

Barwon Heads  
Fine Music Society Inc  
ABN 55677335966

# 2022-23 Annual Report



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The Barwon Heads Fine Music Society has been presenting concerts for over 15 years now and our purpose is to bring quality musical artists to perform in our community at an affordable price and we try to do that for each of our performances.

The year began with the annual Jazz in July event – a lunch at 13th Beach Golf Club, with the wonderful Stevenson's Rockets and a fabulous afternoon of good old fashioned traditional jazz



In August it was back in the Anglican church on a rainy afternoon to hear the beautiful baritone voice of Tom Healey accompanied by Sonaka on the BHFMS beautiful upright grand piano.



In September we were very pleased to welcome the Chorale Conductor Terry Norman on the Harpsichord, with his wife Meredith singing Soprano and Helen Duggan on flute. The harpsichord was brought from Terry's home with the assistance of one of our Chorale members – and Terry gave a wonderful performance on this fascinating instrument.



On a sunny Sunday in October, the Barwon Heads Community Hall was filled with the Sounds of Music! The Barwon Heads Chorale had come together again after nearly 3 years to sing a wonderful range of music with the audience joining in with some fabulous community singing. The concert was a part of the Victorian City of Geelong Seniors Festival. Terry Norman, the new Chorale conductor, accompanied by the very accomplished Sara Brownell the Chorale performed a wide range of musical treats.



As is our custom, door takings from the Chorale concerts are given to a different community group, and in 2022 this was the Barwon Heads CFA. CFA member Brendon gave us some good tips for the summer season. The cheque was presented at the Annual General Meeting in November.

The Chorale sang again at the Centenary of the Barwon Heads Community Hall

The 2023 year began in February with the Duo Bliss, featuring harpist Jacinta Dennett with Nadia Piave as the voice.

The performance includes re-imagined evergreens like Greensleeves, Robert Burns' Green Grow the Rashes, Being Green, and Kate Bush's Wuthering Heights, and compositions by artists including Joni Mitchell, Miles Davis, Tom Waits, and Green Day. In essence, GREEN is a musical contribution to being green, sustainable, and ecologically conscious, and this concert aims to continue sustaining the creative ecosystem in the regional arts arena



In March a large audience was treated to a truly wonderful concert by young celtic harpist Quinlan Hames and classical guitarist Carlen Gong. Two very talented young men who started playing when they were very young and each graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts

They took us on a magical musical international journey – some of the highlights were: an amazing rendition a Baroque Flamenco by Deborah Henson- Conant, then the lustful moody sounds of the Elements by Mary Doumany (2003) Quin then presented his own composition “Fantastic Furniture” written during the pandemic on a chair bought from Fantastic furniture –



In April, our third of the concerts featuring the harp: this time with harp and piano, presented by two marvelously talented musicians, Donna Coleman, piano and Jacinta Dennett, harp. Neither is a stranger to our concerts, and it was a great pleasure to welcome them again. The varied program began with Angelo Francis Pinto's "American Fantasia", based on popular tunes of its day. The final treat was a piano solo from Donna, Harold Arlen's 'Somewhere over the rainbow", in a brilliant jazz arrangement by Keith Jarrett.



Our May concert was quite different: the Illumine Trio, comprising Sonoka Miyake on piano, Jenny Ingram, viola and Allister Cox on clarinet presented two excellent trios to a packed Anglican church. The full house appreciated the stunning combination of the sensitive sounds of the viola, along with the lilting, lightness of the clarinet and the beautiful piano as the haunting tune bringing it all together .



The June concert featured Trombone and piano! Would it work? Well indeed it did, as we were shown by a “Winter Duo” - Stewart Armitage on trombone, accompanied by Sonoka Miyake on the piano. Stewart and Sonoka began with “Daybreak”, a piece by Nicola Ferro. The beginning was mellow, and it flowed like honey. Stewart then demonstrated the virtuosity of his instrument, with two exercises by Maro Bordogni, which were originally devised for tenor singers. These put Stewart through his paces both rhythmically and melodically. The combination of trombone and piano surprised us all, in no small measure due to the great skills of Stewart and Sonoka.



Of course, all of these concerts don't just happen – there are the wonderful Committee members and volunteers, who despite their busy lives and family commitments still turn up to assist in setting up the Concerts, putting up the banners, tickets selling , helping with afternoon tea etc . Also, I would like to thank those members of the Chorale who stepped forward to take on some organizational roles during the year.

We could not continue to bring these wonderful musical events to the community without the help of our Sponsors- The Barwon Heads Community Bank, the City of Greater Geelong, Peter Molloy from RT Edgar, All Saints Op shop , and many of the local Barwon Heads businesses . Thank you very sincerely everyone!!

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the year and wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and a wonderful musical New Year!

**Maggie Isom – President**

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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The year from July 2022 to June 2023 has been, I believe, a reasonably successful year for the Barwon Heads Chorale. Numbers continue to be low, but the Barwon Heads Chorale has weathered the Covid-storm better than many other choirs, and it remains strong, which is no small achievement.

But given the continuing low numbers, I believe it is important that we continue looking for new members, including younger members. We need to continue to work hard to ensure the future of the choir. It would be wonderful to have families coming along together to sing: Mum and Dad, the children, grandparents etc.



During the 12 months in question we performed on the usual four occasions: Easter Day service at the Barwon Heads Anglican Church, Anzac Day in front of the Barwon Heads Hall, our major concert in the hall on 16th October "Come Sing With Us Again", and the annual Christmas Carols Concert also in the hall. We also sang for a special event to celebrate the centenary of the Barwon Heads Hall on 20th November.

All in all, I think we have had a reasonably successful year, and I have been pleased to notice a gradual increase in the quality of our singing: the blend has improved, as have the tone quality and the pitch. I have tried to use a mixture of well-known and new songs, and the singers have generally responded enthusiastically. While we all love what we know, it is healthy to be constantly widening our horizons and learning new material. And we all know that singing is a healthy activity: good for the mind as well as the body.

I believe we have come a long way during this twelve month period, and I think we can confidently look forward to even more successful years in the future.

I would particularly like to thank our accompanist Sara for her continued hard work accompanying the choir. Thanks also to Maggie, Leanne, and the members of the committee, who all put in a lot of time and effort to ensure the smooth functioning of this important group.

**Terry Norman – Chorale Director**





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 now 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)



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