



1884 JW Walker & Sons Organ Restoration February 2010 Update

Patrons

- **Steven Wilson**, Executive Chairman, Wilson HTM Investment Group.
- **Malcolm Snow**, Chief Executive Officer, South Bank Corporation.
- **Prof Peter Roennfeldt**, Qld Conservatorium, Griffith University.
- **Gary Thorpe**, General Manager, 4MBS Classic FM.
- **Revd Rupert Jeffcoat**, Director of Music, St John's Cathedral.

Progress with St Andrew's Organ Restoration



We are pleased to announce that the organ restoration work has begun. On Tuesday, 10 November 2009, Simon Pierce with his team of five, Derek, Richard, Kerry, Ivan and Matthew, removed the double rise bellows for transport to Simon's workshop. It took about 6 hours to dismantle and disconnect the various parts of the organ followed by vacuuming and cleaning the large area from which the bellows were removed.

The commencement of the project brought a great deal of excitement. To celebrate this event, Mr Graeme Rushworth, our organ consultant together with Revd Alan Moore, Rector of St Andrew's, Margaret Powell, Director of Music at St Andrew's, Morris Lake from the organ committee and Malcolm Snow, one of the patrons of the organ project were present. Rowena Smith, editor of the City South News, together with a photographer made a special visit in order to compile an article about this notable event for publication on Thursday 26 November, 2009.

Within two weeks, the bellows were expertly re-leathered, timber surfaces and metalwork refurbished and painted and all joints restored. The bellows were then replaced in the organ but unfortunately could not be tested as there was an electrical complication in the blower.

The problem was identified and the solution required the motor of the blower to be transferred to Donaldson Electric



The bellows before removal.

Works Pty Ltd in Toowoomba. Simon Pierce reported that the blower needed to be rewound and shims made for the shaft. Finally, he commented on Donaldson's high standard of work, enabling the blower to be quieter, cooler and more efficient.

Then, with the blower and bellows in fine form, the improvement in sound was remarkable - clearer, brighter and bigger. After five weeks without the organ for the Sunday 8:30am services, the new sound uplifted our hearts on Sunday 13 December, convincing everyone that the organ is a superb instrument to lead the singing. We are grateful to Simon Pierce and his team for the excellent result they have achieved and look forward to further work on the Great and Swell soundboards in 2010.



The bellows being repaired.



Repaired bellows in position.

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Heartfelt thanks to all donors

Orchestra Corda Spiritus of St Andrew's presented *Serenade*, a concert in St Andrew's on Sunday 23 August at 3pm. Stephen Wu conducted the orchestra with soloists, Dr Anthony Doheny (violin) and Melanie Doheny (viola) in Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante in E flat* followed by Dr Doheny's *Serenade for Ton Ta* and Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings in C*. The concert was most inspiring and enjoyable and the orchestra kindly made a generous donation towards the organ project.

In their final concert for the year, *Forever Mozart*, held in the Great Hall of Brisbane Grammar School on Sunday 8 November at 5pm, Orchestra Corda Spiritus with Director, Stephen Wu and brilliant soloist, Diana Tolmie (clarinet) presented an all Mozart program - *Clarinet Concerto in A* and *Symphony No.41 'Jupiter'*. The performance was superb. This time, the orchestra donated the entire proceeds to the organ project.



Diana Tolmie.

The organ project was also supported with a generous donation from the Classic Clarinets, the Community Clarinet Choir of Brisbane. About 25 clarinets of different shapes, sizes and pitch presented a



Classic Clarinets of Brisbane

delightful concert, *Clarinet Cavalcade*, in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 4 October at 3pm celebrating their 10th anniversary. Musical Director, Graham Evans, has the gift of being able to sustain every listener's interest for the duration through his choice and presentation of the music.

Immense gratitude is extended to both the Orchestra Corda Spiritus of St Andrew's and Classic Clarinets of Brisbane for their musical contribution and their generous donations to the organ project.

We have also continued to be encouraged with the generous donations of individual people and families. Together with the grants from the Heritage Units of the Brisbane City Council and the Department of Environment and Resource Management, we can see the way clear to the completion of the initial major work in 2010. We still need to raise at least another \$200,000 for the realization of the total restoration of this magnificent organ.

Stop Press

It has just been announced that **Simon Pierce** will begin the work on the **Swell soundboard and pipework** on **Monday 15 February**. We will keep you informed.

Forthcoming Concerts

Sunday 7 March, 5:30pm

Orchestra Corda Spiritus of St Andrew's and soloist **Nicholas Kaye-Smith violin** in Beethoven's *Violin Concerto in D* and *Symphony No.6 Pastoral* at The Great Hall, Brisbane Grammar School \$20/15 School Students free.

Friday 12 March, 7:30pm

Woodwind Mixtures (Deborah Cox *flute*, Robin Powell *oboe*, John Harrison *clarinet*, Kerry Thomas *horn*, Trevor Williamson *bassoon*) in St Andrew's Church. Delightfully refreshing music with different wind mixtures. Vocal solo, duo and trio with Heru Pinkasova, Kim Wythes and Karen Petchey. \$20/\$15 School Students free. Supper included. Proceeds to the Organ Restoration.

Further Information

For further information about St Andrew's Organ and Concerts, please contact Margaret Powell on 07 33987636 or margaret@st-andrews.org.au. The organ website is www.1884restoration.net. Brochures about the organ restoration are available at the back of the church. For St Andrew's contact details see over.