

24.02.25, Monday Mail

Good morning, all,

A quick reminder ...

- **Next concert: Peace and remembrance, Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 12-1pm (call time 11am tbc) at City Hall.** Please make sure you have confirmed your availability and/or work leave!
- **We are trying to finalise an extra performance of this programme** – watch out for updates.
- **Music:**
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1d5ni-NQjrtjYCRF7oHA62pm8GmgjLNwE> is the link for the online folder (thanks, Barbara); hard copies available at rehearsal.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9k3Gi3PaDZg0of9QowSQ4D-O6m24R-5k> is the playlist link from Brett. LISTEN AND PRACTISE!

Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 6.30pm @QAH: February 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8

- **PLUS THIS SUNDAY 2 MARCH: EXTRA REHEARSAL @ST ANDREW'S INDOOROOPILLY, 2-5PM**
 - More info to follow – watch out for announcements/emails this week.

Other concert dates to note (more details to follow)

- **Sunday, July 20, time tbc, St Peter's Lutheran College Chapel, Indooroopilly: Songs of Meditation**
- **September date still tbc**
- **Sunday, December 7, 3pm (tbc), Lightspace, Fortitude Valley: Christmas concert**

Fees for 2025

- For any questions about fees, please see Jan, our treasurer.

Fauré *Requiem* from scratch in Toowoomba?

- If you'd like to join Eddie van Klinken, our organist from the December concert at St Peter's, on **Saturday 15 March** at St Luke's Anglican Church in Toowoomba for a scratch rehearsal and performance of Fauré's *Requiem*, conducted by Paul Holley, in aid of the pipe organ conservation appeal, please see <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1318510> .

And finally:

We don't immediately associate Handel with pubs. But in the early eighteenth century the Bishop of London would not permit Biblical stories to be acted out upon the stage, so this week back in 1732 a staged version of Handel's early masque *Esther* (based on the Old Testament drama by Jean Racine) was performed by boy singers of the Chapel Royal – at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in Arundel Street, London, as part of the celebrations for Handel's 47th birthday. It was very successful, and Handel wanted to repeat the performance, but the Bishop remained implacable: no Biblical stories on theatre stages. So Handel decided to present *Esther* in concert at the King's Theatre in Haymarket, using the singers currently appearing in his Italian opera season but no scenery or stage action – and thus the English oratorio came into being, rather by accident. As a tribute to that early pub choir gig, which not only ushered in the oratorio form, but also turned out to be the last staged performance of any Handel oratorio before the twentieth century, here's the first chorus of *Esther*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrGmyxq90SA&list=PL5XacUPEsHXkgeUEYrNGEKapccDWHcVth&index=5>

See you tomorrow,

Janet