

Barwon Heads
Fine Music Society Inc
ABN 55677335966

2020 Annual Report



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for a most extraordinary year as we all know! With a shortened period, we were still very fortunate with the wonderful range of artists who entertained us!

We began with “Jazz in July” at the Thirteenth Beach Golf Club which was a brilliant concert with the “Georgia Brooks Swingtet.



August was a very special month as, where with the inspiration of Natale Lewington, Chorale Director as Narrator and the wonderful Geelong Symphony Orchestra with conductor Kym Dillon we were able to bring “Peter and the Wolf”. this timeless classic to our seaside town– a most exciting event for Barwon Heads

Thanks to generous grants from the City of Greater Geelong and the Barwon Heads Community Bendigo Bank, the weekend commenced with a concert exclusively for Barwon Heads Primary School Students, where students , teachers , parents and grandparents were delighted to listen & understand more about playing in a Symphony Orchestra .

This was followed by two further performances in a packed Barwon Heads Community Hall where Natale & the Orchestra delighted the audiences of all ages .



The September concert had its drama as the artists were unable to come at the last minute so we were very fortunate that Kym Dillon again, along with local musician Brigid Mantelli were able to “step into the breach!” & give us a wonderful recital: Bridget on flute & Kym Dillon on piano. Kym honoured us with his recently composed, brilliant piano sonata (all by memory as he said it was too complicated to write down!)



The Decadence concert was a great celebration for the tenth anniversary of the Chorale with great appreciation to Natale for her leadership, the founder, Jo Larson, the original accompanist, Hazel Mitchell & current accompanist, Sara Brownell, who are both wonderful pianists & have all contributed great support over the 10 years! Funds raised from this concert were over \$1300 for the SES!

The Seraphim Trio plus one was another thrilling performance in the Hall. Once again, we were so fortunate to have such an inspirational & professional performance from ANAM! In December we were very pleased to have local bass baritone Manfred Polenz ably accompanied by Anne Pilgrim, another wonderful contributor to local music experiences.



Our Barwon Heads Chorale is always a strong contributor to the popular Combined Churches Christmas Carols in the Hall; another successful occasion!

We had a brief musical start to 2020!

Firstly, in February, Selmo & Rita gave a delightful performance of piano & violin. Then to follow, our very special International Guitar Duo on the Labour weekend, Johannes Muller & Laura Fraticelli gave us another thrilling & intimate recital & then, fortunately managed to escape back to Europe with the threat of COVID 19 suddenly threatening us all.



I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their support throughout the difficult year & hope their love of music has helped & supported them through the long & lonely periods we have all experienced to a greater or lesser degree.

I personally found it a very busy & sometimes exhausting time. I needed to keep doing so it was not nearly as relaxing as I had anticipated? Writing up about performances was a “soda” compared to my efforts of choosing subjects for “Life is better with Music!” With all the facts & reminiscences required, I’m a novice so I wish to thank all those who have supported me, particularly Trish of “Talking Heads!”

We are looking forward to a more normal series next year & concert goers & Chorale members can enjoy their friendships once again.

Jenny Wallace Smith – President

CHORALE REPORT

The second half of 2019 was a busy one with the magnificent “Decadence” concert celebrating our 10th anniversary. This was a spectacular afternoon, with some new music and some old favourites, followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea. We rounded out the year with the traditional Christmas Carols performance, as always to a packed hall.



Then came 2020.

What can I say? It was pretty pants generally.

From the choir’s perspective, I think we managed 4 rehearsals (?) before the world went into meltdown. It seems so long ago now, I can’t remember.

In the early days of the pandemic, several clusters and subsequent deaths within choirs overseas provided a frightening wake up call for us all.

The risk of spreading COVID-19 virus is high for choirs because we spit when we sing. Choice topic I know... I can remember joking with the choir about how much I wanted to see them spit so I could see they were projecting sound. Ah memories....

So why is “sing spitting” so dangerous? While any large droplets you project as you are singing fall quickly to the ground, tiny aerosols remain suspended in the air and be can inhaled like cigarette smoke. And as we know, singer inhale and exhale deeply and frequently. And the main part of the body attacked by COVID-19? The lungs.

I found an article on the ABC which I will paraphrase here, on methods which could be used by choirs to avoid the spit problem:

It's impossible to say how long aerosols remain airborne, so air quality expert and advisor to the WHO, Lidia Morawska, says it's about mitigating the risk. She says singing outside is ideal for minimising lingering aerosols... however if a light breeze picks up, both aerosols and droplets

would travel two metres in two seconds... so for this reason, she recommends singing indoors with singers spaced 4-6 metres apart, wearing face shields and with perspex screens between each of the singers and in front of the audience.... Yeah right. Like that's going to happen.

There were a couple of virtual choirs doing the rounds this year – and several Chorale members asked why we didn't do the same.

These online choirs might inspire the false belief that we can all just log into a zoom meeting and continue singing together beautifully. However, the background which no one talks about is that these video performances are made by each singer recording themselves separately to a click-track and a video editor carefully stitching the videos together. Sneaky, no?

Live online rehearsals/ performances fall apart because of the lag in most video calls. By the time a singer sees the conductor's downbeat on their computer and their voice is relayed back to the conductor, whole seconds can pass by. Add the different lag times of each singer's internet speed and you have an unintelligible cacophony of noise.

Online platforms like zoom and WhatsApp also assume one person's voice should be prioritised at a time, so the most recent person to speak or sing loudly will be given priority. This makes blending voices online almost impossible. Tweaking each participant's audio settings can help, but requires technical know-how and equipment beyond an amateur choir.

Then there is the problem of singing alone – whether to record a click track or to join an online rehearsal. When you are in a choir you are surrounded by other people singing the same part as you, so you join your voice to the chorus. Most people find singing solo quite daunting, particularly if they are unsure of how their part goes without the support of their section. Further, unless you have perfect pitch potentially you won't be singing in tune with all the others in your section. As in the paragraph above, many of the "performances" we have heard this year have been electronically altered to ensure all the voices are perfectly in tune with each other.

Sadly, I am not a sound engineer and don't know how to do all these marvellous things. On top of that, I work full time, in a hospital (as you know, my Chorale Director position is unpaid so I need to pay the rent somehow! ☺). Under normal, non-COVID circumstances my job could be described as busy. As you can imagine, this year the healthcare world became slightly hectic, and I have had very little time after work to do anything at all. The upshot is - at this point we will not be holding online rehearsals for the Barwon Heads Chorale.

So on to 2021. Fingers crossed a vaccine comes through.

Until then, I don't think we can risk rehearsing as we normally would, for the obvious health risks involved. Singing outdoors is never very good unless you have stacks of high-tech AV to

mix the sound and fold it back so the singers can hear themselves, plus as above, there are still inherent health risks. I don't think we have a space big enough for us all to rehearse 4 metres apart in Barwon Heads, and I really don't think any of us would enjoy singing with face shields and Perspex walls erected between each other and in front of the audience. Finally, unfortunately I just don't have the time or energy to go out and learn how to run a mixing desk for online singing.

In conclusion...

Firstly, thank you to Sara Brownell our pianist. Sara is not only a fabulous musician but also a very hard-working GP who has been run off her feet in 2020 for obvious reasons. Additionally, she has managed a young family without any extended family assistance due to family being trapped in Melbourne during the lockdown. Finally, her husband is an anaesthetist - one of the most high-risk jobs on the front line in healthcare. Sara is a superwoman, she just doesn't wear the tiara, short skirt and thigh high boots. (Or does she...?)

Thank you to the BHFMS Committee for taking the fees at rehearsals for all their assistance at Chorale events setting up, doing marketing, taking door fees and the endless, endless cleaning.

Thank you to Jo Larson, our founder, for being Jo.

And finally thank you to all the Choralians. It's been a rough year. It's been good to hear from you every now and then when I sent out an update, and I enjoyed our one memorable and slightly hysterical zoom catchup.

As soon as we get that vaccine in our hot little hands (or should I say stuck in our hot little arms) – WE'RE BACK! Until then – stay safe everyone and have a Merry Christmas – with hopefully a happier and healthier New Year!

Natale Lewington - Chorale Director



Barwon Heads Fine Music Society Inc
Statement of Accounts for Year ending 30 June 2020

Income	2019/2020	2018/2019
Membership Subscriptions	2225.00	2020.00
Concerts	2078.00	5185.00
Jazz in July/Peter and Wolf/Seraphim	(Jazz in July) 4905 (Seraphim) 7099.41 (Peter Wolf) 5010.85 =17015.26	(Jazz in July 2019 part income) 3500.00 (Peregrine) 4145.00 (Kiazma) 2592.00
Chorale Fundraiser Concert	1228.5	2073.30
Chorale Fundraiser Raffle		742.00
Chorale	5345.15	7069.10
City of Geelong- Seniors	450.00	450.00
City of Geelong – Peter and the Wolf		6000.00
Stronger Communities Grants/Donations for hall stage refurbishment		
Donations		
Sponsorship Bendigo Bank		6000.00
Sundries		
TOTAL	28341.91	39776.40
Payments		
Advertising	4300.55	4406.70
Artists/Musicians	2530.00	7691.00
Printing & Postage	710.07	692.50
Piano Tuning/Maintenance	450.00	450.00
Venue Hire – Hall & 13 th Beach	0.00	350.00
Church space rental	0	1200.00
Chorale	11728.66	10292.17
GSO/Seraphim/Jazz in July	(Jazz in July) 750.00 (Seraphim) 4400.00 (GSO) 10320.00 =15470.00	(Peregrine) 1664.00 (Kiazma) 1699.96
Audio	2337.00	866.00
Catering	2477.79	1004.33
Catering Jazz in July	6390.00	
Licences, Insurance,	781.1	1013.33
Sundries	510.00	
Bank Charges	2.00	1.40
Website Maintenance	662.50	1539.10
Total	48349.67	32870.49

Statement of Profit & Loss

		Fine Music	Chorale
Balance at Bank 30/6/19	38067.44	29354.88	8712.56
Plus cash at hand 30/6/19	895.00	270.00	625.00
Opening Balance 30/6/19	38962.44	29624.88	9337.56
Add receipts	28341.91		
Total	67304.35		
Less Payments	48349.67		
Expected Bank sub-total at 30/6/20 (with no unbanked receipts)	18954.68	14772.13	4182.55
Less cash not yet banked at 30/6/20	0	0	0
Expected Bank sub-total at 30/6/20 (with no unbanked receipts)	18954.68	14772.13	4182.55
Actual Balance at Bank 30/6/20	18954.68		
Bank Account Profit Loss for the year= (\$18954.68 - \$38067.44)	-19112.76	-14312.80	-4530.01
Plus cash at hand 30/6/20	0	0	0
Subtotal Profit Loss for the year 2020	-19112.76	-14312.80	-4530.01
Less \$895 (Last year's cash at hand)	-895	-270	-625
Full Profit Loss for the year 2020	-20007.76	-14852.80	-5155.01

In the opinion of the Committee, the Financial Report as set out in this document represents a true & fair view of the financial position of the Barwon Heads Fine Music Society Inc, as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

The Financial Statement has been certified in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee & is signed for an on behalf of the Committee



Leanne Mumford, Treasurer



Maggie Isom, Secretary

Dated 16th November 2020

Barwon Heads Fine Music Society Inc (BHFMS) is not a "Prescribed Association" (i.e. revenue of \$200,000. Or Assets over \$500,000) therefore is not required to have its accounts audited

We thank you and our sponsors for your support over this last year, as we have worked to bring quality musical events for the community to enjoy

Remember our concerts are held on the third Sunday of each Month and do check our website for details of all the musical events
[www. barwonheadsfinemusic.org.au](http://www.barwonheadsfinemusic.org.au)

