



Illawarra Choral Society

News Bulletin 1 2020

Dear members

Well our summer break from choir is now over, and I hope you all are as excited as I am to get back to singing in our fabulous choir once again. I trust you all have had a wonderful and refreshing break, and have managed to avoid any danger from the devastating bushfires.

New Musical Director

Over the break, the committee has been working to negotiate an agreement with our new Musical Director - Dr Carlos Alvarado - who may be known to some of you. Keith tells me that at Christmas 2005, the ICS joined with the Conservatorium Choir and The City of Wollongong Symphony Orchestra under Carlos for a program which included Saint-Saens' Christmas Oratorio (Danielle, incidentally, was the soprano soloist), Patrick Doyle's Non Nobis Domine from Kenneth Branagh's film Henry V and the Hallelujah Chorus. I am pleased with the progress we made to come to an agreement and hope you all enjoy singing under Carlos' direction this year.

Dr Carlos Alvarado holds a Master of Fine Arts in Choral Conducting and a Doctorate degree in Symphonic and Opera Conducting from Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. Carlos has been the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Manly Warringah Choir since 2003, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Ryde Hunters Hill Symphony Orchestra since 2014 and was founder and principal conductor of the WIN Wollongong Symphony Orchestra from 2005-2011.

New Accompanist

We are also pleased to announce that Helen Barker has signed on as our Accompanist for 2020. Many of you will know Helen already as she has been a member of Illawarra Choral Society since around 2011, singing in the Altos.

Helen Barker is a piano teacher with degrees in music from East Anglia and Leeds universities, and has taught in primary schools in London, Kuwait, Dubai, Melbourne and the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music. Helen is an accomplished pianist, long time member of ICS and will be a great asset and sidekick to Carlos this year. When not to play at our concerts, Helen will still sing with the Altos.

Please ensure you make Carlos and Helen most welcome on Monday.

First rehearsal for 2020

The first rehearsal for 2020 will be held on Monday 3 February at 7pm (that's tomorrow) in our usual room - Rm 107 Building 25, UoW. The University have advised that we can use this room for the first four weeks and we'll advise about an alternate venue for the remainder of the Spring Semester in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, our usual room is booked for lectures until 8.30pm each Monday evening this semester.

First concert in May

Our first concert of the year is Mozart's Requiem, currently planned for Saturday May 9 at 2pm. We are currently looking at alternate venues so the date for this concert may change. Music will be distributed on Monday evening at rehearsal. There are 2 suitable versions of the score:

- Novello's Original Octavo edition - this score is smaller format (250mm x 180mm), only 84 pages, lighter to hold but with smaller text and has no bar numbers marked. Bar numbers will be important for us to know where Carlos is directing us to sing from etc. Members with this score will need to write in the bar numbers for reference.
- The New Novello Choral Edition, edited and with a new completion by Duncan Druce - this score is larger format (275mm x 195 mm), 154 pages, heavier to hold but with larger text and has bar numbers already marked.

We have not borrowed any extra versions of the score at this stage as we are hoping that we have sufficient copies between the 2 versions in our library, and some members already having personal copies of this score. Please let your voice rep know at rehearsal if you have your own copy, so we can then determine if we need to hire additional copies. Some people may need to share for the first couple of weeks.

Fees due by 31 March 2020

Please pay by cheque or cash to Tania at rehearsal, in a named envelope, or via direct deposit:

Please note that these are new bank account details*:

BSB	032 695
Account No.	552640
Account Name	Illawarra Choral Society

* During the break, Tania organised to open a new account with Westpac so that we are able to pay suppliers and guest artists via Direct Deposit now, rather than requiring cheques for all payments. The old Commonwealth Bank account will operate for a short time, but please switch over our account details in your own online banking to avoid using the old account.

Fees for 2020.

Working members:	\$200
Non-working members:	\$180
Under 25 Students	\$60

I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone again tomorrow night. Stay hydrated!

Kind Regards

Debbie

Debbie Brookfield
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Illawarra Choral Society
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Upcoming Events

Armidale Music Foundation - 23rd Choral and Orchestral Weekend

Camille Saint-Saens Messe de Requiem

"I would love to invite you to come and join me at the Armidale Choral Weekend. It has been my pleasure previously to work with singers from various parts of the country at the Armidale Choral Weekend to bring a piece of music to life. The weekend is all about making great music in a fabulous community of people who love to sing and have fun. I really hope you will join us in March this year. I look forward to seeing you there." – Paul Holley OAM

When: March 6 – 8, 2020

Where: New England Girls' School, Armidale

With the Armidale Symphony Orchestra and guest soloists

Optional Preliminary Rehearsal Friday 2pm

Rehearsals Friday evening, Saturday & Sunday

Final Concert 2:30pm Sunday March 8

Music available to purchase

Accommodation available at NEGS or one of Armidale's many motels

Visit our website www.amfchoral.org.au

Go to www.trybooking.com/BALVW for more details, registration and cost.