

# Magical Music Moments

Alchemy Chorus COVID Newsletter # 5

23 April 2020



## From the Committee

Welcome to our fifth edition of Magical Musical Moments – our ‘virtual’ weekly get together.

Sadly, we farewell Glyn, the cheery, cheeky guy with the twinkle in the eye. Dawn and Glyn were there from the beginning of Alchemy Chorus.



## Magical Music Moment

‘Bette's mention of singing in eisteddfods reminds me of my young(er) days doing that in Lismore and Grafton. One year in Lismore I sang in 13 sections, which required 15 songs. I must have been mad!

To sing in the Grafton Eisteddfod we had to drive 150km (whatever that is in miles - this is long before metric) after finishing work in Lismore at 5pm on a Friday.

Got to the first session when the section was almost over. I rushed backstage and told the chairman that my accompanist Ruth and I had arrived. Claire was standing at the back of the hall beside the adjudicator's box (Elizabeth Todd) and when the chairman said, "Madame Adjudicator, competitor No 2 was held up on the track in but has now arrived", Ms Todd said, "Oh, let's get on with it then", which Claire didn't take as a good omen. As it turned out she need not have worried! After the last session on the Sunday, I drove back to Lismore for work on Monday.

If an entrant had won any prizes (and wanted to collect them) it was a requirement that they perform in the final concert in the Saraton Theatre on the Monday night - so 150km to Grafton after work, sing, 150km back to Lismore in the dead of night for work on Tuesday. Saraton, by the way, is Notaras spelled backwards. The theatre was owned by the Notaras family.

The hall in Lismore where the eisteddfods were held, having been built at the time of Federation, was called the Federal Hall. Later it was known as the Federalette and was used for concerts, balls, recitals by artists touring with the ABC, travelling magicians (Dante, for example), hypnotists, comedians and all sorts of others. Then it was turned into a picture theatre (it remained just a hall where they showed movies) and now was known as the Vanity Theatre. It still had

its tin roof, and when it rained during a show (as it does in Lismore) they simply turned up the volume, as the rain got heavier and heavier until it was deafening.

One night, Claire and I were there and a drunk wandered in and sat right down the front. After a while he began to throw up (on the wooden floor) and it went on and on like Niagara Falls. It really added to the entertainment that night. The FederalHall/Federalette/Vanity Theatre was burned down in 1964 - the year we moved to Canberra'

*Barrie Virtue*



Barrie remembers *The Prologue* to the opera *Pagliacci* by Leoncavallo after 60 years. **click on the link:** [Will the real Barrie please stand up?](#)

### **Member Spotlight: #1 Congratulations to Judy and Gus Sinclair**

'On 23rd April we will be "celebrating" by ourselves our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

There has been a lot happen in all those years but we never expected to witness

what we are all experiencing now. Stay safe and well and wash your hands!!! ' P.S Judy's doctor has advised re surviving the lockdown, '***Don't do Nothing***'.

**Join the Sinclairs with [number 12](#) from our songbook**

*Judy and Angus Sinclair*

### **#2 Coooeee!**



***All Dressed up but nowhere to go***

'Hilary and her son Henry, together with Jeremy the black lab and Ernie the cat, moved in with me at the beginning of the year. We had a rocky start, but things are going well now, and we're glad to be together now that the dreaded virus is upon us.

Hilary is keeping busy taking 'Letterbox portraits 'of people in our suburb. They stand in their gardens and she takes the shots from the middle of the road. She'll take them again at the end of it all. All of the neighbours have loved it and she's 'captured' lots of other people too. Hilary, being Hilary, she just stops people in the

street and asks them if they'd like to be part of it - and they all say yes!  
I've lived here for 30 years and she's been here 3 months and she knows far more people than me.

This one of us is just a bit of fun. We're " all dressed up with nowhere to go! "

Missing you all',  
*Judith the cooeeee lady.*

**#3 Go to the ballet** (thanks to *Tom and Margaret Anderson* for recommending and sharing the link) at: <https://australianballet.com.au/the-ballets/digital-season> or just click on the **bluelink below.**  
[Australian Ballet](#)



### **Gloves on in the kitchen for inspiration, not a recipe**

Use any vegetable you might have. Heat veg oil in pan, add one chopped onion, garlic to taste and 2 cups chopped pumpkin (potato, sweet potato or other starchy vegetable), stir till softened. Add curry powder or paste (I use red paste) to taste. Stir and cook on low heat till fragrant. Add 1 cup of dried red or brown lentils, three cups water or stock (may need more). Lower heat. When close to cooked, add 1 can of chickpeas (if you

have them) and any green veg you have, (I used chopped kale and capsicum), and 166 ml can coconut milk to add flavour. Or use stock instead of coconut milk. I keep various flavours of stock cubes for these recipes. Add salt to taste. I am sure all of us in Alchemy Chorus are very used to improvising! Serve with rice. Nice with brown rice and pappadums. Serves 4.  
*Wendy Schmidt*

### **From the Prince of Wales Hospital Cupbored... It's breakout time!**



With a new defibrillator, Brian should be travelling home, down the Hume Highway on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>, humming, if not singing [number 58](#) (click on the link). Welcome home Brian.

### **Comedy Corner**

Have a belly laugh and a good sing with this *Virus from Wuhan* parody; you know the drill, click on the link below:

[Sound of Silence](#)

**We will be back!**

**In the meantime, send your stories to: [alchemychorus@gmail.com](mailto:alchemychorus@gmail.com)**