

*A melange of interesting notes and the promise of things to come*

If the fair and ingenious Scheherazade related her stories as confusedly and unmeaningly, not to say cacophonously, as the composer has related them musically, the sultan would have ordered her to be bowstrung.  
- Boston Herald, April 18, 1897.



## Christmas Greetings

from

**Newcastle  
University Choir**

and a Happy New Year...

Sadly we say goodbye to Jennifer Barnes, who has been our musical director in 2010.

For me, the highlight of the year was *Carmina Burana*, and Jenny's work in bringing us to the standard that we achieved as a choir on that day was inspiring.

Gustav Mahler said that everything is written in the score – except the really important things. Jenny took the score and brought it to life for us – she knew what was important. We've enjoyed her leadership, and we're sorry to see her move on.



The silver lining is that Christopher Allan will be joining us. Chris conducted us from 2000 – 2004, and says he's delighted to be back. His great depth of experience, as a bass singer, a chorister and a conductor will benefit the choir for at least the next twelve months, so we're pleased too!

We have worked out an exciting program for 2011 – put these dates in your diary!

Sunday April 3 : Choral Masterpieces

Saturday July 23, Sunday July 24 : *Candide* by Bernstein with Newcastle Festival Opera

Sunday September 18 : Purely Mozart

December 11 : Christmas Concert

I'll look forward to editing *Cacophony* in 2011, and hopefully we'll add a little to your enjoyment of the great music to come.

Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart.  
To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example.  
To yourself, respect.

~Oren Arnold

## What can 128 musical doctors do for mental health?



If music is the medicine of the mind, these doctors are hooked on healing.

The members of the Australian Doctors Orchestra have once again banded together to provide some sweet musical remedies during their annual fundraising concert.

The 128-member strong orchestra visited Adelaide for the third time this August, raising money for Australian Rotary Health. The event brought together doctors and medical students from around Australia in what was an exhilarating and uplifting concert.

“The concert was the result of many hours of organisation, practice and rehearsal, fitted into the busy lives of the players and the conductor, Keith Crellin,” said PDG Allan Wilson, Director, Australian Rotary Health. “It was a great experience to see the event come together,” he said.

Almost 700 people attended the concert in Adelaide Town Hall led by Associate Professor Keith Crellin OAM from the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide. Elder Conservatorium graduate and international performer Louise McKay wowed the audience in her performance of Dvorak’s beautiful *Cello Concerto in B minor* while Rossini’s Overture from *The Barber of Seville* and Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 4* rounded off what was an exciting afternoon of music for a fantastic cause.

“More than \$25,000 was raised as a result of the concert,” PDG Allan said. “Australian Rotary Health would like to thank all who helped in any way, from donating fruit and buns and serving morning and afternoon teas during rehearsals, to performing in or attending the event and making it a huge success,” he said.

*Note:* This article is reproduced from *Rotary Down Under* December 2010. Australian Rotary Health is the largest non-government funder of medical research in Australia. It was established in 1981 to provide research into AIDS, and has grown into a multi-million dollar organisation funding research into various areas of health including arthritis, Alzheimers, kidney disease, multiple sclerosis, cancer, children’s health, heart disease and spinal injury. The current focus is on mental health. In the last financial year Australian Rotary Health funded more than \$1.6 million worth of health research.

I’ve included it in this newsletter because many members of our choir are Rotarians and/or doctors, and all of us will benefit from this research at some time - either directly or indirectly.

## The origin of instruments



In our first issue, I challenged readers to identify the instruments which evolved from a list of medieval ancestors: Vielle, hydraulos, hautbois, rebec, claviorganum, chalumeau; shawm, sheng, sackbut, kit and celesta.

There were no winners. In fact there were no entries, despite the promise of a very worthy prize. But I’m sure you’re interested, so here are the answers:

The vielle, rebec and kit are all ancestors of the violin.

The shawm and the hautbois became the oboe, the hydraulos the organ, the sheng the mouth organ and the sackbut the trombone.

The claviorganum and the celesta preceeded the piano. The chalumeau became the clarinet.

Pinchgut Opera is a Sydney based company which presents operas from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries using, wherever possible, period instruments. (If you look closely you’ll notice our musical director singing with their chorus, Cantillation.) Pinchgut is described by Her Excellency Marie Bashir AC COV, Governor of New South Wales, as “one of the jewels of Sydney”, and gives us the opportunity to experience first hand some idea of the authentic sound of the period.

Pinchgut produce an excellent newsletter, which I’m sure they won’t mind me referencing. The latest issue includes “*A brief history of fortepianos*”, which you can see at <http://pinchgutopera.com.au/cms/uploads/newsletter/pinchgutnewsletternovdec10small.pdf>

*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)

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