



Newsletter

Organ Society of Queensland

www.organsociety.com.au

April 2018

President's Column

As many will recall we had a very fulfilling last couple of months of 2017 and it is amazing that Christmas, which seems only like yesterday, and Easter have both passed for 2018.

Firstly to recap on the close of last year, there was the "Duelling Organs" Concert in November involving two organs, which included a digital copy of the Melbourne Town Hall organ; a national first. A great musical success, with much positive audience feedback and good fund raising for Hummingbird House; we raised around \$3,700 for them.

Last event for 2017 was a brilliant presentation by Dr Steven Nisbet of music for Advent and Christmas at St Andrews. And at the event we welcomed four new members to the Society. We are glad to meet you there, and hopefully get to know you better at 2018 activities.

So, on to 2018. Trying to fit in with all that goes on around us is quite a challenge, but our current plans are laid out later in the newsletter with dates attached to the closer events and general plans for the latter half of the year. As soon as the 'moving-parts' have stopped, we will finalise those dates and communicate them to you

See you at the Baroque to Bacharach concert.

Peter Robinson
President OSQ

Visiting the Klais Grand Organ at QPAC....

Dr Robert Boughen has invited us to visit the Klais Concert Hall Organ at QPAC 2.00pm Sunday 22 April 2018. The last time we were able to visit was in 2011, so the opportunity is infrequent. We will firstly be introduced to the organ by Dr Boughen who I believe will briefly relate its history and design criteria, and demonstrate its tonality. As we know, he was the principal consultant on specifying the organ and remains its honorary curator. After this the console will be open to those who wish to play, so bring your music.



Of course we have already advertised this event, and a number of you have registered. If you have yet to register your interest in attending please contact our secretary, Denis Wayper, by email wayperd@bigpond.net.au or phone 3263 9452. Please do this by Sunday 15 April as the list must close then so that details may be passed to QPAC.

This event is subject to the contingencies of the management of QPAC, and may be cancelled at short notice should other needs arise for use of the concert hall. Please ensure we have your contact details (Mobile phone for preference) otherwise any cancellation cannot be communicated to you.



The Organ Society has a Facebook Page.
<https://www.facebook.com/organsocietyqld>

Organ Scholarship Scheme

Currently the student at the Anglican Church Grammar School in Brisbane - "Churchie" is continuing to progress with his OSQ Organ Scholarship.

He is now in year 12 and has begun his second year of organ tuition at the school. We feel this is an important role the Society can play in encouraging young people to develop skills on the King of Instruments.

We plan more scholarships for 2018, so if you have a candidate, please bring the Scholarship to their attention.

Communication and Marketing



The committee is looking to have someone assist with a new Communication and Marketing role for the Society. We have plenty of ideas and avenues to follow, but we need a person with some skills to focus on that area to help the Society directly.

If you are willing to assist, or you have family members with these skills, please telephone the Secretary Denis Wayper 3263 9452 right away.

We have learned a lot by cooperating with the Theatre Organ Society this last year for the Thomas Heywood Masterpieces event, so we think we can do more....

What else are we doing.....

CHARITY CONCERT 20th May at St Andrews

Last year we supported a Medical Research Scholarship with a sold out concert, in memory of a Society member, Alastair Rushworth, who was a family member of the noted English Organ builders Rushworth and Dreaper. The concert title was *Bach to Beatles*. And building on the success of this program and format we shall follow up with another fund-raising event entitled *Baroque to Bacharach*, on May 20th 2018, again for the Research Fund. We ask all members to support this concert featuring two of our stellar performers Ross Windsor and Dr Steven Nisbet. The question is who plays which part of the program?

ORGAN RAMBLES

For newer members, that is the colloquial term to describe visiting organs with a view to hearing and playing them. We will conduct a few of these this year, hoping to satisfy the interests of newer members, and to investigate new organs in the region. Local Organ Builder Simon Pierce has completed two new ones that we shall visit – a rebuild of the Sacred Heart Rosalie organ, and the new major mechanical organ at St Pauls Ipswich. Plus we also find other gems of more modest size, tucked away with lesser numbers of admirers.

CITY HALL ORGAN CONCERTS

This year it seems that the city hall entertainments organisers have scheduled more organ concerts than for quite some years, with visiting and local organists. See the Column "Exciting Organ Concerts" overleaf for the next concerts. As further dates are confirmed they will be placed in the Calendar at the Society's website www.organsociety.com.au

♫ ♫ *Flashbacks ... An occasional series of organ history.*

The Brisbane Courier, Sat 9th August 1930 SCARLETT – CANNON RECITAL

To-night, in the Brisbane City Hall, Messrs. Robert Dalley-Scarlett and Herbert Cannon will submit a programme of organ music. Mr. Scarlett's offerings include Wolstenholme's "Sonata," in the style of Handel, Harvey Grace's "Fantasia," and a group of chorale preludes.

Mr. Cannon will play the Bach "Tocatta Fugue in D Minor," Caesar Franck's "Prelude, Fugue, and Variation," and Ireland's "Elegiac Romance." Miss Mildred Bell and Mr. Albert Falk will render vocal numbers.



Herbert Cannon
Organist at St Andrews
1935-45



Robert Dalley-Scarlett
Organist at St Andrews
1920-32

Society News

We welcomed a group of new members late in 2017 and early this year. We thought it might be interesting to hear about their respective organ music journeys, so here are some brief Bios:

Bruce Walker

Initially I learnt piano and at the age of 15 was invited to learn to play a 2 manual Fincham pipe organ in the Bairnsdale Methodist Church (Vic.). In later years I played in a few Melbourne churches prior to my move to Noosa in 1995. Since then I have been organist at the Sunrise Uniting Church playing a 2 manual digital organ. I also have a 3 manual organ at home.

John Dobson

John Dobson is an emeritus physics professor at Griffith University, having retired in December 2017. He played organ as a young man and took it up again around 2015 with encouragement from Ralph Morton. He is currently one of the volunteer organists at St Stephen's Cathedral, and also plays at Nazareth Lutheran with encouragement from Adam Hoey. John has also been an amateur jazz pianist.

Andrew Dicks

Andrew was born and educated in England. He left school with a grade 8 distinction went on to study science at university that led to a career in industry and research. Andrew was a church organist/choirmaster in the 1980s and has spent many years conducting, accompanying and performing in choirs. He holds an ARCO diploma and counts it as privilege to have sung with the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus in concert venues around the world.

Barry Firth

BARRY FIRTH moved to Northern NSW – Murwillumbah – just two years ago, with a lot of experience as a choral singer and amateur pianist. Since coming here, Barry has sold the piano and purchased a digital organ. He has begun to play for services, at All Saints Anglican church, where there is a good instrument. Barry's father was a well-known church organist in Geelong, Victoria. However, Barry has spent the first 68 years of his life resolutely avoiding playing the instrument. Taking up the organ after being a pianist is not for the faint-hearted. Success is now "just around the corner".

Jeniffer Ellam

I am an organist at Kenmore Uniting Church. I was encouraged to start playing the organ as a 12 year old pianist for the Nambour Methodist Church Junior Choir, and was mentored by several wonderful organists and the Choirmaster in Nambour. I was hooked on playing the organ from that time on! I have an AMusA in pianoforte and studied at Qld Conservatorium and Elder Conservatorium (Adelaide) a long time ago. I have joined the Organ Society to motivate me to improve my skills and repertoire, extend my limited knowledge of pipe organs, and meet with other organists for encouragement and advice. But ultimately, to enjoy lovely organ music played by experts.

Not a new member, but here is a Bio of our President Peter Robinson

Peter Robinson was captivated by the organ at his first school chapel service at Wesley College Melbourne at the age of 10. He studied organ throughout his time at Wesley and has maintained an active interest since, while pursuing a career as a Military and Airline pilot. Upon retirement from airline flying he has been able to devote more time to the organ and regularly plays at various churches throughout Brisbane.

Exciting Organ Concerts:

Tuesday 10th April, 2018, 1.15pm

City Hall Willis Organ Series

Brett Leighton, Brisbane City Hall

Sunday 22nd April, 2018, 2.00pm

Make a Joyful Noise

Eduarda van Klinken and others
St Lukes Anglican, Toowoomba. Phone 4639 1910

Saturday 5th May, 2018, 3.30pm

Mystic organ 1: Metamorphosis

Christopher Wrench, Christ Church St Lucia

Tuesday 22nd May, 2018, noon

Lunchtime Concert

Christopher Wrench, Brisbane City Hall

Saturday 26th May, 2018, 3.30pm

Bach 2: Music of the Trinity

Christopher Wrench, Christ Church St Lucia

Saturday 23rd June, 2018, 3.30pm

Mystic Organ 2: Let God Arise

Christopher Wrench, Christ Church St Lucia

Society Events:

Sunday 22 April 2.00pm

Klais Organ Visit

QPAC South Brisbane

(members who have registered only)

Sunday 20 May, 2.30pm

Baroque to Bacharach Concert

St Andrews Uniting Church City.

STEVEN NISBET + ROSS WINDSOR

Saturday 11 June 10.00am (to be confirmed)

Brisbane Organ Ramble

Sacred Heart Rosalie, Ashgrove Marist Brothers College

Contact us www.organsociety.com.au

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Encourage another organ music lover to join the Society

Benefits of membership:

- Organ Australia journal 3 times per year
- Organ Rambles to magnificent instruments
- Advance notice of organ concerts

Ask for an enrolment form from the Treasurer, PO Box 6132, FAIRFIELD GARDENS 4103 or print out from www.organsociety.com.au