

Editor's Note: A new editor often has a difficult time following in the shoes of a previous editor, especially someone with the dedication of Peter McCloy. While I will take a different approach at times, I will always have his concept in mind. Thus this newsletter is "A *melange of interesting notes and the promise of things to come.*"

On **Sunday, December 4, at 2:00**, in the University of Newcastle Great Hall, the Choir will present something a little different. The theme is ***Christmas at the Movies***. This newsletter highlights some of these Christmas songs on the program. With excellent leadership from our Music Director, Dr Christopher Allan, and outstanding support from Newcastle's favourite jazz pianist, Terence Koo and his trio, this concert is a must for young and old. Our **Soprano Soloist** is Heather Keens. The **Compare** for the evening will be the irrepressible **Alan Richards**, well-known to Newcastle audiences for character stage roles, Alan has an encyclopedic knowledge of all kinds of show and movie music, and a sense of humour will ensure fun for all. Tickets from www.stickytickets.com.au/43391.

Don't forget your CONCERT CARD

If you took a CONCERT CARD at "St Matthew Passion" and had it validated at "Anzacs: A Generation Lost In Legend":

- Write your name and contact details on it
- Place it in the CONCERT CARD box in the foyer

You could win a great prize!

We Need a Little Christmas

Based on Original novel "Auntie Mame" by Patrick Dennis, *Mame* became a play starring Rosalind Russell (1966). Then in 1974 came a film starring the hilarious comedienne Lucille Ball. The music score was written by Jerry Herman.



A great-aunt, Mame Dennis, becomes guardian of her great-nephew, and leads him through many madcap ups and downs of life. *We Need a Little Christmas* occurs to lift everyone's spirits after a series of financial and relational disasters.

White Christmas is one of the most famous Christmas songs of all time. Written by Irving Berlin, it was sung by Bing Crosby in three movies: "Holiday Inn", "Blue Skies" and "White Christmas".

It became the best-selling song of all time, 50 million copies.



Written in 1942, *White Christmas* sentimentally reflects the universal desire for an old fashioned Christmas with a tree, presents, snow and mistletoe, no matter where one is located in the world

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas comes from “Meet Me In St Louis” 1944, and was written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blaine. This movie was the second biggest money-maker after “Gone With the Wind” in first 20 years of MGM.



Starring Judy Garland, four daughters chaotically prepare to move from St Louis to New York in this musical comedy/drama. Set in 1904, at the time of the World Exposition, the movie adopted a range of songs from different sources. *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* is a nostalgic look past family joys and hopes for similar in the future.

From a much more modern Christmas movie is *Somewhere in My Memory* from “Home Alone”. This comedy is about a boy who is mistakenly left behind by his family who go to Paris for Christmas. Released in 1990, it starred Macaulay Culkin as Kevin McCallister.



While his frantic mother tries to come back home during a fully-booked travel period, Kevin defends the house against a pair of totally inept burglars, and finds time along the way to help his neighbor reunite with his grand-daughter.

Somewhere In My Memory, the movie’s theme song, reflects the thoughts of a lonely little boy away from his family at Christmas.

Believe is from “Polar Express” a fully animated movie released in 2004 by Castle Rock Entertainment, based on a children’s story. With a big budget, the film was given mixed reviews but children still enjoyed it.



The story is about a fantasy train trip to the North Pole and the adventures of a boy and a girl, who meet many characters along the way. Composed by Alan Silvestri, *Believe* focusses on a Christmas dreams, hopes and wonder, after the realities of the year.

Choir Concerts for 2017

7 May: “Atmospheres”. Christ Church Cathedral - Major Work: *Past Life Melodies* by Sarah Hopkins.

13 August: “Singing the Musicals”. University Great Hall - Includes a theatrical performance by Pantseat Production.

10 December: “The Creation” by Joseph Haydn. University Great Hall.

Plan Ahead for the Choir’s 40th Year Celebrations!