



Magical Music Moments

Alchemy Chorus COVID Newsletter #14

13th August 2020

From the Committee

Welcome to our Fourteenth edition of Magical Music Moments – our ‘virtual’ get together. **Remember we will be back!**

Magical Music Moments guaranteed here:



[Live from London](#) check out this series and sign up for a subscription to hear Voces8, I Fagiolini, Academy of Ancient Music, The Swingles, The Gesualdo Six, Apollo5, The Sixteen, Stile Antico, and Chanticleer. A feast of beautiful choral music indeed. Click on the link below:

<https://anca.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c239b3967b23c493e565a45ec&id=ff2fae0f82&e=9117b0216e>

Christmas Chocolate Bark, From Pat Basnett (NB. from Jill -I have indulged a few times, Yummy!!)

Makes about 20 pieces

Preparation 20 mins

85g pkt pistachios, shelled (I use 170g because Murray loves nuts so much)

400g Coles Brand Dark Chocolate (I use Lindor Dark Chocolate in the 100g packs)
200g White Chocolate (Again I use the Lindor White Chocolate in the 100g packs)

Good to look out for when they are on special because they are expensive.

1/3 cup dried cranberries (Craisins)

1. Preheat oven to 180oC or 160oC fan. Spread pistachios onto a baking tray and cook for 3-4 mins, or until just lightly toasted (Again, I brown these in a warmish dry fry pan on the cook top) Set aside to cool.
2. Place both chocolates into separate heatproof bowls (see bold notes below). Place one bowl over a pan of barely simmering water, without letting the base of the bowl touch the water. Stand for a few minutes, or until the chocolate softens. Remove bowl from pan and stir with a metal spoon until smooth. Set aside. Repeat with the other chocolate. Again, I do this in the microwave at 1 minute intervals on medium/low with the dark chocolate. With the white chocolate I do it in the microwave on low for about 40 second intervals.

3. Line a 25cm x 38 cm baking tray (about 1.5cm deep) with foil. Spread dark chocolate onto the tray. Drizzle white chocolate over the dark and swirl with a butter knife to make a marbled effect. Sprinkle with pistachios and Craisins and place in fridge for 15 mins (**longer is better**) to set. Break into shards and package as desired. **I put the chocolate slab onto a large bread board, wait a few minutes then cut into triangles with a sharp knife.**

Top Tip Don't use a wooden spoon to stir the chocolate, as it may contain moisture, which may cause the chocolate to "seize". Don't let any drops of water get into the chocolate. **Enjoy!**

NOLETTE'S TRAVEL PLANS FOR 2020

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Kahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline

flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.

My job is done! Life is too short for negative drama and petty things. So laugh insanely, love truly and forgive quickly! I hope everyone is happy - we're all doing pretty well!

From Helen Pilkington:

A book "The Songs of the Trees" by David Haskell, is a book about sounds of 12 trees from various places around the world, David is a professor of biology and environmental studies in USA. He came to Australia to the Byron Bay Writers Festival a few years ago and was interviewed by Richard Fidler for ABC RN 'Conversations'. That's where I heard him and was fascinated. The interview is still available at:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/program/s/conversations/conversations-david-haskell-rpt/9252396>

Thanks Helen will definitely have a look (Jill).

And now from Tom Anderson: BRITISH HUMOUR IS DIFFERENT"

These are classified ads, which were actually placed in U.K. Newspapers:

FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.

8 years old,
Hateful little bastard.
Bites!

FREE PUPPIES

1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.

FREE PUPPIES (contd)

Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.
 Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED.

Also 1 gay bull for sale.

JOINING NUDIST COLONY!

Must sell washer and dryer £100.

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE.

Worn once by mistake.
 Call Stephanie.

**** And the **WINNER** is... ****

FOR SALE BY OWNER.

Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes.
 Excellent condition, £200 or best offer.
 No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.

Statement of the Century

Thought from the Greatest Living Scottish Thinker—Billy Connolly. "If women are so bloody perfect at multitasking, how come they can't have a headache and sex at the same time?"

CHILDREN ARE QUICK!

TEACHER: Why are you late? **STUDENT:**
 Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your maths multiplications on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it! (I Love this child)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE : No, sir. It's the same dog.
 (I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher.

PASS IT AROUND AND MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH

Due to current economic conditions the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off.
 (Elizabeth 11)

Also from Tom....

This person had a great start in life, an early exotic present.

Mr. Allen Swift: Born - 1908 - Died 2010
This man owned and drove the same car for 82 years. Can you imagine even having the same car for 82 years?

Mr. Allen Swift (Springfield, Massachusetts) received this 1928 Rolls-Royce Piccadilly-P1 Roadster from his father, brand new - as a graduation gift in 1928. He drove it up until his death last year... At the age of 102. He was the oldest living owner of a car that was purchased new.

The 1928 Rolls Royce Phantom was donated to a Springfield museum after his death. It has 1,070,000 miles on it, still runs like a Swiss watch, dead silent at any speed and is in perfect cosmetic condition.

82 years - That's approximately 13,048 miles per year (1087 per month). 1,070,000 that's miles not kilometres.

That's British engineering of a bygone era. I don't think they make them like this anymore.



Thanks...Tom!

BIO FROM PETER DARK.

Well, let's see I was born in Grafton, moved to Sydney, then returned to Grafton, aged 7, for the rest of my childhood. That meant Jacaranda Festivals, bike riding (everyone had a bike), a backyard with pawpaw, mango and mandarin trees, flying foxes to help eat the fruit, and the mighty Clarence River and its massive floods. (Call that a river – this is a river!) Then university at UNE in Armidale (my first snow) and UNSW in Sydney (no better way to start and end each day than in a ferry on Sydney Harbour). Then several years teaching at Northmead High, until I transferred to Queanbeyan High in 1977. I taught there until I joined IP Australia in 1990 as a trade marks examiner. I retired in 2012.

Whew, that was all a bit rushed! But it brings me quickly to the memorable time when, new to Queanbeyan and Canberra, I discovered the challenges and satisfactions of singing, and of theatre. Especially music theatre. First with Queanbeyan Players, and then with many other local theatre companies. And a lesson for everyone. If your first singing teacher says "go away, I can't do anything with you", keep on singing, and find another teacher. That's what I did! Highlights? Appearing with, or being directed by, people like June Bronhill, Dennis Olsen, Reg Livermore, Angela Punch McGregor, and a host of very talented local performers. Including my friend Barbara Denham, who is also a member of Alchemy Chorus.

Memorable moments? Oh, lots (both good and bad)! How about:

- ❖ Being hit on the head by a falling flat during a scene change. This was in a Queanbeyan Players' production of the pantomime

Robinson Crusoe (I was playing Mrs Crusoe with a lot of make-up, and even more padding). To make things worse, it happened in a black out, and I really didn't know what had hit me!

- ❖ As Ko-Ko The Lord High Executioner, driving one of Mazda's promotional motorised suitcase-cars around the Canberra Theatre stage for a Canberra Philharmonic production of *The Mikado*. And then disassembling and packing it back into the suitcase, on stage, with only very limited dialogue to do it in. So no pressure!
- ❖ As the Sergeant of Police in the Canberra Theatre Trust production of *Pirates of Penzance*, singing totally upside down clasped in the beefy arms of two ferocious pirates. The fact they were from the Rugby Choir gives you some idea of their build. Breath control was somewhat of a challenge!
- ❖ Suddenly realising during a performance of *Old Time Musical Hall* that the Master of Ceremonies had mixed up the running order. Which meant that I had only seconds to get all the way from the dressing room onto the stage!

And there have been a host of other theatre-related experiences, including being a judge for the Canberra Area Theatre Awards, and President of Canberra REP. But so many of my theatre memories are bound up with the joy and satisfaction of singing. Just what everyone is looking forward to when Alchemy Chorus can finally return!



Peter (upside down), how did the helmet stay on??

Sing "**Happy Birthday**"s in August to...



Kevin Smith
Carolyn Kiss
John Packwood
Jenne Kelsen
Brian Triglone
Ann Tedder
Lyndall Millburn
Sue Taylor



And from Brian:

Like most of you, Bette and I have pretty much hunkered down and I'd have to admit, become just a bit bored with the whole thing.

With so much idle time, my mind has turned to doing a bit of on-line research into accommodation facilities for those in the later stages of dementia-something that's not far from all our minds I'm sure.

I re-discovered a Dutch experiment with a village designed especially for those living with dementia. This is the link if you're interested. <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/11/world/europe/wus-holland-dementia-lessons/> a similar village opened in Glenorchy Tasmania this year. <https://glenview.org.au/the-official-opening-of-korongee/> it seems like a really good alternative to consider, especially by those who are at or nearing the stage of having to place a loved one into aged care-a daunting decision as we all know. I've written to a few key players in the field to get their views on this model and on whether such a facility might be possible for Canberra. But I'd also be interested in your views as *major* players in the field. If you have a view or comments, I'd love to hear from you at briantrig@inet.net.au

I'm looking at the possibility of having a Zoom singalong (a Zoomalong?) arranging for a full choir "event" on-line is apparently very complicated so if it happens, it will just be a few gathered at my place to lead you all singing to yourselves at home. More later.

I turn 75 on Friday so I'm now 5 years older than my father when he died. It's a curious feeling, but a good one too.

Thanks to all the Alchemists that submitted material for this Newsletter. Remember, send almost anything to: alchemychorus@gmail.com the next one

will be out on the 18th September, so plenty of time to come up with something!

QUIZ:

Now just to make things interesting. Can you match the birthday names to the faces on page 6?? You should get at least 1 right! [Answers at bottom of page.](#)

Thanks Pat for the Chocolate recipe above and now for a savoury treat!

FROM ROS – CHEESE BISCUITS

225 g (8 oz) Cheddar (or strong) cheese
140 g (5 oz) salted potato chips
1 cup plain flour
Pinch of cayenne pepper
170 g (6 oz) melted butter.

Grate the cheese.

Crush chips and place in a bowl.

Sift flour, mustard and cayenne and mix until evenly blended.

Stir in the melted butter and mix lightly to form a dough.

Divide into tablespoon sized pieces and shape into rough heaps on a baking sheet, Flatten a little.

BAKE IN PREHEATED OVEN AT 190C - (375 F)

Ps next time I am going to double the recipe, first lot disappeared in about 10 minutes!

Bulletin just arrived check this video out!! Sooo good!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpAKcQufacc>

for the longest time VID-20200810-WA0001.mp4

QUIZ ANSWERS

8 Lyndall Millburn
7 Carolyn Kiss
6 Jenne Kelsen
5 Brian Triglone
4 Ann Tedder
3 Sue Taylor
2 Kevin Smith
1 John Packwood