



On Sunday afternoon, 8 December 2019 at 2:00 pm the Newcastle University Choir (NUC) will perform our Christmas Concert, *In Terra Pax*, at the Great Hall, University of Newcastle. The title translates to *Peace on Earth*, a re-occurring wish at the end of each year for Christmas. The concert includes choral works from a range of almost entirely British composers.

Conducted by Artistic Director, Dr Christopher Allan, the Newcastle University Choir will be accompanied by a string orchestra. Soprano and baritone soloists feature, as well as the choir.

Tickets are \$35 adult, \$30 Concession, \$15 Student, and \$80 Family (2 adults and 2 children). They can be obtained from [www.TryBooking.com](http://www.TryBooking.com); MacLean's Booksellers, Hamilton; The Games Shop, Charlestown Square; by phoning 0425231625; or at the door. Below are some highlights from the concert.



Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gerald Finzi

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) would be familiar to most choral listeners. A prolific composer of both choral works, symphonies and operas for over 60 years, he was strongly influenced by English folk songs and Tudor music. His *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, featuring the baritone soloist, is based on four traditional English carols. The best known of these is *Come all Ye Worthy Gentlemen*.

Not so well-known is Gerald Finzi, who was a student of Vaughan Williams. A composer of great potential in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, he tragically died at the age of 43. He was mainly a choral composer. His Christmas work, *In Terra Pax*, is the theme for our overall concert. He sets a poem by Robert Bridges as a narrative for the baritone soloist, who is musing about the story of the birth of Christ from the Gospel of Luke. As in Handel's *Messiah*, the soprano soloist heralds the birth to shepherds, and the Choir sings "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace"

The choir re-visits an old favourite, Benjamin Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin*. Britten was a major influence on British classical music in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This short work, written when he was 18, combines an English adulation to the Virgin Mary (chorus 1) with Latin text as an echo (chorus 2).

Two carols are arranged by Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988), a choral and instrumental music composer. *O Leave Your Sheep* is an English translation of French words. The carol encourages the shepherds to leave their flocks to visit the baby Jesus, and then expands to the three kings and their offerings. *Lully, Lulla, Thou Little Tiny Child*, the Coventry Carol, is created from words in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century medieval mystery play Pageant of Shearmen (cloth cutters) and Tailors, in Coventry. The arrangement is set initially as a lullaby, but also includes a verse about the threat of Herod slaying all the first born babies, so he will not be deposed.



*Depiction of 15<sup>th</sup> Century Pageant of Shearmen and Tailors by David Gee, 1825*

John Rutter is best known as a contemporary choral composer and arranger. His music volumes have been “best sellers” all over the world. The Choir sings his *Nativity Carol*, which celebrates the birth of the Christ Child and the visits from the shepherds and wise men. Love and peace dominate both the music and the text.

David Willcocks (1919-2015) was associated with the Choir of Kings College Cambridge for most of his career. Another master choral arranger, Willcocks provides a version of *Ding Dong Merrily on High*. Words come from G.R. Woodward (1848-1934). This arrangement is exciting to

sing, but challenging for the choir. Parts entries (vocal bells) require perfect timing.

Willcocks also arranged a choral version of *Silent Night*, which the choir will sing in German. One of the best-loved carols of all time, it was composed by Franz Gruber (1787-1863). There is a wonderful children’s story written by Elizabeth Wenning in 1959 called the *Christmas Mouse*. It is set in Austria around 1800, when a starving mouse ate through the bellows of Gruber’s church organ. Gruber had to compose a new carol, which he played to the congregation on Christmas Eve, using a guitar for accompaniment. The result was *Silent Night*.

The one exception to the British composer theme is Anthony Piccolo. Born in the USA, currently he conducts the New York City Opera children’s chorus. As a pianist and singer, as well as a composer, he lived in England for 9 years, and has performed all over Europe. His choral work, *I Look from Afar*, was written in 1983. It focusses on the joy that the Savior is coming and that we should “go ye out to meet him”.



*Anthony Piccolo*

*Howard Bridgman, Editor*



*The Choir is delighted to support Samaritans at this concert, especially in its initiative to provide some Christmas cheer to less fortunate members of our community. Patrons are asked to bring*

items of non-perishable food, gifts and toiletries and place them under the Christmas tree at the Great Hall on the day of the concert. Donation suggestions are listed below.



Samaritans

*Compassion. Integrity. Justice.*

# CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



While many people enjoy giving the traditional soft fluffy toy at Christmas, the desperate need is for all types of gifts for all ages!



**TEENAGE GIRLS**  
Gift voucher (Target, Big W, cinemas, etc.), toiletries, cosmetics, beach towel, watch, backpack, purses or bags, hat, fun socks, jewellery, ear pods, board games, T-shirts, thongs or sandals, skincare.

**TEENAGE BOYS**  
Gift voucher (Target, Big W, cinemas, etc.), cricket set or other sporting equipment, beach towel, watch, backpack, hat, ear pods, fun mugs, board games, toiletries.

**BOYS**  
Footballs, games, cars, any active sports items, action figures.

**GIRLS**  
Dress ups, watch, dolls, doll pram, books, games, teddies, craft items.

**ADULTS**  
Toiletries (male and/or female), towels, hats, socks, vouchers, backpacks, bags, ornaments (picture frames; candles), watch, thongs, shorts, T-shirts.

**WRAPPING PAPER**

Please remember, many of our clients can not necessarily afford battery operated items.  
**PLEASE DON'T WRAP GIFTS. THE GIFTS ARE WRAPPED ONCE THE GIFT HAS BEEN CHOSEN.**



Samaritans

Domestic Violence Support

Emergency Relief



# A GENEROUS CHRISTMAS DONATION

OF FOOD OR CASH WILL MAKE A MASSIVE DIFFERENCE

**CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS**

Christmas Puddings	Fruit Cake
Bon Bons	Chocolates
Tin Ham	Mince Pies
Lollies	Serviettes
Shortbread	Long-life Custard
Tin Fruit	Peanuts

**ESSENTIAL ITEMS**

Nappies	Shaving gear
Baby wipes	(women's)
Toilet paper	Toiletty bags
Toothpaste	Moisturiser
Toothbrush	Hand towel/washer
Soap	Washing powder
Deodorant	Cleaning products
Shampoo/conditioner	(bathrooms/kitchen)

**NON-PERISHABLE FOOD SUGGESTIONS**

Cereal	Rice
Long-life milk	Softdrink
Pasta/Sauces	Children's lunchbox snacks
Tea/Coffee	Tinned fruit
Tinned meals	Tinned vegetables
Soup (packet and tin)	Spreads (jam, vegemite)
Baked beans	Tinned tuna/salmon
Spaghetti	Pet food

**SAMARITANS IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD RESERVES** and they need your help to restock the shelves, especially at Christmas Time.

**PLEASE HELP TODAY!**  
Your donation is so important  
Phone - 1300 656 336  
or visit [www.samaritans.org.au](http://www.samaritans.org.au)

**Thank you** for making a difference in our community this Christmas.

## AIDEN'S STORY

---

Aiden Farrell is a youth worker, dedicating his life to supporting young people who have experienced homelessness to find pathways toward safe and stable accommodation. He currently works between Samaritans Youth Accommodations in Newcastle and Maitland.

In his second year of a Social Work degree at the University of Newcastle, Aiden says that the experience he has gained across the youth refuges has been invaluable toward informing his career direction.

“I completed an apprenticeship through TAFE and realised that I wanted more for myself. I completed a bridging program to study at the University of Newcastle and started a Bachelor of Arts but wanted to help people more practically and make a difference, so I transferred into the Social Work program. I wanted to see my own personal experience empower and help others,” Aiden said.

As a 16 year old, Aiden had experienced more than most young people his age.

Aiden was couch surfing with friends after finding it unsuitable to continue living at home with family.

“I stayed at both the Maitland and Newcastle refuges when I was facing my own crises. I was then one of the first residents to gain a place at Samaritans Student Accommodation service when it opened. That was a life-changing experience for me – to slowly find my feet, have my own place and adjust to life as an independent teen.” Aiden said.

Aiden stayed at Samaritans Student Accommodation for 3 years during which time he progressed through his TAFE qualifications and decide to move onto shared accommodation and complete his apprenticeship.

Aiden says that having lived experienced has its positives but also its challenges.

“My personal experiences definitely make it easier to empathise with the young people I support- to really understand how it feels to be young with nowhere to go and to have to develop incredible independence and resilience. Sometimes having been there yourself can also make the work challenging because understanding the experience can hit home of how difficult it can be.” Aiden said.

“I know the support I was given at the time helped me to find the change that I wanted in my life. I hope through my experiences I can help others to find a positive pathway in their life too, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity Samaritans has given me to do so” Aiden said.

