

Spiritfest 2008 – A Festival of Sacred Choral Music

Spiritfest is quickly becoming an institution amongst church musicians of Southern Queensland. Church choirs, individual choristers, cantors, choir directors, church instrumentalists, organists, liturgical ministers, clergy, and interested members of the congregation join together in a large choral ensemble to produce a stunning polyphony of praise to God.

By participating in **Spiritfest** you will:

- Enjoy the fellowship of other likeminded church musicians
- Receive music and rehearsal resources worth far more than you paid for the entry fee
- Motivate your choir (whether it numbers 2, 22 or 200) as no other event can
- Be inspired by a charismatic international conductor, brought to Brisbane especially for this event
- Thrill to accompaniments from the St. Stephen's Cathedral Organ and RSCM Brass Ensemble

DO SOMETHING LOVELY FOR GOD, AND ENRICHING FOR YOURSELF

Spiritfest – Basic Details

When & Where	Sunday June 22, 4.30 pm – 5.45 pm St. Stephen's Cathedral, 249 Elizabeth Street
Who can sing	Choristers, choir conductors, cantors, organists, instrumentalists, clergy, and other interested people from all churches. Spiritfest will feature two choral streams, 'Massed' and 'Chamber' (The RSCM Singers).
Conductor	Tony Funk from British Columbia, Canada
Accompanist	Dr. Robert Boughen
Massed Choir	A choir of several hundred voices will sing 7 anthems or motets as part of the festival. These range from the very

	<p>simple which you could sing in the smallest parish church with the smallest of choirs, to one or two which are deliberately more difficult, enabling you to experience the thrill of a full choir at full throttle!</p>
Rehearsals for Massed Choir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most choirs will rehearse the music in their own rehearsals • RSCM will organize several optional rehearsals in Brisbane suburban churches in the month beforehand • Wednesday, 18 June, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm at St. Stephen’s Cathedral (first rehearsal with Tony Funk) • Sunday, 22 June, 1.30 – 4.00 pm
RSCM Singers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A smaller “chamber choir” consisting of 30 or so voices. • Members need to apply for this ensemble and may be asked to audition. • The RSCM Singers will sing some more difficult and unusual repertoire.
Rehearsal for RSCM Singers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 17 June, 7.30 – 9.30 pm • Thursday, 19 June, 7.30 – 9.30 pm • Friday, 20 June, 7.30 – 9.30 pm • All rehearsals at St. Stephen’s Cathedral
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Massed” choir members, \$20 per chorister if you or your church are RSCM members, otherwise \$30 • “RSCM Singers” members, \$50 per chorister if you or your church are RSCM members, otherwise \$60
Registration	<p>Whilst there is no deadline for registration, it is <u>strongly</u> suggested that choirs register by Monday 19 May in order to be adequately prepared. While choristers may register individually, RSCM encourages choirs to register as a group. [See below for a Registration Form]</p>
Further Information	<p>Enquiries Ralph Morton 3336 9104 or qld@rscmaustralia.org.au Or visit the Qld RSCM website: http://www.rscm.com.au/</p>

Further Details

Tony Funk

Canadian Tony Funk visited Australia in 2006 this year to conduct seminars and choral festivals for RSCM, a season of National Youth Choir of Australia, and a weeklong workshop at St. Peters Lutheran College Indooroopilly.

He returns in June of 2008 again to conduct for RSCM and National Youth Choir of Australia, and will be one of the featured guests in Brisbane at the Sacred Music Festival in 2009.

Tony has had a wide and varied career as a musician on the west coast of Canada (he lives near Vancouver). He has a Master's degree in Choral Conducting as well as a Master of Theological Studies. He conducts the West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir. This ensemble has made 11 CD recordings, and donated the proceeds (\$550,000!) to the Supportive Care Services of his church. Tony is also a bass and sings professionally regularly in the Vancouver area.

For his "daytime" work he is a lecturer at Columbia Bible College where he has developed courses such as "Theology Through The Arts – a philosophical study of the arts as carriers of theology" and "Philosophy of Worship – principles of Christian worship". He also directs standard university courses – concert choir, music theory, music history and so on.



Tony Funk

Music for Massed Choir

The program for the Massed Choir for the Brisbane Spiritfest is as follows:

1.	Bruckner	Locus iste	A simple two page anthem in four parts, this has become a "standard" for church choirs.
2.	Goodenough	I will sing with the spirit	Four pages of very simple harmony, with accompaniment – this piece states simply and effectively the reason that we sing in church
3.	Handel	Hallelujah Chorus	No reason needed for including this!
4.	Handel	Keep me faithfully	A simple two part anthem for

			women's and men's voices (you could also sing it in your church in unison if you wished, or have it sung as solo or duet).
5.	Stanford	Te Deum in Bb major	The major work on the program. However, if you or your choir feels a bit daunted by this you need to know that there is a lot of unison writing and that the <i>Information for Choristers</i> sheet will also suggest ways that you could sing just a few sections of the piece if necessary.
6.	Boughen	Blow the trumpet	Especially commissioned from Robert Boughen, this piece features a lot of unison writing, some wonderful jazzy rhythms and a whole bunch of accompaniment instruments. Great fun!
7.	Boughen	Be Strong!	Another commission from Robert Boughen, this piece is in three parts (SAB), but could be sung by in unison or by a women's choir in two parts. Just 4 pages and really inspirational.

When choirs register they will be sent copies of the music plus a rehearsal CD, and some suggestions for rehearsal. Much of the music could be sung in your local parish situation, so you are rehearsing music which will be useful and practical to you for the future.

This is excellent value for the money outlaid. What you get is noted below (and certainly greater value to the church musician than a comparable amount spent for a night at the movies, a restaurant meal or half a tank of petrol).

- 7 pieces of music (the 7 pieces above) which we will sing in the festival
- An extra set of 7 supplementary pieces of music will be included in the booklet. These are simpler in style and therefore can be sung by small choirs or in some cases, sung as solo or duet music. The titles of the extra 7 are listed below. **The fourteen pieces of music alone are probably worth more than the cost of the festival per chorister! Two will receive their first performances at this festival, and one is still in copyright and would cost you \$4.25 in a music store. Four are by Brisbane composers**
- a rehearsal CD
- a sheet with guidelines for rehearsal
- several optional rehearsals

- a rehearsal and festival with an international conductor visiting Australia especially for this event
- the opportunity for fellowship with other church musicians from Southern Queensland
- the opportunity to sing in St. Stephen's Cathedral with a wonderful acoustic and fine organ, played by Robert Boughen as well as accompaniments by a fine brass choir and other instruments

Supplementary pieces (the "extra" seven – not used in the Brisbane Festival)

Dyson	Magnificat and Nunc Dimmitis	A simple unison setting. Could be sung as a solo or by children's, ladies or mixed choir. The Magnificat is suitable for Advent, Christmas or occasions honouring Mary.
Brumby	A Virgin Most Pure	A sweet carol by this Brisbane composer with a joyful refrain which dances along to the words "rejoice and be merry"
Tye	O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace	
Morton	Good Christian Folk Rejoice	With a passing "nod" to the traditional tune of "Good Christian Folk" this piece bounces along in joyful celebration of the birth of Christ.
Cherubini	Veni Jesu	Two pages and four very simple parts.
Lutkin	The Lord Bless You and Keep You	Not well known in Australia, this piece by nineteenth century Chicago composer is a "classic" in American church circles. In four simple parts which can be sung either a cappella or accompanied, it is much easier than the John Rutter setting and will be useful in all kinds of situations.
Vivaldi	Gloria	A great festive piece for choir, this is just the first movement the longer work by Vivaldi. Very simple for choir, and with an accompaniment which can be easily simplified.

RSCM Singers

Music for RSCM Singers

Music for the RSCM Singers will be chosen by Tony Funk and will be mailed to choristers a few weeks before the first rehearsal.

Registration Form for Spiritfest Massed Choir

(Please use this form to register as a choir or as an individual chorister)

Choir Name: _____

Name of Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Total number of choristers: _____

Numbers in each part: Sop: _____ Alto: _____ Tenor: _____ Bass: _____

Please mail to

The Secretary

RSCMAQ

PO Box 358

Paddington QLD 4064

Alternatively e-mail the information to the secretary at gld@rscmaustralia.org.au

