

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Significant Milestones**
- **Focus on Choral Scholar, Nicholas Matters**
- **Doctorate for Anthony Halliday**
- **Liturgies at St Francis'**

Celebrating a Living Tradition

2024 has seen St Francis' Choir joyously embracing a return to its living tradition of music making, including well attended ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter, and orchestral Masses to celebrate the important feasts of Pentecost and Corpus Christi.

Recently, our Director of Music, Tony Way has celebrated two significant anniversaries: 25 years as director last August and this year 40 years of involvement with the St Francis' Music Program.

Associate Director & Principal Organist, Anthony Halliday has also celebrated several professional milestones. (see p. 3)



Tony Way on Easter Day

The music program for the second half of this year has been published and is available on our website.

In this issue we also focus on tenor Nicholas Matters, one of the choral scholars proudly supported by the Foundation. (see p. 2)

As we approach the end

of the financial year, we invite you to consider supporting the Foundation with a tax-deductible donation, so that we can continue to nurture fine young talent such as Nick's.

Should you be interested in remembering the Foundation in your will, further information is available to you or your legal representative by contacting the Music Office. (see p. 4)

Meanwhile the Trustees thank you for your ongoing support of the Foundation.

We hope you can visit St Francis' and hear the Choir soon.

Forthcoming Events

St Francis' Choir has resumed its regular schedule.

The Choir sings at the

11.00am Sunday Mass and other special occasions.

For more information please visit:

www.stfrancischoir.org.au

Focus on Nicholas Matters

One of the most important things about the music at St Francis' is that it is part of a living tradition. Part of that tradition, stretching back to the likes of Dame Nellie Melba has been the encouragement of talented, young singers. This year, we have been pleased to welcome tenor Nicholas Matters as our new choral scholar, succeeding Ben Glover who is now successfully pursuing a solo career.

Nick is no stranger to St Francis', having attended Mass in the church for some years. He is currently an honours student in the Bachelor of Music (Music Performance) course at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and has been a member of Opera Scholars Australia since 2022.



Nick also brings experience as a liturgical cantor to his role, having sung previously at St Anthony's Shrine, Hawthorn and St Joan of Arc Church, Brighton.

Nick's friendly and engaging personality has made him an easy fit for the choir but also stood him in good stead for his work in opera and musical theatre. Nick is currently preparing to be part of Victorian Opera's forthcoming production of *English Eccentrics*, an opera by the late Australian composer and former Master of the Queen's Music, Malcolm Williamson, based on the book by Dame Edith Sitwell (herself a notable English eccentric)!

We extend a very warm welcome to Nick and wish him a very happy and fulfilling time with St Francis' Choir.

Nick's scholarship is proudly supported by the Foundation.



PhD for Anthony Halliday

Anthony Halliday, our Associate Director of Music and Principal Organist last year celebrated 20 years of working with the choir since returning to Australia from his notable career in England. Anthony also celebrated a personal highlight last year by graduating with a PhD from the Uni-

versity of Sydney with a thesis exploring the Christological elements within Beethoven's last three piano sonatas.

We offer him our congratulations and warmest thanks for his continuing important contribution to the choir and to the

the music program in general.

(For more about Anthony's research, please visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/finding-christ-in-beethovens-hammerklavier-sonata>)

'We offer him our congratulations and warmest thanks.'

Singing into the Future

The shifting sands of the global economy have an impact on all of us, regardless of our circumstances. Over the 175 years of the St Francis' Choir's history there have been many financial crises, but the choir has survived due to the energy, vi-

sion and generosity of its supporters.

One effective means of contributing to the choir's future is to consider leaving the choir a gift in your will. This will assist future generations of singers, instrumen-

talists and organists to give glory to God and uplift countless worshippers.

If you or your legal representative require further information, please 'phone the Music Office on (03) 9639 4560.



St Francis' Choir Foundation

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The St Francis' Choir Foundation was established in 2005 to commemorate the choir's 160th anniversary. Primarily established as a capital fund, the Foundation aims to support the ongoing work of the choir through the investment of a considerable capital sum.

Trustees of the Foundation

Mr Fergus Ryan, AO

Rev. Ben Ho, SSS

Ms Siobhan Lenihan

Singing into the future

Giving to the Foundation

Yes, I wish to support the Foundation but would welcome further information.

Yes, I wish to support the Foundation by making a bequest.

Yes, I wish to support the Foundation with an immediate gift.

Should you wish to make a gift, the bank transfer details for St Francis' Choir Foundation are:
BSB 033068 Account 235931

Please include your name in the subject line. We would ask that you advise us of your gift by emailing stfmusic@blessedsacrament.com.au so we can issue a receipt. Thank you.

Yes, I wish to make a gift using my credit card to the value of:

\$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$5,000 Other _____

Yes, I wish to support the Foundation by pledging a gift on a regular basis.

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$____ every months for a total of transactions.
Donor Information

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other _____ Given Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb/City _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Email address _____

Credit Card Information

Visa/Mastercard _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date ____ / ____

Name on card _____ Authorised Signature _____