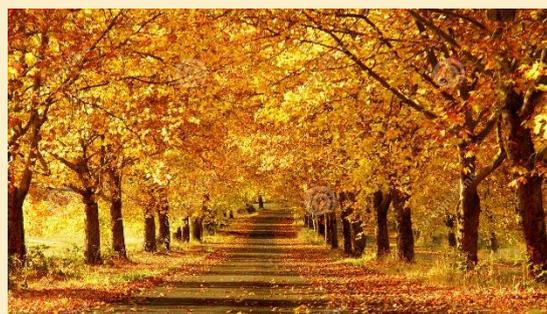


March 2021

### Welcome to Autumn!



The falling leaves  
Drift by the window  
The Autumn leaves  
Of red and gold



## **Message from the President**

Thank you for accepting my nomination as President of the Choir for the coming year. I have been elected on a platform of recycling,



which is all the vogue now. We cannot send our rubbish overseas anymore, so we have to develop a local industry.

Some of you will remember that I have been President of the choir previously. So, I am being recycled into this position. Nothing wrong with that. As well as being environmentally friendly, it is also an energy-saving measure: having done the job before, it should be easier the second time. I just do not want to take the recycling metaphor too far and start talking rubbish!

So, let me speak about my vision for the choir this year which, I hope will align with your vision. So that we see eye-to-eye, shoulder to shoulder, bolder and bolder...what would I do without my music.

We have a membership of 42 men, which is good, but a little down on our peak. I would like to work with my committee to increase this to over 50.

We are coming out of Covid restrictions, and I am looking forward to more face-to-face rehearsals, and then the resumption of our concert program. We have two major concerts in the diary for this year: the Hornsby RSL on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> month, and the MCAA on the last day of that month. I am grateful to you members of the choir who are working in the background on our preparations for these events:

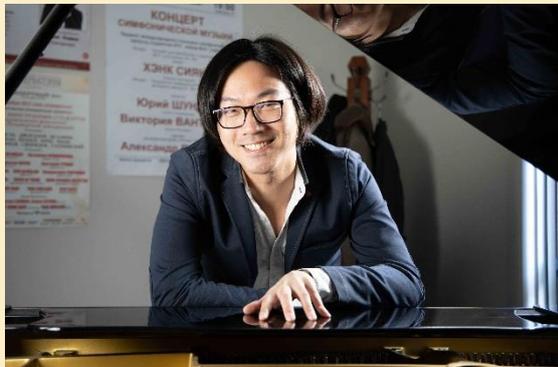
John Salamonsen, thank you for negotiating on our behalf with the RSL, and thanks to Ken Davis for heading a sub-committee to organise the event. Preparations for the MCAA concert have involved a lot of work by Paul Whiting and Bruce Sharpham, so thank you on behalf of the choir for what you are doing in preparation for this long-anticipated event.

Paul, you have also been busy searching for an accompanist for the choir, assisted by Richard Deane-Butcher, you have led our choir so capably and with such dedication over the past year, which has been a difficult one. We really appreciate the special efforts you have made to keep us functioning through the constraints imposed by COVID. Paul the continuation of our rehearsals on Zoom has been instrumental (haha) in keeping our esprit de corps, so thank you so much for putting in such a big effort to make it happen. Thanks also to Jerry Foley for assisting Paul, and a huge thank you to Stuart Hill for your huge effort and skill in putting our songs into a format accessible for online rehearsals. Richard, apart from the "buck" ending with you, I want to acknowledge the volume of work involved in the review of our constitution. I know that from my 1<sup>st</sup> presidency, and I am grateful to you that you completed this during your term of office.

I want to sincerely thank all the members of the outgoing committee for your work that kept our choir functioning over the past 12 months: and I want to thank my new committee for putting your hands up for the tasks that lie ahead over the next year. May it be Year of Harmony for us all.

### **New Accompanist Hank Xiang**

At our rehearsal on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, we gave a warm welcome to Hank Xiang who joined our choral family as our new accompanist. Hank, has travelled, studied, and performed mainly in Europe having



spent most of his time in Russia.

Hank graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium with a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in 2012, studying with Dr. Paul-Rickard Ford. Taking a keen interest in Russian music, his honours dissertation examined Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition in relation to the compositions of the New Russian Nationalist School, led by the composers of the so-called "Mighty Handful" in the late nineteenth century. He continued his studies at the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory in Saint Petersburg, Russia in the class of Nina Seryogina and Miroslav Kultyshev.

He has played in masterclasses with Paul Lewis, Markus Schirmer and Ekiko Ebi, and was briefly mentored by Denis Lossev and Inge Rosa. He participated in the Lev Vlassenko competition of 2015, the Australian National Piano Award of 2018 and most recently, was the third prize winner of the Maria Yudina International Piano Competition in 2019 in Russia. Throughout his studies Hank was a recipient of the

John and Dorothy Vimpani Scholarship, the Theme and Variations Foundation. And the Ian Potter Cultural Trust.

Hank has performed in iconic concert halls across Australia and Europe and has worked as a soloist with several orchestras in Saint Petersburg and in Novosibirsk. He is also an active chamber musician and has performed in concert a large portion of the great piano trios, quartets, and quintets. In addition to standard repertoire spanning from Bach to Boulez.

Hank has also delved into the field of modern music with a premiere of The Aether Rings... by Martin Friedel on ABC radio in 2010 as part of the ISCM World New Music Days festival in 2019, he was among the performers of Allora & Calzadilla's Stop, Prepare, Repair – Variations on "Ode to Joy" for a Prepared Piano hosted by Kaldor Public Arts Project at the Art Gallery of NSW, and performed the work over twenty times.

As of 2019, Hank has settled in Sydney in the Sutherland Shire and aside from his music is also an amateur chess player, and still continues his boyhood passion for playing video games. Several years ago, he played the trumpet in a small jazz group, and like most musicians he can sing "but not very well" (Hank's comment)

When asked what sort of aspirations or plans for the future he might have he replied, for the moment, my plan is to base myself in Sydney and to meaningfully contribute some way to the music scene in Australia. I feel that my music competition days are over and now, I hope to establish a

small but respected class of strong, ambitious students following the traditions of the Russian School of piano playing, while at the same time continue to do what I love – to perform good music to an appreciative audience.

Note: The contents and photograph in this article was supplied by Hank.

### **Trivia Corner.** *by The Editor*

1. Who sang the 1978 hit, YMCA?
  - . The Village Idiots
  - . The Angry Villagers
  - . The Village People
2. In what year was the first ever Wimbledon Championships held?
3. Which email service is owned by Microsoft?
4. What is the capital city of Spain?
5. Where would you find the world's most ancient forest?
6. Ludwig Van Beethoven was born in 1770 in which city?
7. Which country invented tea?
8. Groups of lions are known as what?
9. Name the world's largest ocean?
10. What is the hardest rock?

*Answers below*

### **Index of Songs – 2021**

The Choir Librarian, Mark Rodowicz has prepared a Song Index for choir members (see page below). This is extremely useful, as members are provided with a shortcut method of ensuring they have all the necessary music at a given point in time. Songs marked with an asterisk have not yet been issued but are expected to be distributed at some point this year.

Please check whether you have all the music and notify Mark if there are any missing songs (preferably prior to rehearsal), if possible.

There are two versions of Stout-Hearted Men (308 & 308A) and Speed Your Journey (328 & 328A). For Speed Your Journey, the correct version is 328A and should be marked as such on your copy. For Stout Hearted Men, you should have version 308A, but it portably has'nt been marked as such on your copy. The only difference between the versions is that the version we are rehearsing (308A) has the long held (extended) notes in the last few bars.

If you are unsure whether you have the correct version, please check with Paul or Mark. If you printed the online version of Stout- Hearted Men sent by Paul last month, you should have the correct version.

# Ku-ring-gai Male Choir

## 2021 – Index of Songs (updated 25/03/21)

### Folder (Library)

|      |                                  |     |                                 |
|------|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 063  | I'm gonna walk                   | 424 | The Anvil Chorus                |
| 074  | The Lord's Prayer                | 431 | Danny Boy                       |
| 129  | The Soldier's Chorus *           | 457 | How can I keep from singing.    |
| 149  | What would I do without my music | 461 | Ose Shalom.                     |
| 258  | Bird Songs at Eventide           | 470 | Non Nobis*                      |
| 296  | The Riff Song *                  | 479 | En Route                        |
| 308A | Stout Hearted Men                | 486 | Yesterday                       |
| 328A | Speed your Journey               | 529 | The very best Time of the Year. |
| 385  | Sing a Song of Sixpence          | 532 | Time to say Goodbye.            |
| 403  | It's a Grand Night for Singing   | 539 | Loudly let the Trumpet Bray *   |
| 419  | The Huntsman Chorus              |     |                                 |

\* Not yet issued.

Total: 21

### Red Book

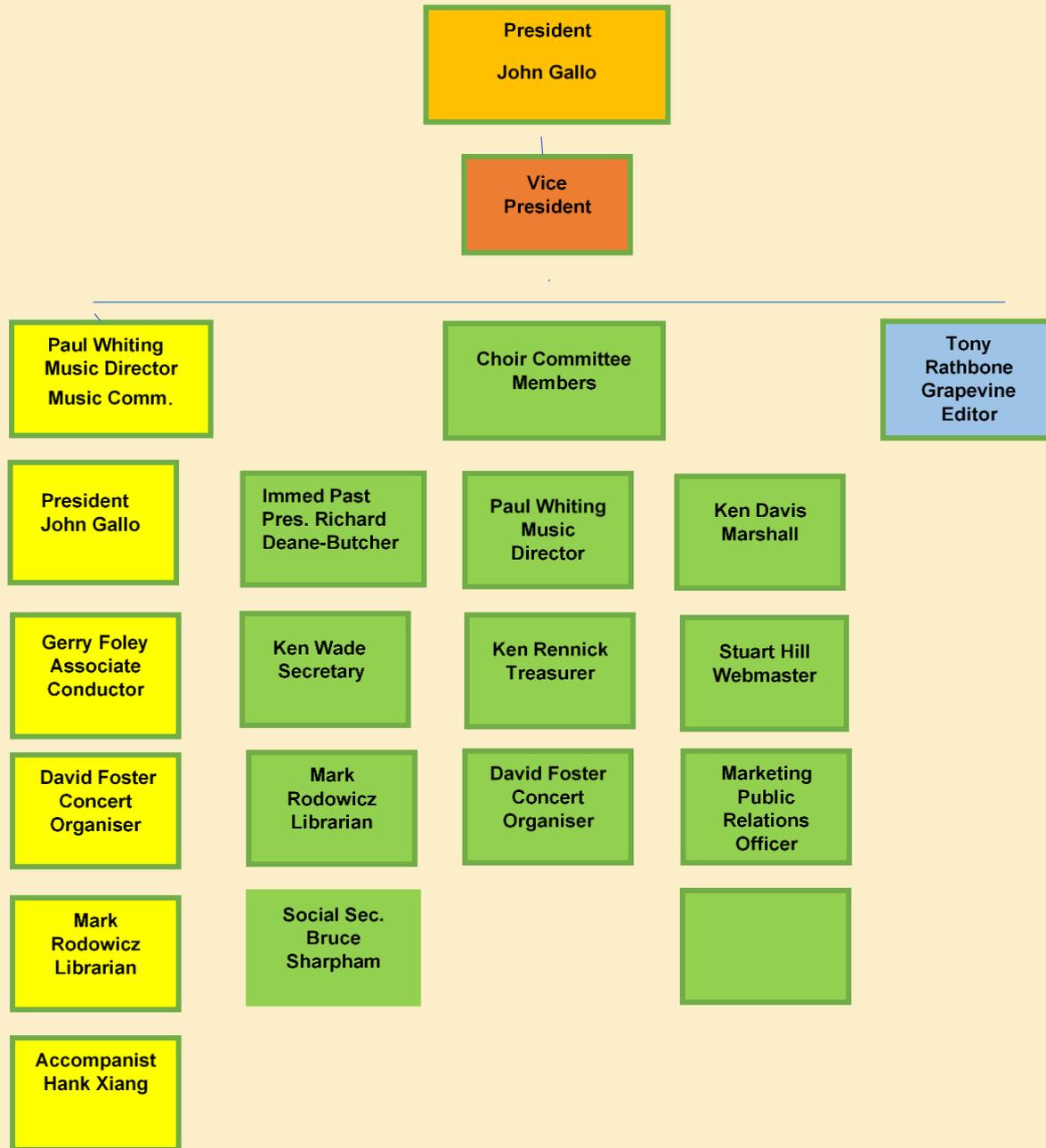
|     |                                |     |                              |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| P3  | Anthem                         | P45 | She                          |
| P6  | Ave Verum                      | P53 | Shenandoah                   |
| P8  | Bring Him Home                 | P58 | Sixteen Tons                 |
| P12 | Calon Lan                      | P68 | Tell my Father.              |
| P22 | Friendship in Song             | P77 | There is Nothing like a Dame |
| P32 | Hand me down my silver Trumpet | P87 | When the Saints              |
| P38 | My Lord What a Mornin'         | P99 | You raise me Up.             |
| P39 | Rachie                         |     |                              |

Total 15

Grand Total: 21+15 = 36

### Trivia Answers

1. The Village People
2. 1877
3. Hotmail
4. Madrid
5. Daintree Forest north of Cairns Australia
6. Berlin
7. China
8. Prides
9. Pacific
10. A diamond



Well folks that's all from me for another month, hope you enjoy the contents of the Autumn edition of Grapevine. Please I need your newsletter contributions to maintain the content interest each month. Please forward to me at [rathbone@tpg.com.au](mailto:rathbone@tpg.com.au) the deadline is usually one week prior to the last day of the month.

Keep safe  
In Harmony  
Tony Rathbone  
Editor