



Saint Nicolas

*A Cantata by Benjamin
Britten
(1913-1976)*

Sunday 9 June, 6:00pm

Conductors: Carl Crossin OAM
Christie Anderson

Nicolas: Robert Macfarlane



CELEBRATING THE PAST

IMAGINING THE FUTURE

Saint Nicolas

A Cantata by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Text by Eric Crozier (1914-1994)

Conductor: Carl Crossin OAM

Nicolas: Robert Macfarlane

With the St Peter's Cathedral Choir,
Certaine Notes Chamber Choir,
Marryatville High School Chamber Choir, and
Singers from the Elder Conservatorium Chorale

Gallery Choir: Young Adelaide Voices

Conductor: Christie Anderson

Orchestra: Marryatville High School String Orchestra

Section leaders:

Violin 1:	Sarah Wozniak
Violin 2:	Emma McMurray
Viola:	Karen DeNardi
Cello:	Briohny Taylor
Double Bass:	Harley Gray

Percussion: Henry Millar
Rachel Cope
Ryan Grunwald

Piano: Nerissa Pearce
Leonie Hempton

Organ: David Heah

Young Nicolas: Henry Sawers

Pickled Boys: Favour Iluno
Luca Shin
Maxwell Williams

~ A retiring collection will be taken to defray expenses ~

From the Dean

Welcome to our Festival of Choral Music, one of a number of special focus festivals in this special year for St Peter's Cathedral.

Just seven years after the laying of the foundation stone in 1869, and without even a proper roof (umbrellas were needed to keep choristers dry) Arthur Boult rehearsed a group of boys. They would become the future Cathedral Choir dedicated to singing the praises of God and building up to the impressive repertoire of Anglican Cathedral music sung by today's choir.

With its neo-Gothic charms and warm acoustic, and now with a fully restored organ, St Peter's Cathedral is a venue for concerts and performances of all kinds.

Tonight's performance of Benjamin Britten's St Nicolas Cantata sees welcome collaboration between some of the great choral and music institutions of our city and we are delighted to offer this musical gem to Adelaide.

Enjoy the evening.

The Very Rev'd Frank Nelson

Programme Note

Britten's cantata Saint Nicolas was commissioned to celebrate the centenary of Lancing College, Sussex. The first official performance took place at the College in 1948 with Britten conducting and the role of Nicolas sung by the tenor Peter Pears.

The cantata tells the story of the life and achievements – some real, but many legendary - of Nicolas the 4th century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor.

Over the centuries, he has been portrayed as the patron saint of almost everything – sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers and students! Nicolas was known for his generosity to the poor and destitute, in particular children. He has achieved the enduring status of being celebrated throughout both the Christian and secular world as Santa Claus or Father Christmas.

Benjamin Britten, the ever practical composer, loved writing music which would be able to be performed by amateurs as well as professionals. He had great fun with the choruses which are full of drama and humour, accompanied by the most expressive use of string orchestra, piano, organ and percussion. The tenor soloist provides the serious aspects of the work, with Nicolas' humility, fervour and humanity being portrayed in the evocative and often difficult arias.

The audience becomes part of the action with the inclusion of two hymns emphasising the sentiment behind the story. Please join in these hymns "lustily and with good courage" and enjoy tonight's performance.

Leonie Hempton OAM

I. Introduction

The chorus, as contemporary people gazing back over the centuries, asks Nicolas to "strip off your glory..." and speak to them. The Saint responds across the span of sixteen hundred years saying that the seeds of faith survive "in you" and to preserve the living faith won by those who died "that you might worship God." In response, the choir asks God for strength to serve with simplicity.

II. The Birth of Nicolas

The sopranos and altos, representing school children, sing of the birth and childhood of Nicolas, even describing his enthusiasm in his bath and at his baptism. At the end of each verse, the boy Nicolas sings, "God be glorified." The excitement builds to the dramatic moment when the voice of the boy Nicolas is transformed into the full power and confidence of the adult Nicolas' call: "God be glorified."

III. Nicolas Devotes Himself to God

At the beginning, Nicolas relates his feelings as he views the "wider world of man," living in poverty, doomed to die "in everlasting fear of everlasting death." Nicolas sells his lands to feed the poor, but is still heart-sick and angry. He asks God to "purge my angry soul" and prays for sweet humility. The discords of the music come to rest indicating that the prayer of Nicolas is answered.

IV. He Journeys to Palestine

The men of the choir relate a sea voyage. On the journey, the sailors jeer at Nicolas who predicts a storm ahead. Darkness falls and, as the crew settles down to sleep, the wind rises and the waves begin to pour over the deck. The sailors try to launch the lifeboats and shorten sail, but finally break into cries of help. The Gallery Choir as a Greek Chorus sings of the lightning hissing through the night and of the angry roar of the wind and waves. At the height of the storm, the sailors kneel and pray. Nicolas joins the sailors and begs God to make the storm to cease. The thunder dies down, and wind loses its violence, and the waves subside. As the ship sails on, the stars appear in the calm sky and Nicolas kneels down in thankfulness.

V. Nicolas comes to Myra and is chosen Bishop

The full choir proclaims Nicolas Bishop of Myra. A small ensemble follows each action of the ceremonial acceptance of the mitre, the golden robe, the dalmatic, and the crozier. Following the setting of the ring on Nicolas' hand, the music quickens to an energetic fugue: "Serve the Faith and spurn his enemies." At the conclusion of the fugue, there is a pause for the present day congregation to join the choir in singing the familiar hymn, *All people that on earth to dwell.*

Please stand to sing the first Hymn for Choirs and Congregation

Melody: Old 100th



All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice!
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto,
Praise, laud and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure. Amen.

VI. Nicolas from Prison

Nicolas tells of the persecution of the church for eight years by the Romans and relates having to celebrate communion with prison bread. Then he angrily admonishes those who "embrace the lash of sin" and "build your temples fair without and foul within. . . ." Nicolas calls them to turn away from sin and "bow down your hard and stubborn hearts."

VII. Nicolas and the Pickled Boys

The choir sings of approaching travellers struggling along a wintry road seeking food in the city. Three women call for their missing boys, "Timothy, Mark, and John are gone." Upon reaching the inn, the travellers order a meal and invite Nicolas to join them. But Nicolas suddenly warns them not to touch the meat, for it is the flesh of the missing boys who have been killed by the butcher and pickled in salt. Before the eyes of the travellers, Nicolas calls the three boys back to life. They enter together, singing, "Alleluia." The choir joins them in praising God for the miracle.

VIII. His Piety and Marvellous Works

After being Bishop for forty years, the choir thanks Nicolas for being "our shepherd and our gentle guide". They recall his courage and kindness. On many occasions, he saved them from prison, from famine, from shame of sin, from death, and from shipwreck. The choir asks to keep the memory of Nicolas alive through his legends.

IX. The Death of Nicolas

Nicolas hears the summons of death and eagerly looks forward to "Him who waits for me above." During his final prayer, the choir sings the Nunc Dimittis (Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace) with the voices growing in strength towards the final Amen. The sound of the organ quietly announces the beginning of the final hymn and the cantata concludes with the congregation joining the choir and singing: "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform."

Benjamin Britten's Saint Nicolas: Summary, by Jack Goldklang (1987) - <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/britten-cantata-summary/>

Please stand to sing the final Hymn for Choirs and Congregation

Melody: London new



**God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.**

**Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.**

**Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head. Amen.**

~ A retiring collection will be taken to defray expenses ~

Conductor: Carl Crossin OAM

Carl Crossin OAM – conductor, educator & composer – is well-known and respected throughout Australia and internationally as a choral conductor. He is currently Associate Professor of Music and Head of Vocal, Choral & Conducting Studies at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Carl has held several leadership positions at the Elder Conservatorium including serving as Director of the Conservatorium from 2009 until 2014.

Carl is Founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of the multi-award-winning Adelaide Chamber Singers - with whom he has toured extensively within Australia and internationally. He is co-conductor of the nationally selected youth choir Gondwana Chorale; a former Artistic Director and Conductor of the National Youth Choir of Australia; and a frequent guest conductor and teacher of Conducting.

Conductor: Christie Anderson

Christie Anderson is a singer and award-winning conductor and Artistic Director of Young Adelaide Voices and the WATU Youth Choir Festival. Christie is a core singer and Associate Conductor of the multi-award-winning Adelaide Chamber Singers and a founding member of the EVE vocal trio. She has sung and conducted in numerous festivals in Australia and internationally.

Christie is a regular guest conductor for the Gondwana National Choral School and in 2019 she will adjudicate both the Cairns and District Junior Eisteddfod and Victorian Music Festival, be Guest Conductor for Tasmania Sings (Festival of Voices), tour with Young Adelaide Voices youth choir to the Gondwana World Choral Festival in Sydney, and with women's vocal ensemble Aurora to the Desert Song Festival in Alice Springs. Christie is President of ANCA SA and has been part of the Uni SA School of Creative Industries team since 2018.

Tenor: Robert Macfarlane

Robert Macfarlane studied at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide and subsequently at the Hochschule für Musik, 'Felix Mendelssohn-Bartoldy', Leipzig as winner of the Thomas Elder Overseas Scholarship.

His recent engagements have included his directorial debut with *Radamisto* (Handel) for Apollo Opera Collective; co-creating *More Guilty than the Poet* for Cirkidz, Steve Hart (*Ned Kelly*) with Lost and Found Opera; Kunz Vogelgesang in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* for State Opera South Australia, Ulrich Eisslinger in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* for Opera Australia, and Tanzmeister in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Simone Young in Brisbane.

Later this year Robert makes his debut with Sydney Symphony Orchestra (Bob Boles in *Peter Grimes*) and returns to Auckland Choral Society and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (*Messiah*).

The Main Chorus

Treble/Soprano

Emily Anschutz
Alice Crompton
Sierra Engler
Shanna Goh
Gianna Guttilla
Yiyi He
Yongjian Huang
Crystal Iluno *
Favour Iluno
Callum Logan
Claire McCann
Georgia Morton
KC Obi
Cristina Parletto
Angus Perry
David Perry
Henry Sawers
Luca Shin
Lucy Stoddart
Imogen Tonkin
Niamh Whitehead
Maxwell Williams *
Archie Young **
Mikari Zollo Semmler

**Head Chorister (Cathedral Choir)*

***Deputy Head Chorister (Cathedral Choir)*

Alto

Bec Bailey
Christine Beal
Ruby Butcher
Rosemary Byron Scott
Claire Challender
Ella Cheatle
Annabel Crompton
Sophie Crompton

Alto (cont.)

Penny Dally
Alyona Kutyaeva
Margot Leeson
Melanie Sandford-Morgan
Emma Simpson-Smith
Jenny Su
Casey Sullivan

Tenor

Adden Chin
Peter Chung
James Donlan
James Hemphill
Sione Latu
Alex Lee
William Madden
Chris Man
Tim Shephard
Charlie Wells
David Watts

Bass

Alexander Byrne
Andrew Chatterton
Marco Callisto
Darcy Cheatle
Shaun Fernandez
Michael Gnanapragasam
Keith Hempton
Nikolai Leske
Allan McBean
Mark Roberts
David Rohrsheim
Jules Sheedy
Aldis Sils

The Gallery Choir (Young Adelaide Voices)

Ella Ackers
Erin Adams-McDonald
Eliza Allan
Olivia Allen
Will Barrett
Jessie Behrens
April Bell
Ivy Bell
Danae Bettison
Georgia Bird
Masey Bishop
Alexandra Blyth
Stella Byrne
Daisy Buchanan
Clara Chiodi-Reveruzzi *
Sarah Cusack
Aiden Eaton
Michaela Eaton
Charlotte Eston
Zoe Farrell
Imogen Fechner
Eleanor Fulton *

* YAV Section Leaders

** YAV Head Chorister

Sienna Grasselli
Jordan Hall
Abigail Hughes
Charlotte Loipersberger
Monique Lymn *
Isobel Martin
Maiya Mathwin
Antonia Mazzone
Phoebe McLaren
Daniel Milton
Claire Mohan-Ram
Emily Mohan-Ram
Laura Mohan-Ram **
Claire Moorhouse
Bethany Newhouse
Rosy O'Connor
Katrina Ogierman
Chloe Pettit
Lauren Ward *
Jemma Wellens
Aimee Wright

The Orchestra

Violin 1, led by Sarah Wozniak

Daisy Elliott
Lily Hewlett
Indigo Munro
Kelly Wibowo
Yuehan Xia

Viola, led by Karen DeNardi

Bridget McCullough
Trish Nguyen

Double Bass, led by Harley Gray

Kynan Mallia

Violin 2, led by Emma McMurray

Odette Biggs
Alex Fajardo
James Logan
Taylor Park

Cello, led by Briohny Taylor

Lana Bryant
Eleanor Carrig
Clara Gillam Grant

Percussion, led by Henry Millar

Rachel Cope

Ryan Grunwald

Piano

Nerissa Pearce

Leonie Hempton

Organ

David Heah

Thank You!

Very sincere thanks go to everyone involved in this performance for their enthusiasm, inventiveness, flexibility, curiosity and sheer hard work.

In particular, I would like to thank Carl Crossin, Dani Raymond, David Heah, Nerissa Pearce, Bec Bailey, Aldis Sils, Marryatville High School, all the choristers, and my team of 'roadies' from the Cathedral Choir.

Leonie Hempton OAM

Director of Music

St Peter's Cathedral

With grateful thanks to our principal sponsor:



The St Peter's Cathedral Music Foundation is committed to enhancing the music programme offered at the Cathedral, in the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide and in the wider community.

The Foundation enables musicians to experience quality education, striving for excellence as they use their musical talents in worship and concert.

Since the establishment of the Foundation, it has assisted hundreds of choristers and musicians, providing scholarships, musical tuition, new music and encouragement to pursue careers in music.

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Festival of Organ Music

Premiere Organ Recital Thomas Trotter (UK)

Friday 30 August, 7:30pm

We are thrilled that Thomas Trotter has agreed to give the inaugural recital on our magnificent Hill, Norman & Beard organ, restored in 2018 by Harrison & Harrison.

City of Birmingham-based organist Thomas Trotter is rightly regarded as one of the most brilliant concert organists currently on the world stage.

- James Hildreth, The American Organist

Adult \$50, Concession \$40

Tickets: www.trybooking.com/BALVH



Programme

J.S. Bach (1685-1750) - Fantasia & Fugue in G minor BWV 542

H. Howells (1892-1983) - Master Tallis's Testament

A. Rowley (1892-1958) - Rustic Suite [*Sunlit Morning - In Memoriam - June Idyll - The Gentle Shepherd - Rustic Scherzo*]

Rachel Laurin (b. 1961) - Étude Héroïque Op. 38

- Interval -

E. Elgar (1857-1934) - Sonata in G major [*Allegro maestoso - Allegretto - Andante espressivo - Presto (comodo)*]

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) - Overture: St Paul [*arr. W.T. Best*]

Saturday 31 August, 6:30pm

Duruflé Requiem & Motets

Organist: Thomas Trotter

Conductor: Carl Crossin

Choirs: Adelaide Chamber Singers, Elder Conservatorium Chorale, Graduate Singers

Tickets: <https://adelaidechambersingers.com/season-2019-concert/cathedral-festival-150-concert-31-august/>

Sunday 1 September, 10:30am and 6:00pm: Thomas Trotter, organist for both services