**Brisbane Chamber Choir – schedule 2014**

Preamble:

While the current season model has served us well for two years I have decided not to continue it in 2014. Problems as I see it are (i) that too often singers who make a commitment at the beginning of the year are unable to see the commitment through at the time of the concert, to the significant disadvantage of the choir and without usually replacing themselves (ii) that while singers are not singing a particular season their contact and engagement with the choir is not maintained (iii) musical continuity is not easily maintained, and singers find it difficult to establish musical connections with other singers when they are not always participating in a season (iv) without it necessarily being my intention the only people who sing at St John's are those currently singing the season, and in my view the quality of our work in that place needs to improve if we are ethically to continue to receive $5000 in remuneration and perhaps $8000 of in – kind support through access to the venue for our own concerts.

For 2014 the BCC will consist of one group who will sing the whole year’s program. A second change for the year involves the implementation of an annual audition for the singers, and a more formal round of auditions for new singers who would seek to join the choir. The load will be less than in recent years, given the requirement that all singers do all events (there are 2 exceptions noted below where singers can be “occasional” participants. It will also be possible for some singers to decide to sing the St John’s components but not the concert components).

The full choir will sing the St John’s services and events, and the concerts in the following schedule. The three “exceptions” –

1. The recording of Australian music (mostly Aussie Gold) will be with a smaller group, most of whom have sung this repertoire frequently. It will be either at the end of February, or in August, and will involve serious preparation.
2. The Sydney trip is limited to 16 singers as a requirement of Music Viva. The standard of this group needs to be exceptional.

BCC Season (bold indicates full choir)–

1. Recording of Aussie Gold highlights
2. **March – mid-April – Good Friday**
3. **After Easter Michael O’Loughlan will conduct a concert as part of a festival to commemorate 300 years since the birth of CPE Bach.** (There is not a lot of chorus work in the piece, apparently)
4. **May 11th – A 10 minute spot in a concert by Brisbane Philharmonic Orchestra in City Hall (John Curro conducting) as part of 4MBS Festival of Classics**
5. **mid-July - Two Neighborhood concerts (see below) using the program for Sydney but sung by the full choir. This is an audience building exercise and promoting the rest of the year’s events**
6. **July-August – Australian Premiere Whitbourn “Annelies” for Choir and Chamber Ensemble (i.e. Anne Frank) (Concert early September)**

The timing of this may change, depending on the recording dates)

1. October 7th (Tuesday) Musica Viva concert – do we want the larger choir to sing in Newcastle/Canberra that weekend, leaving the small group to do Sydney on Tuesday?
2. **November – December – Christmas Concert**

St John’s responsibilities:

Ash Wednesday?

Nocturnes x 1

Three Eucharists – Richard Rodney Bennett/Langlais or Vierne/Edwards

Two Evensongs – TBA

Good Friday –

Involvement in a recording of hymns

Neighborhood concert/s – concerts in various suburban locations, possibly free admission, and actively encouraging subscriptions to the email newsletter and profiling BCC

Proposals:

Brochure: A brochure for the year will be developed, listing repertoire, and creating a subscription series with several advantages – a 30% discount (first year only) for new subscribers (everyone being a new subscriber), a free CD upon subscription, priority seating etc

Credit Card facility: Attending a concert in Chicago, I was surprised to see them accept credit card transactions through a small device attached to an ipad (or iphone) and an ipad app for processing. You signed by writing on the screen with your finger.