

## **Dr Philip Matthias**

**Director, Church Music Division;  
Organ; Conductor,  
The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir**

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Born in Sydney, Philip was Organ Scholar at Sydney University and Assistant Organist at St James' Church. He completed his Bachelor of Music (Honours) Degree in 1975 and in 1975 and 1976 was highly commended in the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition State finals playing Copland's Organ Symphony and Dupré's Organ Concerto.

Philip Matthias is Director of Church Music studies at the Conservatorium, and Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle. He is active as a composer, choral director, organist and adjudicator, working professionally on an international basis. He is a Vice President of the Guild of Church Musicians (UK) and an Area Representative for RSCM Australia.

Organ recitals he has given include Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, London and King's College, Cambridge. Recitals in Australia have included Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane Anglican Cathedrals, Sydney University and Sydney Town Hall. He has broadcast live for ABC Radio and performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

He has directed the University Chamber Choir in two tours of the UK, including performances in Canterbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and eight live broadcasts for BBC Radio. Under his direction the Chamber Choir also performed in Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris. The Choir has recorded two compact disc recordings, with a third one due for release in 2002.

Philip Matthias is interested in the development and promotion of Australian church music. In this regard students are encouraged in the area of composition and performance of Australian works. Church music students are also given the opportunity for the performance of much music from the sacred repertoire, both as part of church services and in other performance situations.

From 1977 to 1979 he undertook a two year post-graduate course at the Royal College of Music (London) studying organ with Nicholas Danby and conducting with John Forster. He was choir tutor to the London Boy's Singers and won the John Brook Memorial Prize for the Royal College of Organist's choir-training Diploma (CHM), also gaining the Fellowship Diploma from that College. On completion of his course he became Director of Music at Ewell Parish Church, Surrey,

Conductor of Ewell Choral Society, and teacher at Fitznell's School of Music. He gave many recitals in England including King's College, Cambridge and St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

He was appointed Organist and Master of the Choristers at Newcastle Cathedral in 1983. In addition to overseeing the Cathedral Music programme, he has instigated developments that have included the formation of the St. Nicholas Choir and Choral Scholars, and the founding of the Friends of Newcastle Cathedral Music. In addition the Cathedral music program now includes a regular series of orchestral masses, French Masses (Vierne, Widor, Duruflé, Langlais and Fauré) and The Glory of Music concert series.

In 1988 he inaugurated the Newcastle Cathedral Festival, a four day event held annually in September which has seen performances of works such as Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Tallis' Spem in alium, Bruckner's Mass in E minor, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and David Fanshawe's African Sanctus. The Festival incorporates a Schools' Choir Festival, regularly attracting over 300 primary-aged children, a Choral & Orchestral concert, Music on the Move, the Great Hymn Festival, a choral concert with the Cathedral Choir and guests artists.

Philip Matthias is on the staff of The University of Newcastle as Director of the Church Music Division at the Conservatorium. In 1995 and 1996 he travelled to England and America to study Church Music departments at various institutions. In 1996 he set up a Church Music Division at the University, and established links with the Guild of Church Musicians (UK). The Faculty and Conservatorium now offer the Guild's Archbishops' Certificate and Fellowship Diploma in Church Music, along with the B. Mus degree and postgraduate degrees in church music.

Philip Matthias is an Area Representative for RSCM Australia and a Patron of the Hunter District Organ Music Society. In 1995 he was awarded an honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians, and in 1996 was appointed a Correspondent for the Royal College of Organists (UK) and a Representative of the Friends of Cathedral Music (UK).

In February 1999 he spent a month in the UK, giving recitals of Australian organ music at venues which included Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Chester Cathedral, and St. Asaph Cathedral, Wales. In April 2000 he took the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir to the UK, conducting 24 performances, including St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Canterbury Cathedral, St. Alban's Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral and the Anglican and Metropolitan Cathedrals in Liverpool.

In 2002 The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir returned to the UK, performing in Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and undertaking numerous recordings and live broadcasts for BBC Radio. They also toured to France, performing in Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris.

Philip Matthias has adjudicated many organ competitions, including the Sydney Organ Competition on three occasions. He has composed anthems and mass settings, and has been published in the new Australian hymn book, Together in Song. In January 2001 he was Director of the national

RSCM Australia Summer School held in Canberra, and Director of the annual RSCM School held in Hamilton, New Zealand.

He has recorded "Festive Organ Music" and "Songs from Christ Church Cathedral" (with Jennifer Barnes, Soprano), and released Cathedral Festival Highlights compact disc recordings from the 1992, 1993 and 1994 Festivals. Current projects for Philip Matthias include recordings for the Artworks label (a Trumpet and Organ CD of 20th century music with Daniel Mendelow, Principal Trumpet, SSO), and a CD of Australian organ music. The Cathedral Choir and Chamber Choir are also currently undertaking recordings.

The Church Music Division at the University of Newcastle is in the process of forming links with several national and international theological institutions whereby courses may be offered on a wide and ecumenical basis. Philip Matthias is undertaking PhD studies at the University of Newcastle.

He has recently been appointed as a Vice President of the Guild of Church Musicians (UK)

## Qualifications

- Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians, London (F.G.C.M.) 1996
- Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, London (F.R.C.O.) 1983
- Choir Master (C.H.M.), The Royal College of Organists, London (F.R.C.O.) 1980
- Associate of the Royal College of Organists, London (A.R.C.O.) 1979
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Performance, The Royal College of Music, London. 1979
- Associate of the Royal College of Music, London (A.R.C.M.) 1978
- B. Mus (Hons) Sydney University, 1976

## Academic Appointments

- Director, Church Music Division, The University of Newcastle Conservatorium 1996-
- Lecturer in Academics, The University of Newcastle, Newcastle 1988-1995
- Lecturer in Academics, The Conservatorium, Newcastle 1984-1987
- Lecturer in Pipe Organ, The Conservatorium 1984-

## Other Professional Appointments

- Director, RSCM Australia Summer School, Canberra 2001
- Director, RSCM New Zealand Summer School, Hamilton 2001
- Director, RSCM national Summer School Children's Course 1991 & 1985
- Course Organist, RSCM Summer School, Canberra 1994
- Artistic Director, Newcastle Cathedral Music Festival 1988-
- Organist and Director of Music, Newcastle Cathedral 1983-
- Acting Director of Music, Tiffins Girls' School, Kingston-upon Thames, Surrey 1982
- Director, Ewell Choral Society, Surrey, U.K. 1981-1983

- Director of Music, Ewell Parish Church, Surrey, U.K. 1979-1983
- Music Teacher, Fitznell's School of Music, Ewell, Surrey, U.K. 1979-1983
- Music Teacher, Warlingham School, Surrey, U.K. 1978-9

## Professional Activities

### Interests

- The development of Australian liturgy, organ and choral music
- The education and training of the church musician
- Composition and arranging
- Recording and CD music production

### Training & Supervision

- Currently supervising 1 Honours, 1 Masters and two PhD candidates.
- Supervised Honours, Masters and PhD students in areas including choral conducting, organ performance, first editions of Restoration church music, and Australian church music.

## Artistic Work

### Directing

- He has directed the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir and Conservatorium Choir since 1995. Both Choirs give several performances in the Conservatorium Concert Hall and Newcastle Cathedral each year. Repertoire performed in recent years includes: Te Deum (Charpentier), Mass in B minor (J S Bach), Requiem (Fauré), Requiem (Mozart), St. Nicolas Cantata (Britten), Flos Campi (R V Williams), Ikon of Light (John Tavener), The Planibestiary (Thomas Pitfield), Geographical Fugue (Ernst Toch).
- He has directed the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir on two tours to the UK and France (2000 and 2002), and the Choir has performed in Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral, Liverpool Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals, St. Alban's Abbey, Winchester Cathedral, St. Asaph Cathedral, Wales, St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, Chelmsford Cathedral, Wakefield Cathedral, Leeds Catholic Cathedral, Shrewsbury Abbey and Westminster College, Oxford.
- The Choir has also broadcast eight live programs for BBC Radio 3, and recorded for BBC Radio 2.

### Solo Performances

- Philip Matthias has performed widely as an organ soloist throughout Australia and the UK. Venues have included Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, London, King's College,

Cambridge, Gloucester Cathedral, Wells Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral, Chester Cathedral, and St. Asaph Cathedral, Wales.

- He gives annual recitals at the Conservatorium, both in the Concert Hall and Organ Studio.
- In Australia performance have included St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, St. John's Cathedral, Brisbane and St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney and the Sydney Town Hall.

## Ensemble Performances

He has performed as accompanist with many groups, including The Song Company, the Sydney Philharmonia Choir, and St. James' Church Choir, Sydney, the London Boy's Choir, Ewell, Epsom and East Grinstead Choral Societies, Newcastle Cathedral Choir and Newcastle University Choir. He has been Organist for Royal School of Church Music Courses in Australia and the UK.

## Music Compositions

- Resurrection Mass (choir, congregation, organ, orchestra, handbells) 2002
- Blessed are you (choir) 2002
- Let my prayer rise before you (choir) 2002
- Jubilation Mass (choir, cantor, congregation, organ) 2001
- Celebration Mass (choir, cantor, congregation, two organs) 2001
- Festive Mass (choir, congregation, organ) 2000
- Christ Church Mass (congregation and organ) Together in Song HarperCollins Religious 1999
- Pour out your spirit from on high Tune: Lachlan Together in Song HarperCollins Religious 1999
- Now to the Lord a noble song Tune: Newcastle Together in Song HarperCollins Religious 1999
- Missa Brevis (choir and organ) 1987

## Musical arrangements

- Carols:
  - The first Nowell 2002
  - As with gladness 2001
  - Star Child, earth child 2001
  - Carol our Christmas 2001
  - Joseph, your love of life 2000
  - Joyful the morning 2000

## Radio Broadcasts

- He has broadcast live with ABC Radio on many occasions, including Aaron Copland's Organ Symphony with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (1976), Sunday Live from the Conservatorium Concert Hall (2001). He directed the University of Newcastle Chamber

Choir in the BBC Radio 3 Daily Service live broadcasts (May, 2000 and April, 2002) and Sunday Half Hour (2002) for BBC Radio 2.

- He co-presented eleven programs Hymns Old and New for ABC national Radio in 2000.

## **Audio and CD Publications**

- Twentieth Century Music for Trumpet and Organ. Daniel Mendelow, trumpet, Philip Matthias, organ. 2002
- Carols from Christ Church. ABC Christmas Concerts, directed by Philip Matthias. 2001
- Orbits of Song. RSCM Australia Summer School, Canberra, 2001.
- Journey of Celebration. The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir, directed by Philip Matthias 2001
- Voices & Vision. The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir, directed by Philip Matthias 2000
- Together in Song. Australian Hymn Book II. Christ Church Cathedral Choir, directed by Philip Matthias 2000 Newcastle Cathedral Music Festival Highlights 1994
- Newcastle Cathedral Music Festival Highlights 1993
- Songs from Christ Church (Jennifer Barnes, soprano; Philip Matthias, organ) 1992
- Festive Organ Music. (Philip Matthias, organ) 1992
- Newcastle Cathedral Music Festival Highlights 1992
- A Boy is Born. The Hunter Consort of Voices, directed by Philip Matthias 1992
- Rhapsody for Flute and Organ. Sally Stocks, flute, Philip Matthias, organ 1991
- Festival Anthems. Choir of St. Mary the Virgin, Ewell, Surrey, U.K. 1982
- Music from an English Parish Church 1980

## **Multimedia Publications**

- Journey of Celebration. The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir, directed by Philip Matthias 2001

## **Theses examinations**

- He has examined Honours and Masters' theses presented at the University of Newcastle, in subject areas such as church music, organ performance and choral conducting.

## **Prizes, Honours and Awards**

- Vice President, The Guild of Church Musicians, 2002
- Honorary Fellowship, The Guild of Church Musicians, 1996
- Australia Day Council for Achievement in Music, 1990
- The John Brook Memorial Prize, The Royal College of Organists, 1980
- The Royal School of Church Music bursary, 1977
- First prize, the Sydney Eisteddfod Organ Competition, 1975 & 1976
- The University of Sydney Organ Scholarship, 1974, 1975

- Busby Musical Scholarship, The University of Sydney, 1974

## Other Professional Activities

- Area Representative for RSCM Australia, 2000-
- Representative for the Friends of Cathedral Music, U.K. 1998-
- Correspondent for the Royal College of Organists, 1996-7
- Patron, The Hunter District Organ Music Society, 1990-
- Representative for the Royal School of Church Music 1983-2000

## Scholarly Activities

### Keynote Addresses

- RSCM Australia Summer School Address, Canberra, 2001

### Conference Presentations

- Australian National Choral Association conference, Brisbane, 2002. "Developments in Australian church music".
- The Guild of Church Musicians AGM, Canterbury, 2000. Australian Church Music and "Together in Song", the new Australian Hymn Book

### Curriculum, Program and Course development

- He has developed church music curricula and programs (B. Mus, Masters and PhD) at the University of Newcastle, including links with the Guild of Church Musicians and its Archbishops' Certificate and Fellowship diploma. Links with St. Mark's Theological College, Canberra, Wesley Music Centre, Canberra and several Theological Universities in Korea are currently being developed.

### Governance

- Member, School Board, The Conservatorium, The Faculty of Education and Arts, The University of Newcastle 2002-
- Member, Academic Review Committee, The Conservatorium 1990-
- Faculty Board Member, The Faculty of Music, The University of Newcastle 1988- 2001
- Membership of Professional Associations
- Vice President, The Guild of Church Musicians, U.K.
- Patron, The Hunter District Organ Music Society
- Member, The Sydney Organ Society
- Member, RSCM Australia
- Member, Australian National Choral Association
- Area Representative, The Hunter Region committee, RSCM Australia

- Member, The Royal College of Organists
- Correspondent, The Friends of Cathedral Music (U.K).
- Member, The Friends of Newcastle Cathedral Music