

Magical Music Moments

Alchemy Chorus COVID Newsletter # 9

21 May 2020



From the Committee

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

We will be back!

Magical Music Moment

My song goes round the world

"You were enjoying yourself in St Paul's this morning!" said a stranger in the crowd waiting for the ferry back up to London after visiting Greenwich, as I was. He was right. That Sunday morning I had joined old friends who were holidaying in London (I was working), David and Ursula Lawson (now sadly departed, and formerly of Hughes) for the morning service in Christopher Wren's great masterpiece. The three of us were in the choir of Wesley Uniting Church in Canberra and we sang the hymns that morning with gusto in the towering cathedral, accompanied by the cathedral choir and the thundering organ.

I was fortunate to have many opportunities in my working life, and on family holidays, to sing (with others of course) in the great cathedrals and concert halls of the world. Westminster Abbey was one. Another was the Chapel of King's College in Cambridge.

In contrast was the service in the remarkable and enormous steel-and-glass Crystal Cathedral at Garden Grove, a suburb of Los Angeles. It was close to

Christmas and we attended a concert on the Saturday night, with camels and donkeys in the processions down the aisles and 'angels' flying high up on wires. At the service next morning (this is where the TV program 'The Hour of Power' comes from) Charlton Heston read the lesson (the same Charlton Heston who once said, to the acclamation of millions of Americans, that he would give up his gun only when it was taken from his "cold, dead hands".

In Salt Lake City we heard the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir (**bit like the Alchemy Chorus***) and on Prince Edward Island in Canada we went to church where L M Montgomery used to be the organist and her husband the minister. On the day we were there the minister was welcoming visitors from the pulpit. Someone said they were from Toronto and the minister said, "We know where that is". I said, "I bet you don't know where Jerrabomberra is".

***Seriously Barrie? Maybe just a tiny bit like Alchemy Chorus!!!!**[Battle Hymn](#)

In Paris, being a Methodist from way back, I went to mass at Notre Dame. A young priest at the door was handing out leaflets headed "Audition Exceptionelle". It was exceptional all right - a recital that afternoon by the famous organist Pierre Cochereau. It was shattering. It's a wonder the roof didn't fall in. If it had they might have built a new roof that was fire-resistant.

At a concert in London's Royal Albert Hall compered by actor Robert Hardy, star of the TV series *All Creatures Great and*

Small, we sang along with choir, organ and the Band of the Coldstream Guards. Then when Claire and I visited the 600-year-old church in the Oxfordshire village of Ewelme, I saw a notice saying that there would be a performance of *Messiah* that night - and anyone was welcome to sing with the choir. It turned out that the choir consisted of about 15 young doctors or medical students who visited a small church at Christmas each year to sing Handel's great work. The congregation was about the same size as the choir, which was enlarged by one that night.

Barrie Virtue

Finish this terrific tale by joining [Handel, Barrie and the doctors](#) for one of the best singing moments ever.

Catch your breath, enjoy the guitar intro and now sing from our songbook #11 with [Jeff Buckley](#)

Message from Dawn McKay

Dawn McKay and family wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to all at Alchemy. Dawn and Glyn received so much joy and happiness when they attended choir each Thursday.

The support and love they experienced from all the folk was truly amazing and very much appreciated.

After Glyn's passing, she received over 150 cards, a fitting tribute to a wonderful man. Dawn is missing us all, however she sends her love. She will be back (when able) to catch up and thank us in person.

How about this song for Dawn #53, with the colour, grace and moves of the [Soweto Gospel Choir](#)

From the Linen Cupbored

Tell us what you are doing to keep busy, focused, entertained, at this weird time of lockdown. Bet you're pleased you're not living in a small house in the UK with a bunch of squabbling kids and without Canberra's glorious autumn sunshine! Click on this link, get past the squabbles and check out the performers here (*thanks to Wendy Schmidt for this link*):

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/01/825232156/u-k-families-lockdown-themed-rendition-of-les-mis-is-a-delight>

Tom's Time Capsule



How about singing some pure [Beatles Gold](#)

'Asked a girl what she wanted to be
She said, "baby, can't you see
I want to be famous, a star on the screen
But you can do something in between

Baby, you can drive my car
 Yes, I'm gonna be a star
 Baby, you can drive my car
 And maybe I'll love you"
 I told a girl that my prospects were good
 And she said, "baby, it's understood
 Working for peanuts is all very fine
 But I can show you a better time
 Baby, you can drive my car
 Yes, I'm gonna be a star
 Baby, you can drive my car
 And maybe I'll love you"
 Beep beep'm beep beep yeah
 Baby, you can drive my car
 Yes, I'm gonna be a star
 Baby, you can drive my car
 And maybe I'll love you
 I told a girl I can start right away
 And she said, "listen, babe, I got
 something to say
 I got no car and it's breaking my heart
 But I've found a driver and that's a start
 Baby, you can drive my car
 Yes, I'm gonna be a star
 Baby, you can drive my car
 And maybe I'll love you"
 Beep beep'm beep beep yeah
 Beep beep'm beep beep yeah
 Beep beep'm beep beep yeah
 Beep beep'm beep beep yeah

Kerrie's Kwiz

We hope that you enjoyed the first quiz and that it brought back some happy memories. **Here are the answers to Quiz #1 - Music:**

1. Barbra Streisand, Walter Matthau and Michael Crawford.
2. Love is all around
3. Kylie Minogue
4. Stevie Wonder
5. Harry Connick Jnr
6. James Mason
7. Benny Goodman
8. Moon River

9. AC/DC
10. Deep Purple

Quiz#2 Let's try, loosely, GEOGRAPHY.

1. Which country borders Switzerland to the north?
2. What is the name of the corner which is the point at which the states of NSW, Queensland and South Australia meet?
3. When was the Skye Bridge opened? A lovely rendition of the Skye Boat song (**our number 21**) by The Corries is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1CTxa-FuKc>
4. There is a small chapel located in Sedlec, in the suburbs of Kutna Hora, in the Czech Republic. For what is this chapel famous?
5. In what National Park is Loch Lomond?
6. Donald Malcolm Campbell died in January 1967 aged 47 during a water speed record attempt. Where did this happen?
7. What is the meaning of the word Canada?
8. When we sing Galway Bay we sing '..watch the moon rise over Claddagh.. What/where is Claddagh.?
9. Inland about halfway between Townsville and Cairns you can have an Undarra Experience. What would you be doing?
10. The Taj Mahal is one of India's most famous and visited tourist attractions. What is it and who was responsible for it being built?

Gloves on in the kitchen

Quick Spinach and cottage (or Ricotta) cheese "Pie" (Tina)

Ingredients:

1 x 250g pkt frozen spinach

2 small white onions (diced)
1/2 tbsp butter
1 tbsp chopped herbs
3 eggs 250g cottage **or** ricotta cheese
2 tbsp chopped parsley
Pepper
3/4 cup grated cheese (for topping)
2 tbsp sesame seeds (for topping)

Method:

Thaw spinach and squeeze out water.

Saute onion in butter until soft.

Cool

Add spinach, herbs, lightly beaten eggs, cottage (or Ricotta) cheese, seasonings and mix together.

Pour into a round 23cm greased pie dish.

Sprinkle with cheese and sesame seeds (toast first for more flavour).

Bake at 180c degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

Serve hot or cold.

Tina Bromhead Recalled from a Vegetarian Cooking course at CIT in 1989.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ 2

1. Germany
2. Cameron Corner
3. 16 October 1995
4. Sedlec Ossuary or Bone Church contains elaborate and ornate designs constructed from human bones
5. Trossachs National Park
6. Coniston Water in the Lake District, England.
7. The name Canada comes from the word meaning "village" or "settlement" in the Saint-Lawrence Iroquoian language spoken by the inhabitants of Stadacona and the neighbouring region near present-day Quebec City in the 16th century. Another contemporary meaning was "land."
8. Claddagh is an area close to the centre of Galway city, where the River Corrib meets Galway Bay. It was formerly a fishing village, just outside the old city walls. It is just across the river from the Spanish Arch, which was the location of regular fish markets where the locals supplied the city with seafood as recently as the end of the 19th century.

Not quite #27, but a good sing [Belafonte's Island in the Sun](#)

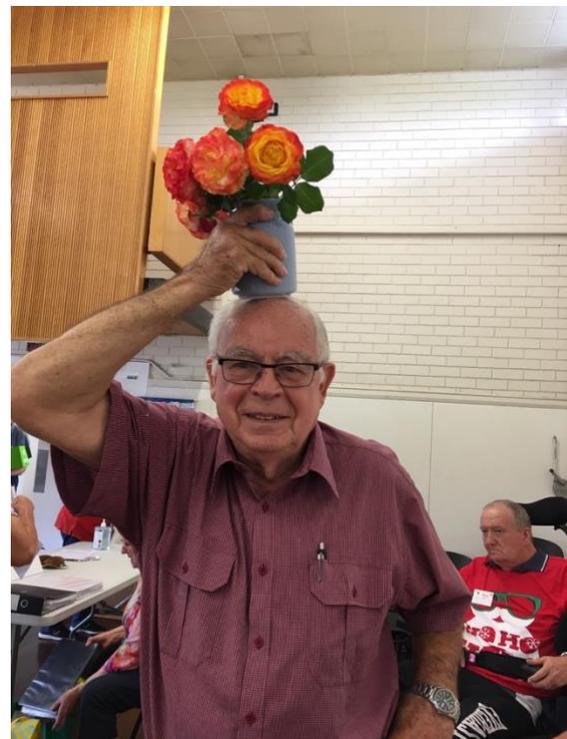
9. Exploring natural wonders including volcanic landscapes and lava tubes.

10. The Taj Mahal is a mausoleum complex that houses the tombs of Mumtaz Mahal and her husband the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (reigned 1628-58). It was built as a tomb for Mumtaz Mahal by her husband after she died in childbirth in 1631, having been the emperor's inseparable companion since their marriage in 1612.

Guess Who? (AKA Graeme's Gaffe)

Did you know that the owner of the "unpalatable knees" referred to in the *Tale of Nine Pities* in our 8th edition of MMM is a long-time member of Alchemy? Can you guess who without asking our blokes to expose their knobby bits?

Yep....



Send your stories, pics, jokes etc to:
alchemychorus@gmail.com