

Music Director's Report for 2023 - Nelson Civic Choir

Wow! What a year. Thank you everyone who took part in what was an impressive set of concerts, rehearsals and social events.

The choir continued to make enormous improvements both musically and chorally throughout the year.

The Mozart concerts in May were executed extremely well and I think the Nelson audience were amazed at how polished the choir sounded. To perform a concert of purely classical choral music for a group that doesn't do it every day is not easy and the choir sang with intensity and style and really had a lot of fun doing it.

Performing classical choral music 'badly' is a dangerous game as it turns off both choir and audience to future programme planning with similar music but the NCC did a great job of convincing the audience as well as the choral body that they are well qualified to present such programming.

Choral Peace in September was another huge success and the choir displayed flexibility in the range of music that was presented from the prayerful to the uplifting to the exhilarating. Having the brass section mounted high up behind the choir was visually as well as acoustically exciting and solved any potential balance issues. We put the NCC on the world map with our live-stream and web broadcast the following week and it was lovely to hear one of my own compositions sung so beautifully. Thank you.

Joy to the World, with the addition of the Nelson Male Voice Choir, was again another seasonally uplifting event. We don't have to do anything with the setting as the 60+ Christmas trees did it all for us. Having a combined tenor and bass section of 50 voices really helped raise the roof once again and many of the NMVC guys said afterwards that they had never sung in a concert of that scale and that they had a blast!

As we look forward to 2024 the NMVC will join us once again for Opera Festival in early May and I am particularly looking forward to spending the next few months working on some very familiar repertoire. The 'classical' choral concert in August will feature music from the 18th century by Bachs (JS and CPE) as well as Vivaldi and Pachelbel. And we will round out the 3 concert productions with the last in the Joy to the World series - this time, A Kiwi Christmas.

Tuesday evenings have become a time and place to get together and learn some new choral and musical skills as well as brush up on some old ones and along the way enjoy some fantastic choral music and have fun in the process.

Thank you to the production team/sub-committee for all their hard work in getting the concerts mounted quickly, efficiently and with ease and I look forward to a year working together to present a variety of concerts to the Nelson audience with an energetic and enthusiastic production team and a new, proficient and energized committee.