

WELCOME to our annual first Newsletter for the new Festival year.

‘To be or not to be – that has been our question’!

There has been much deliberation over the months and eventually we have settled on a mini-festival of 5 recitals commencing on Friday, 7 January – as usual in the wonderful surrounds of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat.

Perhaps not in quantity but certainly quality we will present a programme thoughtfully devised by our joint Assistant Directors – Mrs Judy Houston OAM and Dr Gary Ekkel. Judy and Gary have worked under the overarching cloud of not knowing where Covid-19 restrictions may steer the state as the weeks go by and the new year commences.

By starting the Festival on Friday, 7th January, we are able to avoid a clash with the National Road Cycling Races which had previously necessitated moving the opening recital to St Alipius Church at almost the last minute. Despite that setback, Festival 2020 was a great success and the feedback suggests that it was enjoyed by all.

Festival 2022 will certainly be different but we fervently hope that our loyal patrons will return in droves and we are certainly looking forward to welcoming you all back.

Voi Williams OAM
Editor

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Although travel restrictions mean that our director, Sergio de Pieri cannot be with us this January, he is delighted that Dr Gary Ekkel has accepted our invitation to share the assistant director role with me. Those who have been to the festival in previous years know the beautiful recitals Gary has created and directed for our festival over the years and how much we have loved them.

For many months now, our lives have been deeply affected by the reality of the pandemic and its far reaching consequences, the isolation, anxiety, economic hardship, and separation from family and friends.

We have needed the life giving beauty of music and the joy of live performances and of being together in that experience.

As the weather becomes warmer and the vaccination rates increase, Gary and I have been supported by our Board in carefully planning a three day festival which will be both beautiful and safe. We have planned five, very special recitals and chosen venues where audience members can socially distance. Our treasurer plans to hold the traditional outdoor breakfast on the Sunday morning.

The 22nd festival will open in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat where Gary Ekkel will direct a program of arias from smaller Bach and Buxtehude cantatas with soloists Quin Thomson, Sally Anne Russell, Christopher Roache and Oliver Mann, members of the Melbourne Baroque Orchestra’s strings and David Macfarlane, organ. The festival will end in St Patrick’s Cathedral again, with a solo

cello recital by Josephine Vains, inspired by the music of Spain.

We hope that you will be able to be with us in January 2022 – our 26th festival.

Judy Houston OAM *Dr Gary Ekkel*
Assistant Festival Directors

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The past two years have certainly been a case of highs and lows. We were very fortunate to complete our 25th Festival in January 2020 to great success. Then the pandemic hit and the whole world has changed. As you are aware we had to cancel our 2021 Festival and the uncertainties surrounding gatherings and safety for our patrons proved an ongoing concern. At the time we mentioned that we would endeavour to maintain some form of on-line presence through the year leading up to the 2022 Festival. Regrettably we were unable to source funds for this. As mentioned by Voi we have had some wonderful support from some of our Friends of the Festival which has allowed us to commence planning for a shortened Festival for 2022. Given the continuing upheaval of the pandemic, we are hopeful of presenting the Festival and look forward to enthusiastic support from you, our patrons, making a successful 2022 Festival and giving us a basis for a successful 2023 Festival in the future. Keep watching our Website for further advice.”

Graham Dent
Chairman

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Patrons attending Festival recitals will be required to show evidence that they are **double vaccinated** for Covid-19. We ask that this evidence can be readily produced in order to facilitate quick entry into the venues.

COMMUNICATIONS

When you receive this Newsletter, it will be early November which means quite possibly there will be changes to restrictions depending on the success or otherwise of the vaccination take up.

Please refer occasionally to our website – www.ballaratorgans.com.au where we will post any important messages or last-minute changes should they occur.

FESTIVAL SPONSORS:

We are most grateful to all sponsors of the Festival.

The City of Ballarat. GOLD SPONSOR
Ballarat Grammar Bruce & Adela Bartrop
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FESTIVAL DONORS:

The board – and particularly the treasurer, enormously appreciate the loyal donors who have already made contributions toward Festival 2022. Thank you to you all.

Festival Donors are known as **Friends of the Festival** and we value the contribution of each and everyone who supports us in this way.

A receipt for your donation to the Festival of Fine Music Fund will of course, be forwarded.

The following donors have contributed during 'lockdown' over the past sixteen months and are acknowledged with our sincere gratitude.

GOLD DONORS

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FESTIVAL BOOKINGS

Please book via one of the following ways before 17th December.

- on the festival brochure
- online via the website
- online via Trybooking

We are presenting only 5 recitals however we are still offering a discount for the whole festival. Please book early and note that entry is by prepaid ticket only – no door sales.

Voi Williams Editor

ORGANS of the BALLARAT GOLDFIELDS

A Festival of Fine Music

FESTIVAL 2022

NEWSLETTER

ONE

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