

"Well, what do you owe yourself? Do you dare take time out to listen to the grass grow, or can you even afford the expense of getting far enough away from life's daily cacophony to hear it grow if you took the time?"  
- Vincent Price, *I Like What I Know: A Visual Autobiography*



## Fun and Excitement

I can't sing in the choir's concert this time around, which disappoints me, but there's no way I'll miss the performance! Whenever I run into members of the choir, and ask them how it's going, I get an unusual response.: "It's exciting, and we're really having fun!"

A large part of that fun and excitement, I'm told, is due to Nola Wallace.

When journalist Michael Byrne spoke to Nola recently about the stage and life in general, Nola told him "I realised that if I was too old to be an air stewardess I may as well be a skydiver."

Byrne wrote: "Wallace's adventure across the many stages of Newcastle theatre has been a miraculous journey that is unmatched in its successes and its longevity. Any expedition into the background of dramatic art in Newcastle must inevitably turn a corner and run face first in to the warm smile of Nola Wallace. The mother of three has been an ubiquitous, passionate contributor to the local theatre scene in this city and a generous collaborator and friend to the men and women who have helped to build it."

Nola is a featured artist in *Hear the People Sing*. She is in her element in this concert. She's lost count of the number of shows she has performed in, but puts it at more than a hundred – including *Carousel*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Applause*, *Les Miserables*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *The Seagull* and *The Vagina Monologues*, as well as performing alongside stage and television celebrities in *A Toast to Melba*.



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For  
your  
diary

## Coming NUC Concerts

August 3, 2pm, Great Hall  
**I Remember**

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the  
outbreak of World War I.

## Christmas Concert

December 7, 2pm  
Christ Church Cathedral

"It's no good pretending that any relationship  
has a future if your record collections disagree  
violently or if your favorite films wouldn't even  
speak to each other if they met at a party."

-- Nick Hornby

She is also an accomplished director, and her knowledge of, and enthusiasm for the stage has been an inspiration to the choir.

Nola has been a performer for more than 45 years. Phillip Costovski is a relative newcomer to the stage, but his credentials are impressive. Phillip is a student at Newcastle University, studying civil engineering. He's also becoming well known for his work in opera and musical theatre.

Miriam Allan and Ghillian Sullivan are names well-known to friends of the Choir. Both have helped to encourage the career of this up-and-coming young tenor. Phillip was selected to participate in Miriam's 2013 masterclass, and attended Ghillian's opera workshops in Sydney in 2011 and 2013.

He has been awarded 1st in Songs of Stage and Screen at the Lake Macquarie Eisteddfod, as well as 1st in Male Voices and Italian Song, and finalist in the Joan Sutherland Memorial Award at the Sydney Eisteddfod.

Some of you will have seen him in the 2013 performance of *Phantom of the Opera* at the Civic Theatre.

Musical Director Christopher Allan is keeping a few surprises up his sleeve. There will be a trio – possibly keyboard, bass and drums – and solo performances by both Nola and Phillip. There will be a new configuration for the choir, numbers being such for this concert that they can't fit on the stage.

The choir has previously sung Jazz and Swing, and this performance will be a new challenge – wonderful music from the world of musical theatre. See you there!

I've been told that the concert will feature action by the choir members – it's known as 'choralography'. It's one of the measures being taken by choirs and orchestras around the world to attract audiences.

Sam Gillies of Limelight Magazine poses the question: "*Will a video clip of Asian hotties twerking re-imagine classical music for a contemporary audience?*"

He's speaking about a contemporary music video featuring a female dance ensemble twerking *Allegro con fuoco* to Dvorak's Symphony No 9 (From the New World). It was produced for B-Classic, a classical music festival in Belgium, as a promotion of their latest event. The results can be seen on YouTube.

Not for the faint-hearted, and certainly not, I hope, to be contemplated by our choir members.

*Cacophony* is edited by Peter McCloy on behalf of the Newcastle University Choir, who do not necessarily share the views of the editor. To contribute or to communicate, email us at [newsletter@newcastleuniversitychoir.com](mailto:newsletter@newcastleuniversitychoir.com)

For more about Newcastle University Choir, go to [www.newcastleuniversitychoir.com](http://www.newcastleuniversitychoir.com)