

Chairmans report 2022-23

Fortunately, choir operations and activities returned to normal in FY 22/23 following a few challenging years involving the COVID pandemic.

We were pleased and fortunate to again meet and rehearse regularly in our traditional and longtime rehearsal space at Scots Church Hall, where attendance numbers during the year were generally consistent. We recognise about 50 people as choir members and over the year, an average of 30 people joined our rehearsals each week.

The choir performed several external concerts with their highlight again being the much-loved Hobart Mall Christmas Carols, performed every year since inception of the choir. A special thanks to Darren Sangwell for his unique contribution to this popular event.

We are so grateful for the unstinting enthusiasm and focus on members of our wonderfully dedicated Music Team led by Johanna Van Tienen.

Joh was ably assisted by Andrew Short and Keiren Slicer, who again provided valuable and appreciated support to Joh as well as to choir member. The duo also stepped up on numerous occasions to share conducting duties.

A key task always for the Board is ensuring there is sufficient funding to meet annual fixed operating costs. Performance fees generally only cover costs therefore we were grateful for the donations from various benefactors including our valued official Friends of the Choir.

Friends of the Choir is a two-level program that provides for and encourages community members to donate to the choir on an (at least) annual basis to assist with the choir's annual fixed costs and operating expenses of approximately \$20,000 going forward.

It's hoped that an increase in external performances in future will allow the Board to expand marketing of the Friends project as part of a broader marketing strategy.

The Choir incurred an annual financial operating loss of 2788.85, which was not unexpected.

However, in this fiscal period we were fortunate to receive the first of three annual \$10,000 donations from Scots Church. This most generous gesture significantly reduced the financial pressure on our organisation in the reporting period and will greatly assist us in the immediate future.

I'm confident the Board of the Choir of High Hopes and indeed, the Music Team and wonderful volunteer force will continue to work diligently and responsibly to advance the interests of the choir.


I sadly acknowledge the passing of Amber Meredith, who was a founding member of the choir. She is missed by all.

I further acknowledge the wonderful and enduring patronage of the Scots Uniting Church, now in its 17th year, and I applaud the continuing and enthusiastic efforts of our genuinely indispensable volunteers, especially Karen, Carol, Graham and Shirley, all of whom selflessly assist our rehearsals and performances.

I sincerely thank departed director Angela Schramm and former treasurer Claudia Espinola Lopez for their efforts and acknowledge the special contributions of Secretary Thomas McCarroll-Chester and Vice President Miriam Rule.

After more than 10 years as Board member – the past five as President and Chair – I am stepping down from this role. I thank my fellow directors for their valuable and selfless contributions and their collegiality in pursuing the shared vision over the past decade.

As we approach our 17th year of operations. I offer my congratulations and best wishes to the incoming President and Board as well as the members of Choir.



David Rose
President/Chairman
30 October 2023